



GIG HARBOR ACADEMY

SFN Recap September 8, 2010

The following recap is the information that was discussed during the first SFN meeting on September 8th, 2010. Huge thanks to Marlene Druker, mom of Isabel in 4th grade and Daniel in 2nd grade, for writing the meeting re-caps.

General SFN information:

SFN stands for School Family Network. SFN communicates school information to parents and runs many programs to enrich the school including: Family Fun Events, Hot Lunch Program, Snack Sales, Teacher Appreciation Week, Pumpkin Carve Night, Administration Appreciation Day, and Community Service Projects. This year SFN is being lead by Cristina McDougall, mom to Aidan & Graham (1st & Kinder). Our faculty liaison this year is Niki Vanderford, Director of Admissions and Marketing.

Meetings are scheduled for the first Wednesday of each month during the school year at 9:05 in the library. There will be no evening SFN meetings this year. All parents are invited to attend and children below school age are welcome with their parents. Meeting recaps will be sent to class representatives and then forwarded on to all parents/guardians along with other information that is pertinent to the class.

Upcoming School Events:

School photos: Tuesday, September 14 and Wednesday, September 15th.

Pizza Program: (offered to Pre-K thru 5th students) starts on **Thursday September 16th**. Pizza Thursday is run by the fifth grade class as a fund raiser for their trip to Williamsburg.

Kindergarten after-school Popcorn and Lemonade Sale: Thursday September 16th. These monthly after school sales are run by the Kindergarten class and proceeds are used for community projects selected by Kindergarten.

Second SFN snack sale: Thursday September 23rd will be hosted by 5th grade (with assistance from SFN due to small class size). Pre-paid snack sale cards can be purchased from Donna at the office or send your kids with a dollar for a lunch time snack. Snack sale coordinators for this year are Andrea Radcliffe (mom to Hayden and Charlotte, 5th grade and Kinder) and Kari Dainty (mom to Philip, Samantha & Alexis, 5th, 3rd & 1st). Please contact them with any questions regarding snack sale.

Each class will host two snack sales this school year. Host classes are asked to donate snacks for the sale and supply volunteers to sell mid-day and at the end of the school day. Class snack sales will be coordinated by SFN class reps.

The Gig Harbor Academy Eagles **Cross Country** team will be running at Bellarmine Prep in Tacoma on Sunday September 19th, September 26th and October 3rd starting at 2pm. Come cheer us on!

Pumpkin Carve: Friday October 29th. Veteran Pumpkin Carving Night Organizer, Mary Wotherspoon - tiggerwazzu@aol.com (mom to Catherine, 2nd grade and dessert artist extraordinaire) will be joined by Traci Lenzi (mom to Maura in Pre-K) in preparing this fun event on campus. Please contact them if you would like to help.

Scholastic Book Fair: Monday, October 25th – Friday October 29th Book Fair will be coordinated again this year by Maureen Brekke (mom to Nathan, 2nd grade, and super volunteer school librarian). Parent volunteers will be needed to set up the sale (morning of October 25th), box it back up when it's over and to sell during sale hours. Sign up sheets will be going

around as we get closer. Since the fair is set up in the library, students will not have library periods for that week and can keep their books from the previous week longer. Book Fair is a great opportunity to check out and maybe purchase some great new books for your kids or as gifts, while supporting Gig Harbor Academy. Scholastic has a very generous program of rewarding sales with books/money for the school.

Family Fun Night: November 12th. Wendy Kelly and Wendy Welch (moms to Nicole & Ella, respectively, who are in 3rd grade) are planning an action packed night of bowling. Stay tuned for more information.

Emergency Procedures:

There will be no “phone trees” this year for informing parents about school closures or late starts due to weather. Best source for school closure information is: <http://www.schoolreport.org/> or the local television stations. The school will also post school closure information on the school’s web site.

Parents are advised that if conditions, where they live are unsafe, they should remain at home, even if school is open.

Please be assured that if weather conditions change while students are already on campus, all children will be safe at school with a staff member until a parent or someone on the child’s emergency contact list is able to pick them up.

Emergency Kits:

If you ordered an Emergency Kit or an Emergency Kit refill pack from SFN this year, it will be delivered to your child’s classroom next week. If you still need an emergency kit or refill pack, there are a few available for purchase - see Donna in the office. If you would like to add personal items to a purchased earthquake kit, you can pass those along to Niki in the office and she will see that they get into your child’s kit. It would be helpful for the teachers if we could have earthquake kits all done and stored away by the end of next week, so if you are preparing your own, please turn it in. There is a handout available at the office with suggestions for earthquake kit contents. Thank you to Traci Lenzi and Cristina McDougall for their work on Earthquake kits this year – please contact them if you have questions or comments.

Parent Connect Program:

Gig Harbor Academy welcomes 32 new families this year! In order to make them feel more at home and provide another resource for school information, Imka Lavinder (mom to Nicholas, 4th grade and Jacob & Alexa, kinder) is matching new families with families that have a child in the class above their child. If you are interested in being a “mentor” family, please contact Imka (lavinderfive@comcast.net).

Community Service:

SFN Community Service is a way for our school community to help our larger community and also to instill in our children appreciation for their good fortune, awareness of those who are less fortunate and empowerment to make a difference. SFN community service projects are voluntary and hopefully meaningful for families who chose to participate. SFN focuses on a few causes to support each year, some of which have a local focus and some more global efforts. Community Service is being lead by Imka Lavinder, Debbie Dean (mom to Thomas, 4rd grade) & Kim Golden (mom to Maddie, 5th and Luke, 3rd).

The first project will benefit our local FISH food bank. This year the fifth grade class will take the lead. They will visit the food bank to determine their current needs (type of food, when food is needed most, etc...) and will design an appeal to the rest of the school.

Other causes being considered include Roots & Shoots (web site: <http://www.rootsandshoots.org/>), the Humane Society, and we will likely do holiday gifts for needy families again in December. Please approach Imka, Kim, or Debbie with thoughts you may have regarding community service.

Hot Lunch:

We have two volunteers to do Hot Lunch this year. Thank you to Jeannine McCurrie (mom to Rachel in First Grade) and Wendy Kelly for volunteering to be our lunch ladies this year. This program is available to Kindergarten-5th grade students. Look for order forms coming home in the next month or so.

SFN Positions Available:

Thank you to everyone who stepped up to be a class representative or committee member this year. We are still looking for creative and energetic parents to lead our **Parade** efforts. Participation in Gig Harbor’s annual parade in June offers us great exposure to our community and to potential future families. It is also really fun! Contact Cristina at cbmcdougall@yahoo.com or (cell)206.931.7305 for more information. Thank you to Jeff Lavinder for continuing his support in the building of the float.

You do not have to be a class representative or committee member to come to SFN meetings and to be involved with SFN activities. Please join us for our next meeting in the library on Wednesday October 6th at 9:05am.