

[Click to view this email in a browser](#)



WOODLAND STAR CHARTER SCHOOL

*Learning to think, to care, to create.*

17811 ARNOLD DRIVE, SONOMA, CA 95476

## Just the Facts

January 27, 2010

### Upcoming Events

Phone Campaign January 25 & 28, 2010  
Eugene Schwartz CANCELLED January 26 & 27  
Class Parent's Meeting, Wednesday, January 27, 8:30 am  
Grant meeting, January 28, 2010 - 8:30 am (see details below)  
First Grade Parent Evening, Wednesday, February 3, 6:00

### Student Update ~

**7<sup>th</sup> grader Noah Biernacki has been hospitalized since late December at UCSF Children's hospital and while his health has returned to a stable level, he will continue to be hospitalized for several more weeks as he undergoes extensive physical therapy and rehabilitation. This has been a long and difficult period for Noah and his family and Noah misses his friends and his school and would love to hear from kids, parents and/or teachers. You can contact Noah directly at 415-514-5049 or via his mom's cell at: 707-291-0753. He is usually tied up with rehab sessions during the day so calling after 5 pm is usually best. Alternatively, if you want to send a card or message you can email Amy, Noah's mom at [amy@thegrangebox.com](mailto:amy@thegrangebox.com) and direct you from there. You can also check in with Amy to see if there is anything else that she might be needing.**

**We wish Noah and his family well during this stressful time and send healing thoughts their way. Please be in touch and reach out to this family in whatever way that you can.**

~Sheila

**Fourth Grade** is going to Fort Ross, February 4 & 5. The children and parents have been preparing for this field trip for weeks. Parents and children will all be in period costumes and will be spending the night at the Fort.

**Fifth Grade** will be displaying their Models from their Egyptian block in the main hall.

**Lottery:** Our younger Kindergarten lottery is coming up soon. Please tell all your friends!!! Next school tour date is February 10, 8:30 to 10:00. RSVP at 707-996-3849.

---

### **Phone Campaign**

The response to our Phone campaign has been very positive. We made the following each night:

~ Thursday 1/21 \$2,305

~ Saturday, 1/23, \$2,265

~Monday, 1/25, \$3,445

Total: \$8,015!!!

We will be calling one more night on Thursday, January 28, 2010. You don't have to wait for us to call you, come into the office to sign up today or Call Monica Conway in the office 996-3849.

**Thank You so much parents for responding so positively!!!**

---

**Generous offer below by a Woodland Star Family as an incentive for signing up and increasing your pledge to Woodland Star Charter School.**

---



A \$200 incentive gift from:

*Robert Stewart - photographer*

To express our appreciation of the wonderful people who make Woodland Star so special, Robert Stewart, a Woodland Star parent and local photographer is offering a \$200 gift certificate (limited to the first 25 people) as an incentive gift to keep our school strong.

Woodland Star families that donate \$200 over their pledge amount (\$600 per child) or anyone outside the school community who donates \$200 or more will receive a gift certificate.

The gift certificate will be good towards any of our photography services, a family portrait, a business portrait, a head shot, event photography, product photography, etc. As an example, your gift certificate will cover a family or individual portrait and will include a disk of images and online gallery.

To see samples of Robert's photography work visit: [www.artseed.com](http://www.artseed.com) or contact 707-996-3771



To the Woodland Star community,

Here at Woodland Star Charter School, we have a wonderful opportunity to present our children's schooling in a unique and progressive way. Our Waldorf methods school is more than merely a place to spend the

productive hours of each day. Our choice of working here and of course, your choice of having your children here, is a strong statement of how we strive to change our world for the better through an education that nurtures the children to grow into adults who are creative and motivated to think outside of the box.

With the current economic picture, the turbulence is causing us to reframe our values and to do what we strive to do with the students each day - think outside of the box. Certainly, the desire to provide the best for our children has not diminished. But how we achieve this with our time and consequently our hard earned dollars is being redefined.

Through the recent years of diminishing money for education, teachers in all schools have been asked again and again to shoulder the burden. At Woodland Star, salaries were cut last year. In addition the work load for the main lesson teachers has been steadily increased with the decrease in the Waldorf inspired programs - instrumental music, movement and curative programs. (just to name a few). (We remind you that in a Waldorf school, prep is much more labor intensive since the teacher is creating a new curriculum each year as they move onto the next grade level with the class).

We all need to be reminded that in many states, a Waldorf education is only available through an independent school where the annual tuition per child is somewhere between \$8,000 and \$14,000 per year. In California, thanks to the charter school option, this kind of schooling has been offered (originally) for the cost of your tax dollars. With the disarray within the CA budget, education has received yet further cuts. It looks like the "free" Waldorf inspired education is a thing of the past. Woodland Star, like many other schools, has had to initiate an annual fund.

