



SONOJI SAKAI INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL COHO CONNECTION



Sonoji Sakai Intermediate School
9343 Sportsman Club Road
Bainbridge Is., WA 98110

October 11, 2007

Office: 780-6500
Attendance: 780-6600
Transportation: 842-4641
www.bainbridge.wednet.edu/sakai

Message from the Principal

We so appreciate the support of Sakai parents. In the last month, we have had many parents donating lots of hours to make our Math-a-Thon a success. Many thanks to chairpersons, Lani Chaffee and Sherry Larsen-Holmes. Special thanks to Kay Johnson and Connie Feikes who organized a spectacular staff luncheon during conference week. More than \$46,000 was raised to support such areas as library, specialist programs, outdoor learning, technology and assemblies.

Counseling and Student Support Center

At Sakai, students, staff and parents have access to two counselors, Dan Pippinger and Mary Jackson. Students request appointments in the counseling office for a wide range of problems which may be taking their attention away from their schoolwork. Staff or parents may also request that a student meet with the counselor. Small groups will be offered during the school year when several students are dealing with similar issues, e.g.: family change, divorce, anger management, grief and loss, drug/alcohol concerns. We are planning on starting our first groups in November for students who are going through family changes and for students who are dealing with grief and loss. Please contact us if you would like your student to participate in a group. If a student or parent requests the opportunity to participate in a group, a parent permission form will need to be signed.

Students also can use the Student Support Center for help with conflict mediation, problem solving, assignment completion, organization, or as a place to enjoy quiet recess activities. The Student Support Center is staffed throughout the school day by Sakai staff members.

For more information about Counseling or the Student Support Center, feel free to call Dan Pippinger for students with last names that start with A-F at 780-6554 or Mary Jackson for students with last names that start with G-Z at 780-6506.

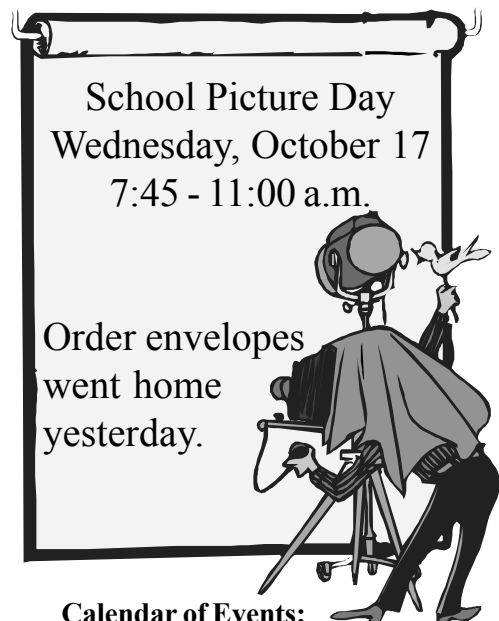
**Non-Contract day
Friday, October 12
NO SCHOOL**

Bainbridge Schools Foundation

The Bainbridge Schools Foundation will continue their ongoing effort to support essential academic programs that effect all children in the Bainbridge Island School District. Bruce Beall is the new director of the Foundation.

The Foundation will begin their annual campaign to raise funds with a Phonathon on November 13, 14, and 15. Sakai will host on November 13. This is their primary fundraiser.

You can make a difference! Money raised through the Phonathon will be used for district-wide programs to improve academics, provide students with extra help and support our teachers. Over 100 Phonathon volunteers will be calling parents. Please support the Phonathon by making a financial contribution or volunteering to call parents. Thank you.



Calendar of Events:

- Oct. 11: Math-a-thon Awards Assembly
- Oct. 11: School Board 5:30 at Sakai
- Oct. 12: Non Contract Day - NO SCHOOL
- Oct. 17: School Pictures
- Oct. 26: District Emergency Drill 10:10 a.m.

Informational Websites

Bainbridge Island School District: www.bainbridge.wednet.edu

Community News: www.bainbridge.wednet.edu/comminfo

Big PTO News!

The year has just started and already we have had several great events. Thanks to Math-a-thon Chairwomen Lani Chaffee and Sherry Larson-Holmes and volunteers Denel Bartsch, Rachel

Bauch, Jessie Hoover, Andy Houser, Marianne Lindsey, Joan Loechl, Katie Martins, Kymberly Myrick, Kim Weindorf, Sally Samson, Nicole Wortley, Melanie Edenhalm and Margie Weinkers who made our Math-a-thon a smooth, fun and successful event. We appreciate all the counting and adding you did, as well as all the other details!

