

# Santa Rosa French-American Charter

12/2/2017  
Volume 6, Issue 3

Richard Johnstone  
Principal



## Principal's News

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### Upcoming Events

- ◆ French Book Fair  
Dec. 11-15
- ◆ SAB/PAF  
Dec 6th
- ◆ Winter Break  
Dec. 25- Jan. 5
- ◆ School Resumes  
Jan. 8th

My Goal has been to send out a monthly newsletter on the 1<sup>st</sup> of every month. I did not send out the November 1<sup>st</sup> newsletter as we lost almost all the month of October and the focus for November was to put in measures to help heal our community from the effects of the devastating fires. It was heartwarming to see all of the support we received during the aftermath of the fires. We were provided with extra counseling services and we were treated to the visits of the Therapy Dogs. We plan to continue to work with this volunteer organization and institute the "Reading to Dogs" program. I was assured they are bilingual dogs.

Because of lost instructional time, we are postponing the Winter Show.

The Walk and Roll continues to be a popular event and you should come and check out the bike-powered smoothies.

In November, some of our French

### Dear Parents

In this issue, I will highlight some of the events that have taken place last month and some changes that have taken place in our programs.

The Parent Association Foundation has been busy helping the fire victims with a generous gift certificate for each family. It was special to see the reaction of the families that came in to receive the contributions from the PAF as well as Redwood Credit Union. The foundation also has launched the EFBA French Enrichment program. There are 70 students enrolled and they plan to

Teachers received training in administering the DELPH test which is given at the end of the year in Grade 6 to assess their French proficiency. Students receive a diploma that is recognized worldwide.

Another great development is that we are moving forward on French accreditation in Grade 6. We will have an inspection and we should be approved which will make us a TK-6 French accredited school. This distinction is invaluable in recruiting French teachers.

Finally, we just completed two open houses for prospective parents and we had a nice turnout. We toured the campus and the feedback from the parents was very positive.

open up more sections to accommodate more students.

With the help of Kristina Dorman, the regular enrichment program has continued and plans are to have more offerings starting in January.

I am pleased to witness the impact of our French and English after school tutoring program that will continue after the first of the year for 11 more weeks.

The school continues to amaze me with the community spirit.

All the Best, Mr. Johnstone



SRFACS WOLVES

*“The future of the world is in my classroom today.”*

## Special Events

Since the last newsletter, we have celebrated Halloween with our traditional parade. We felt that this annual event should take place after the fires to bring some normalcy to our campus. Madame Bon and the French teachers planned morning thematic lessons in mixed grade levels. It was great to see the collaboration of the teachers and the students from different classrooms. We hope to use

the same model later this school year.

Some of our classes are meeting in the cafeteria to participate in a choral program taught by Galienne. These lessons follow the French Standards.

Classes will be using holiday themes the last week before the Winter Break (Dec. 18-22). Teachers and Class Reps will coordinate any parties at the end of that week

## New Chef

Ruth Lefkowitz is a longtime Sonoma County resident who has maintained careers in both culinary arts and nonprofit management. Early on, she apprenticed and worked as a pastry chef in several East Coast restaurants. Upon moving to California and attending Sonoma State, she earned a BA in Liberal Studies, and later, an MA in the social action master's program, focusing on community food systems.

After graduation, she worked for the Volunteer Center of Sonoma County, Rohnert Park Youth and Family Services and Petaluma City Schools, as a community liaison.

In 2007, Ruth launched Ruthy's Real Meals, an organic home delivery meal service, which served happy families for almost ten years, closing in December, 2016. During that time, she developed a natural food cooking style, drawing on international culinary traditions, and utilizing local farms and farmers market products. Ruth is excited about the opportunity presented by Santa Rosa City Schools and the French American Charter School--to share her love of local, wholesome and organic foods with the students, parents, teachers and school community---and to bring forward the best possible school lunches.

## Book Fair

The French Book Fair will be held in the school's library the week of December 11th. Please come purchase some fabulous French books at wholesale prices to add to your child's home library.

We need volunteers next week to help inventory, price books, and set up the fair, as well as volunteers during the week of the fair. If you are available to help, please sign up for shifts here:

<https://www.helpcounterweb.com/ci/signup/1392206b8ab>

Book Fair Hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday:

8:15 AM - 9:30 AM and 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM

Thursday (extended evening hours):

8:15 AM - 9:30 AM and 2:30 PM - 5:30 PM

Merci,

Galienne

## Student Council

Our TOSA, Madame Bon has organized a new student council this year. Last year the student council got involved in community service activities that led to the adoption of 5 wolves at Yellowstone Park. They were also in charge of choosing themes for our free dress days. This year the student council will have a representative from each class from Grades 3-6. They have met several times and have brainstormed ideas to

improve the school. Four of the council members will be presenting their ideas at the SAB and PAF meetings on December 6<sup>th</sup>. It is so vital to empower the students through leadership opportunities. Go Wolves!