Indeed, many parents by electing to give to the annual fund have made a statement that they wish to support this education. It is most gratifying to see this trend and we acknowledge that some families are choosing to alter their spending patterns in order to support this endeavor. This giving though is voluntary and thus far, not able to mitigate the financial losses incurred by the state budget cuts.

Despite all efforts, at this point, our school is still coming up short financially. The school is at the point now where additional cuts in funding may again impact the salaries of the teachers. With the most recent proposal under consideration by the Charter Council, we might have to give up two days worth of work. We find this to be at the least, an unsatisfactory and at the most, an unfair solution to this dilemma as we are not given a choice. As a profession, we have proven that we are willing to do our fair share. We have accepted salaries throughout the years that have never been commiserate with our responsibilities. Many of us can hardly afford a cut in pay.

We now suggest that a larger solution be pursued. Is there more that our community can do? This week and next, our Development Director, Monica Conway along with members of the Parent and Charter Councils will launch a phone campaign to raise an additional \$20,000 for this year's operating budget. You will all be receiving a phone call asking if you can increase your monthly pledge or make a one time donation beyond your pledge to help close this budget gap. We respectfully ask that you consider this request deeply and be as generous as you can possibly be to support our program, teachers and ultimately, children.

We believe that our collective mind must examine our ideals. In a letter from one of our professional colleagues written earlier in the year, he sighted that CA's budget woes began when Prop 13 passed and altered the progressive mindset of providing public services of health and education to all. Today, we live with the results after many years of eroding services. It is now on our backs and will continue to be passed onto the backs of our children unless we open up to a new framework and demand change.

We thank you for considering our words and our request to extend yourself financially and trust that you have the best intensions in your hearts and minds while you grapple with this complex issue.

Sincerely,

Nancy Cherniss  
Katie Fitzgerald  
Monnica O'Grady  
Kathleen Pearl

**Grant Committee Meeting -  
Thursday, January 28, 2008 - 8:30 am**

We have an opportunity to get a Library for the School. Sonoma Impact100 is offering **one** \$100,000 grant to all the Sonoma Valley Nonprofit groups. In order to get the funds we will have to apply for the grant. The letter of inquiry is due February 4th. To help write our grant letter and if accepted our proposal I am looking for volunteers. Please join me at the meeting or call me or email me to help. Monica [pmgconway@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pmgconway@sbcglobal.net) or 707-225-5557

---

**Volunteer Coordinator Corner**

Volunteer Jobs:

Data Entry volunteers. Work from the comfort of your home, on your time.

cMarket volunteers to help inputing items online can be done from home, training will happen next two weeks.

Miniature Golf Chair - To lead this year's miniature golf tournament, this person will get all the help they need from Monica, please contact to discuss.


eScrip - Mail print cartridiges for recycling to eScrip.

Please contact Andrea at [jacogregory@hotmail.com](mailto:jacogregory@hotmail.com) or 529-2600 to sign-up or for further information.

Thank YOU for all the work you do in support of the children at Woodland Star!

Andrea Gregory

---



**Proudly Presents...**

## How Can I Resist Ya?

The music of **MAMMA MIA!** at the  
**Sebastiani Theatre, Sonoma Plaza**

|              |              |              |                 |               |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------|---------------|
| <b>FEB 6</b> | <b>FEB 7</b> | <b>FEB 8</b> | <b>FEB 14</b> ♥ | <b>FEB 15</b> |
| Sat. 2PM     | Sun. 2PM     | Mon. 7PM     | Sun. 2PM & 7PM  | Mon. 7PM      |

Get Your Tickets Now! At Sebastiani Theatre for Purchase by VISA/MC  
Cash or Check or Pharmaca & Readers Books by Cash or Check  
Adults \$15, Age 17 & Under \$5      Box Office 707.935.6675

**CAT AUSTIN, MA Creative Director**      [www.cataustin.org](http://www.cataustin.org)

### *Healing the Heart of the Soul*

#### Forgiveness ~ A Journey of Self Transformation

**One day workshop on Saturday,  
February 6, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

People who have attended this workshop in the past have passed through difficult issues in personal relationships and school conflicts. Workshop presented by Karen Rivers  
Course fee: \$65 Bring your lunch  
Location: Linda Delman's home:  
2836 Bloomfield Road, Sebastopol, Ca. 95472  
for directions call Linda 707-827-3334  
Registration call Karen at 415-662-2147  
or email: [karen@karenrivers.info](mailto:karen@karenrivers.info)

#### **eScrip!**

It is one of the easiest and painless ways to make money for the school. Here is the breakdown of what local businesses contribute to eScrip and the percentage for each one. Please do your best to support them and bring in money to our school.  
[Click Here too sign up for eScrip or check your account.](#)

**Lucky Cards available in the Main Hall. Use the Lucky S.H.A.R.E.S. card when you shop at Lucky**

#### **February Lunch Form Available.**

The Monthly Lunch order form is available online. [Click Here to get your copy.](#)

#### **Experienced college-aged babysitter with car and spare time!**

My name is Sage Conlon and I am currently on winter break from NYU, where I am a Social Work major with a minor in ASL (American Sign Language).