Thank you's go out to Chairs Connie Feikes and Kay Johnson and the many cooks who made our Staff Appreciation Luncheon a grand success. There was lots of yummy food to thank all the people who work at Sakai, and it was a true pleasure to see them enjoying it throughout the day. Wow! We really have some creative chefs!

Did you purchase or order a sweatshirt? Sabrina Norton has been handling all the aspects of the sweatshirt sales and thanks to her our kids walk proudly through the school and town, letting others know they attend SAKAI by the shirts they wear. Thanks, Sabrina!

Robin Nigash has been organizing our library aides and Kendra Lipka has put together the game room schedule. Thank you to them both!

Laura O'Mara, our co-volunteer coordinator, has done an awesome job of organizing all the volunteers' information and sending it to the chairs of our various events. Over 150 people have volunteered this year and we thank you all. Laura - you're amazing!

The Book Fair is coming up, so if you haven't let us know that you'd like to help out, now is a good time to do so. Also, if you are interested in working on the student magazine, please let us know.

It's never too late to get involved. You can call Judi at 842-4370 or e-mail her at judinlee@msn.com and let her know what you'd like to do. Please include your e-mail address and/or phone number.

Judi Leader and Laura O'Mara
Co-Volunteer Coordinators

Identification of Highly Capable Students

Last winter and spring the school district conducted a student identification process designed to identify highly capable math and language arts students at the elementary school level. This process included the administration of the Cognitive Abilities Test to all third grade students. If you currently have a child in grade 5 or 6 who did not take the Cognitive Abilities Test in third grade and you feel they may have exceptional abilities in language arts and/or mathematics, please contact the school counselor, Mary Jackson at 780-6506 no later than Friday, October 26, 2007 to discuss the possibility of referring your child(ren) for testing.

FOOD and PEANUT ALLERGIES AWARENESS

Severe allergic reaction to foods among students is more common than it was 10 years ago. This year at Sakai, 15 students have documented risk for anaphylaxis* upon exposure to an identified food. Consequently, most classrooms and teachers are affected in an effort to create a safe school environment for these students.

PEANUTS, TREE NUTS, and SHELLFISH are the most common foods these students need to avoid, with peanuts being the most prevalent. Of course, each student with a food allergy does what he/she can to avoid exposure or ingestion of the allergen; accidental ingestion has the potential to be life threatening to those with possible anaphylaxis! They often eat only foods brought from home, as well as gradually learn to read food labels as they grow, and become more independent in making food choices. Sakai has a "Peanut-Free" table as a choice for these students and friends (who also don't bring any foods with peanuts in their lunches) to sit at during lunch to minimize exposure.

Processed foods often contain trace amounts of peanuts or peanut products. Asian foods and sauces often contain peanuts AND shellfish. Besides asking you to be aware of this situation, please emphasize the following with your child:

- ❖ Wash hands with soap and water, especially after eating. This step markedly decreases the chance of cross-contamination of surfaces at school. (Hand wipes or sanitizer are acceptable substitutes.)
- ❖ The reason specific foods (peanut, banana, or strawberry) may not be allowed in their classroom.
- ❖ The rationale for not sharing or exchanging any foods with other students at school.
- ❖ The reason for a Peanut-free table in the Sakai lunch room.

Thank you!
Becky Deeter, RN

*Anaphylaxis is a hypersensitive state of the body to a foreign protein (or drug) with symptoms severe enough to produce serious shock. Respiratory problems due to spasm of muscles of the bronchioles can be fatal.

October

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	2	3	4	5 \ Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences NO SCHOOL
8 9:40 Bus Evac. Drill 2:15 After School Activities Begin	9	10	11 1:25 Math-a-Thon Awards Assembly 5:30 School Board Mtg. at Sakai	12 NON-CONTRACT DAY NO SCHOOL
15 Progress Reports Today	16	17 School Pictures 8:00-11:00 a.m	18	19 Sakai Spirit Pizza
22	23 1:00 Earthquake Drill 7:00 p.m. Gr. 5-12 HIV/ AIDS Curriculum Preview	24	25 5:30 School Board mtg at Sakai	26
29	30	31		