



GIG HARBOR ACADEMY

SFN Recap
January 5, 2011

Happy New Year!

Baby Shower for Sheila Walther and Lynn Swanson:

Thank you to everyone that attended. SFN presented both mothers-to-be with a basket full of goodies. Thank you to Cristina McDougall for organizing this event and decorating the library with lots of pink! A big thanks to Mary Wotherspoon for a beautiful, delicious cake.

Welcome to new Faculty & Staff:

Welcome to new Administrative Assistant Leigh Ann Myhre - stop by the office and introduce yourself!

Mrs. Swanson and her baby are fine but she is taking some time before her baby is born. Her replacement, Mary Lou Hunt, has worked with Lynn on continuing her work in the music program and is already working with the kids.

Heidi Estano has joined Pat Felton in the Kindergarten class while Sheila is gone on maternity leave.

Short bios for Leigh Ann, Mary Lou and Heidi were in the newsletter 12/16/10.

Auction News:

Hopefully everyone has been receiving the e-mails with auction updates. Please commit to helping our school, by helping with a class project, donating items or a basket, and/or helping with procurements. Please let Marci Hardy, helenahardy@msn.com know what you are able to help with by January 17th.

There will be a work party at the school on **Friday, January 14th, starting at 5:30**. There will be pizza for dinner and you can bring kids if you want (planning to show a video for kids). We will be assembling invitations and also working on centerpieces. If you are crafty and enjoy doing that sort of thing – great! If you aren't crafty, come anyway because there will be plenty to do.

Dr. Seuss Day – Tuesday March 2nd - Stories and activities in conjunction with Dr. Seuss/Reading day are being planned in the afternoon from 1:30 to 3. If you can help out, let Niki or Marci Hardy know.

Mark your calendars for **Movie Night - Thursday March 10th** – we've got a theater at Galaxy reserved for us – thank you to the Galaxy Theater for their donation again this year - and will be showing a video auction basket preview before a feature film for the kids. (Film to be shown will be announced when confirmed). Friends who are not at GHA are invited to join us as well. We will be selling the tickets at school and all proceeds will go to GHA. There's no school on Friday March 11th, so great night for the movies!

Open House – Saturday January 22nd – 1 to 3pm:

Many postcards were sent out to invite the public to our open house. If you have any friends that might be interested in GHA, please invite them. All the classroom teachers will be here, as well as some current students and parents and alumni. Please contact Niki if you can help with giving tours during the open house. She will train and provide you with notes.

Meet Your Teacher For Next Year:

Current parents will be invited to coffee and meeting with teachers in the grade above your current year sometime before re-enrollment. Dates will be announced when known.

Calender Notes:

No School - Monday, January 17th – Martin Luther King Day

Mr. Shoup let us know that next year's school calendar (2011/2012) is being worked on. Peninsula School District has not released their dates yet. We may or may not follow their calendar next year, but once calendar is set and released (start and end dates, vacations, etc....) it will not be altered, without extremely good reason.

Family Fun Night is currently on the calendar for Friday April 15th. Not certain at this time if this will happen on this night or at a later date, but will keep you posted.

Snack Sale:

Thank you to Faculty & Staff for hosting snack sale Thursday Jan 6th. SFN will be hosting January 20th. You can check the snack sale pre-paid card binder to check your child's balance and Andrea has sent e-mails to parents whose balances are getting low. You can add more to your pre-paid card at the office.

Please note that while some kids that are sensitive to gluten they can eat rice crispy treats, commercially available rice crispy cereal is not gluten free and a child that will have a bad reaction to any gluten cannot eat them. See below for gluten-free snack ideas (thank you to Marci Hardy for providing). Class rep's that are organizing snacks sales are asked to try to get someone to bring snacks that are gluten free. Please remember all snacks need to be nut free.

Some gluten-free snack ideas:

- Fruit cups that are 100% fruit

- Hormel makes a gluten-free pepperoni stick

- Larabars

- Popcorn

- Pirate Booty

- Caramel apples (most caramel candies are gluten free)

- Gluten Free Snack Mix Recipe: <http://www.tasteofhome.com/recipes/Gluten-Free-Snack-Mix>

- Gluten free muffin recipe: (note: ingredients on this one are not things you are likely to have unless you personally have a gluten-free family member) <http://www.tasteofhome.com/recipes/Gluten-Free-Chocolate-Chip-Muffins>

- Gluten-free caramel corn recipe

- <http://glutenfreecooking.about.com/od/dessertsandsweets/r/gfcaramelcorn.htm>

- Popcorn balls: <http://candy.about.com/od/halloweencandyrecipes/r/candypopcorn.htm>

- By the way, Trader Joe's sells a just add egg, water and vegetable oil (or applesauce) gluten free (also nut free) easy to prepare Brownie Baking Mix (find it in the baking section near the flour & sugar).

Harbor WildWatch:

Harbor WildWatch will be visiting the 3rd, 4th and 5th grade classes to teach them about tides, oceans and the creatures that call them home. To learn more about this wonderful local non-profit, see their web site:

<http://www.harborwildwatch.org/>

PNAIS:

GHA is moving along in the accreditation process. Expecting visitors to review the school in March 2012.

Val-o-grams:

4th grade will be selling these ever popular Valentine's Day greetings and small treats sometime around the beginning of February.

5th Grade Field Trips:

5th grade will not be traveling east this year, but other more local field trips are being planned.