



Principal's Newsletter

GOETHE
INTERNATIONAL
CHARTER SCHOOL

From the desk of Principal Rasnik



Upcoming Events

February 16th	6:30pm	Parent Community Meeting
February 17th	8:30am	Parent Community Meeting
February 18th & 21st		No School - Presidents' Day
February 25th	7:45-8:45am	Goethe Café (hosted by 5A)
February 28th	4:00pm	Application Deadline for Lottery
March 2nd		PJ/Reading Day
March 4th	6:00pm	Free Movie Night (MPR)
March 9th	6:00pm	Board of Trustees Meeting
March 11th	7:45-8:45am	Goethe Café
March 15th	7:00pm	Lottery for 2011/2012 school year
March 17th		Spirit Day/Free Dress Day
March 25th	7:45-8:45am	Goethe Café
March 26th	6:00pm	Silent Auction at Beverly Hills
Country Club		
March 30th-April 1st		Book Fair



Please refrain from parking in front of our neighbor's driveways or making U-Turns in front of the school.



Apply Now For Siblings: Applications for the 2011/2012 school year are available on-line and in the office. Current students do not need to reapply, however all siblings planning to attend in the fall MUST apply during the lottery application period (December 1 to February 28, 2010).

Siblings that do not apply during the lottery application period will not be able to keep their sibling preference.

A message from the Principal

Class Highlight – As I walk through the classrooms I am witnessing very special learning. So, I decided that from now until the end of the school year, I will highlight a class in each of the remaining newsletters.

