

Santa Rosa French-American Charter

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Principal



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Upcoming Events

- ◆ February 24 Carnival
- ◆ March 7 SAB/PAF Meetings
- ◆ March 8 Teacher Work Day (No School)

Principal's News

Dear Parents and Guardians: February has been a very busy and short month. We will conclude the month with a celebration of Black History Month on February 27th. There will be a special lunch meal and lots of traditional African music and decorations. Enjoy the news!

Mr. Johnstone

Coloma

We started off our adventure when we got off the bus in beautiful Coloma, located on the American River. We got into our town groups and started to learn about the life of a California gold-rush miner. We learned how to make a canvas bake shelter, pan for gold, cornbread, and do our own laundry. After dinner we learned about music and songs from the gold-rush era, and we learned how to square dance. Before bed, we had a campfire with songs and skits. We needed our sleep for our long day ahead.

Breakfast was delicious! We packed our gear and headed with our towns to Coloma State Park and the nearby hiking trails to learn more about the

gold-rush. We went to a blacksmith shop, saw the original site of Sutter's Mill, and saw a replica of James Marshall's cabin. During our hike we learned about the Native Americans that used to live in the area. We also participated in a solo hike and a professor hike. While participating on our professor hike, we learned about the various trees and plants that we passed along the way. After dinner we were in for a real treat and listened to a presentation by a Native American speaker. She shared with us her tribe's myths and traditions, and we might have learned a couple of life lessons as well.

On our last day at Coloma we started with breakfast and then assembled in our town groups for one last town meeting and closing ceremonies. We had a quick lunch before boarding the bus and heading home. It was a fast, fun-filled three days. We learned a lot and made many wonderful memories.

Ms. Sullivan



SRFACS WOLVES

“To appreciate the beauty of a snowflake it is necessary to stand out in the cold.”

- Aristotle.

Odyssey of the Mind

ODYSSEY OF THE MIND Regional Tournament is this Saturday, February 24th!! There are two teams representing SRFACS this year. Division 1 (3rd-5th graders) and Division 2 (6th graders). For those who aren't familiar with [Odyssey of the Mind](#), it's an international competition of teams who are challenged to problem solve in creative ways. Cooperation, team-building, math and science skills are developed in fun ways. For me (Cindy Avenell) as a first-time coach, Odyssey is like calisthenics for the mind. The

Asia Week

if you noticed, the hallways at school had lots of red decorations last week. Why? SRFACS Asia Week was happening to usher in the Chinese New Year- Year of the Dog, that officially began on Feb. 16th. The week started with the Redwood Empire Chinese Association (RECA) drum demo last Tuesday. RECA President Nancy Wang, members Judy Cheung and Cathy Ringstad instructed groups of children to play the drum beat, cymbals and gong. Some sixth graders had their chance to BE the in their individual classes, students received chocolate wrapped "coins" that represent the lucky money that are given out during the traditional family visits during Chinese New Year.

On Wednesday, the taste of Asia was centered on martial arts, specifically Kung Fu (or Gong Fu) by the local Wu Academy. At two different hours, 2nd - 6th graders lined up on the lawn to hear instructions. It was impressive to see around 150 students

More News

In order to continue to run our lunch program we need 2-3 adult volunteers per day. Because of lack of volunteers we have been asking the older students in the 2nd and 3rd lunch rotations to help clean tables. This would be unnecessary if we have enough adult help.

We are experiencing an epidemic of tardiness in the mornings. Remember at a dual immersion school, every minute lost is precious. The 2nd

program is not an enrichment, nor a sports team, but rather a cross between the two.

As one of several coaches ([Alissa Feldman](#), [Aubrey Spiegelman](#), [Scott Jensen](#), and [Azeneth Gregoire](#)), I am inviting SRFACS families and friends to come if you can to Santa Rosa High School on Saturday morning to watch, cheer and support the students that have been working together since October. Arrive early for parking and you can watch our teams at the following times:

11:00 am Division 2 - Stellar Hangout in Multipurpose Room.

10:30 am Division 1 - Animal House in South Gym

If you come, you can watch our school's teams as well as many others in the region. It's crazy fun! Invite other families with students up through high school that might be interested. I would like to thank PAF their support, Beth Rahm and Melissa Lue for getting this year's team going, Travers Ebling for building a crusher, and the parents of the 13 students on our Odyssey of the Mind teams. Bonne chance!

simultaneously doing basic kung fu moves. There were demonstrations by Master (Shi Fu) [Justin Eggert](#) in Tai Chi and some of his students presented moves with "weapons". The Friday was capped off by delicious Chinese food in la resturante de l'ecole. Many thanks and Xie xie to the PAF for their financial support of this cultural week, Principal Johnstone and the staff for their providing the time for these activities, and to [Elif Alton](#), Cindy Avenell, Melissa Lue for the coordination of the week and arranging the lovely decorations around school that were not made by the students. Xin Nian Kuai Le!

trimester ends this Friday and teachers will begin to complete the report cards. On March 7th, we will be selecting next year's students in the lottery.

6th Graders will be taking DELF tests in early March. This is a valuable diploma that certifies the child's French language proficiency.