Please let me know of any opportunities I am flexible and eager to fit into my break. I am available un February 7, 2010. You can reach me at 707-322-0629 as I am at your disposal.

Thanks, Sage

and up to 3% will be donated to Woodland Star.

Stay tuned for Whole Foods eScrip Program coming up next week!

### Waldorf Parenting Conference: “Mothering and Spirituality”

“Mothering and Spirituality—Resourcing Feminine Wisdom” will be the theme of the annual regional parenting conference April 24-25 at Sacramento Waldorf School. Designed to offer a weekend of inspiration and renewal, the conference brings together keynote speakers from Waldorf education with nationally-known authors/presenters to explore weaving the strands of mothering, spirituality and feminism.

Featured speakers include: **Cynthia Aldinger**, founder of LifeWays North America, with training for parents and childcare providers inspired by the work of Rudolf Steiner; **Rahima Baldwin Dancy**, Waldorf early childhood specialist and author; **Carol Lee Flinders**, author of *At the Root of This Longing: Reconciling a Spiritual Hunger and a Feminist Thirst*; **Nancy Jewel Poer**, wise elder, Waldorf educator and author of *Living into Dying*; and Regina Sara Ryan, author of *The Woman Awake. Feminine Wisdom for Spiritual Life*.

There will also be three dozen workshops offered in breakout sessions, ranging from the practical to the sublime. A complete brochure and secure online registration are available at [www.waldorfinthehome.com](http://www.waldorfinthehome.com) or by calling (303) 546-0070. The conference is organized by Rahima Baldwin Dancy at Informed Family Life.

### Kindergarten has new Sand!

Thank you to Jamie and Andrew Storz, Morning Glory Parents for organizing the Sand Delivery and Andrew and cew for moving all the sand to the kindergarten area.

Also a very grateful Thank You to Michael Smith, grandparent, for paying for the sand.

### Co-ed T-Ball and Coach Pitch Baseball

LAST WEEK FOR SIGN-UPS!

January 25 – January 29th (Monday through Friday 10am-6pm) and Saturday, January 30th 10am-11am

T-ball ages 4-6, Coach Pitch ages 6-8(Ages by April 30, 2010).

Sign-ups take place at the Maxwell Clubhouse, Boys & Girls Club.

Dear Community,

As the Haitians go through their terrible suffering, please remember that the young child

Organizing for America:  
Days of Service 2010  
in honor of  
Dr. Martin Luther King

need not see these suffering images on television. They have no biology to process what they would view on television.

Thank you,  
Miss Gaylan

Food Drive benefitting FISH!  
Donation bags located in the office and outside many of the classrooms. Please place donations by this Friday, Jan. 29th.

Hi All,

Planet Organics located here in Sonoma is seeking a new customer service person to handle phone calls, emails, clerical work, etc.

The pay is \$12.00-\$15.00 an hour, depending on experience with regular performance based raises. Paid vacations and a co-pay health insurance plan are part of the job.

It is Mon-Fri. 9am -5:30.

If you know someone who is qualified and seeking work, have them email me their resume!

Thanks,

Larry

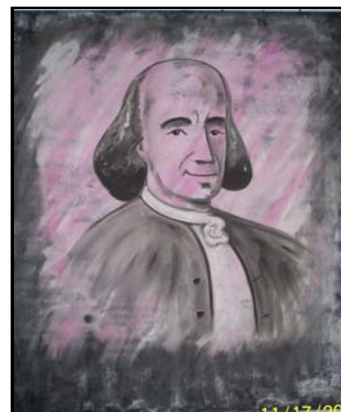
**Larry Bearg, CEO**

**Planet Organics, Inc.**

**19449 Riverside Dr. Suite 100**

**Sonoma, Ca. 95476**

**Cell: 415-286-6140**



Chalk drawing from Mr. H's  
American History Block.

**David Elkind, Ph.D.**, is a professor emeritus of child development at Tufts University and the author of the books "The Hurried Child", "Miseducation", and, most recently, "The Power of Play". [Click here](#) for a link to page where he discusses the value of play and early childhood development.

If you no longer wish to receive these emails, please reply to this message with "Unsubscribe" in the subject line or simply click on the following link: [Unsubscribe](#)

[Click here](#) to forward this email to a friend

Woodland Star Charter School  
17811 Arnold Drive  
Sonoma, California 95476  
US

[Read](#) the VerticalResponse marketing policy.