Class 1st Grade- Ms. Wallace/Frau Schmid/Ms. Dauod - The afternoon I walked into a 1st Grade classroom, I saw all the kids sitting in a circle on the rug. Although I could see the kids talking, it was pretty quiet. Everyone was sitting with their legs crossed and were listening. Then I saw one of the kids in the outer circle call one student to the center of the circle. This student in turn called a second student to the center. They sat across from one another and then they each shared something special that the other had done. I asked the teacher, who was watching off to the side, what the kids were doing. She explained that this was their community circle time. Apparently I must have looked a little puzzled and she continued to explain that she had shown and practiced this community circle with the class from the beginning of the school year and now in January they were able to conduct this process completely independently. I watched this for a while longer in amazement. Every student, and I mean every student sat respectfully waiting their turn, no one called out for attention. The students facing each other in the circle were respectfully speaking to each other while all students around the circle were listening attentively. I was also told that the kids can hold their attention span for more than 20 minutes making sure that each person had a chance to contribute. This image of the kids was so beautiful it brought tears to my eyes. Not wanting to disturb their inner sanctum, I just gave the class a thumbs-up from where I stood and hugged the teacher because I was so moved. As I walked outside it occurred to me, this is our future generation that will be able to sit at a round table or summit and discuss peace truly peacefully.

~~~ Way to go 1<sup>st</sup> Grade~~~

**Spanish Enrichment- 3/4/5<sup>th</sup>** – I am pleased to report that Spanish enrichment instruction has begun in 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade. Mr. Ruben Zapata relocated to Los Angeles from Ecuador. Although he is providing Spanish enrichment as a volunteer he has 10 years of teaching experience in an Immersion School setting. The teachers and I have witnessed his instruction and the kids are very excited about having added this new component.

**Middle School push going strong** - The Board and I have concentrated our efforts in pushing through our Middle School Amendment and we continue to meet the districts demands for documentation. In the coming weeks there will be more detailed information coming to elicit the support of all parents.

**IB Social Development Committee Updates:**

**Lunch and Recess** The committee's initial priorities are to bring students' lunch and recess experiences in line with the IB philosophy. Principal Rasnik has already made some changes with regard to lunch for Kindergarteners and 1<sup>st</sup> graders. Students who bring their lunch from home are now eating at the round tables in front of their classrooms. Only students who buy lunch walk to the cafeteria to buy and eat their lunch there. This allows students who pack their lunch more time to eat and provides a calmer atmosphere for all Kindergarteners and 1<sup>st</sup> graders during lunch. In addition, students are required to stay at the tables until 11:30 and are encouraged by staff and volunteers to eat their lunch. After 11:30, they are allowed to get up and walk to recess. The location of recess (e.g., blacktop, volley ball courts, or grassy areas) is determined by the Marina del Rey Middle School at the beginning of each month. More changes will be coming to further improve lunch and recess.

**Survey** We would like to hear parents' ideas for improving lunch and recess in all grade levels. You can find the IB Social Development survey in the IB Social Development folder on the GICS yahoo group website. Please complete the survey and email it to us at [gicssocialib@gmail.com](mailto:gicssocialib@gmail.com).



***Silent and Live Auction Fundraiser– “A Night in Paris” March 26<sup>th</sup>:*** Thank you!

Thank You! GICS community for the wonderful donations we have gotten in so far. If you are a small business owner or know someone who is, it is not too late to sponsor the Silent Auction fundraiser and help to underwrite the costs of the event. For donations of **\$250 and above your company logo will be posted on the Auction website and on a banner at school.** You may also be eligible for free tickets to the Auction. Go to the Fundraising section of our website to download the Sponsor Form. We still need your **gift baskets** or containers to help us package the items - just drop them off in the office. If you have any questions you can contact the Auction Chair, Stephanie Baca [sBaca@hlw.com](mailto:sBaca@hlw.com) and Sage Raval the Event Chair [sage@sageraval.com](mailto:sage@sageraval.com).



***Helping Hands Volunteer Campaign Launch– February:*** The Helping Hands Volunteer Campaign has launched. The goal of the campaign is to reach 100% participation of GICS families donating 5 hours a month. This will also help us with our grant applications. If you donate 5 hours to the school during the month of February your child's class will receive 5 marbles in their jar helping them to achieve special class rewards. Stay tuned for details about a Volunteer Workday happening on February 25<sup>th</sup>. Visit Cory at the Goethe Café and pick up your Helping Hand form and get involved! If you haven't already signed up please contact Cory Birkett Volunteer Coordinator for GICS about the various ways you can get involved [coryjane@ca.rr.com](mailto:coryjane@ca.rr.com)



**Goethe Café – February 25th 7:45-8:45am:**

Join us for the next Goethe Café on February 25<sup>th</sup> hosted by the 5<sup>th</sup> Graders. Proceeds will go to help with the 5<sup>th</sup> grade Science Camp. Bring a couple of dollars, skip breakfast and come enjoy some healthy food such as fruit, hard-boiled eggs, and bagels. Come and grab that cup of coffee, hang out with your friends and meet someone new! Find out what is going on and how you can get more involved with the GICS community. For more information on the Goethe Café or to volunteer contact the Co-Chairs Cory Birkett [coryjane@ca.rr.com](mailto:coryjane@ca.rr.com) and Jessica Miro [hopman579@yahoo.com](mailto:hopman579@yahoo.com)



**International Dinner Club – Chalet Edelweiss in February:**

Join GICS families at the Chalet Edelweiss (owned by our very own GICS family the Bachnofers). The Swiss Restaurant & Bar is located at 8740 S. Sepulveda Blvd., LA 90045 (near LAX). Dine at any time during the month of February and proceeds of your meal will be donated to the school. There will also be two Family Dinner Nights on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> at the Chalet. Reservations are recommended please call 310 645 8740. They have a fabulous Valentine's Day and a special kid's menu so we hope to see you there.

If you have any questions, contact Carol Earle, Chair of International Dinner Club

[prosystemson@yahoo.com](mailto:prosystemson@yahoo.com)



**Westside Pavilion – School Cents – February:**

Participate in the School Cents program at Westside Pavilion and help our school win between \$350 and \$3000. All purchases made at Westside Pavilion earn between 5 and 10 points for each dollar spent. Simply visit Guest Services, located on Level 2, to show your receipts. Earn 20 points in February if you shop at See's Candies, Victoria's Secret, Merle Norman, Zales, Servis & Taylor and Jewelry Collection. Contact the Chair of School Cents Marisol Orozco [orozcomarisol@yahoo.com](mailto:orozcomarisol@yahoo.com) if you have any questions.

Thank You!



**Movie Night – March 4<sup>th</sup> 6pm (MPR):**

Join us for a free movie night on March 4<sup>th</sup> in the MPR starting at 6pm. We will be showing Finding Nemo in German with English subtitles. Any questions contact Natalie Kurtz, Community Events Chair [natalie@kurtzworld.com](mailto:natalie@kurtzworld.com).



**Thank You!:** Thank you to our wonderful teachers, organized by Mrs. Mitchell and staffed by Miss Wallace, Mrs. Chen, Miss Burcham, Frau Wolf, Frau Weigert, Ms.

Lopez, Miss Tyerman and Ms. Truong, and from our aft ercare staff, Mr. Joe and Miss Kate, for our fabulous Valentine's Day Pajama Party and Parent's Night Out. Thank you to all of the families who participated and made the event such a success.

A HUGE thank you to all of the wonderful Room Parents for all of their hard work. And thank you to our new Offi ce Parent, Natalie Kurtz, for all she is doing for our offi ce staff.