



110 Shaw Drive San Anselmo California 94960 Tel 415.454.2162 Fax: 415.454.6840 www.rossvalleyschools.org

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## ***Message from the Superintendent***

### **Facilities Expansion Needed**

Welcome to the 4<sup>th</sup> week of school. I am happy to report that all schools and classrooms are up and running smoothly. We are filled to capacity and beyond. We have had to use our music rooms as classrooms at three elementary sites. Music or Day Care has been moved into multipurpose rooms at Brookside Upper and Lower, Manor and Wade Thomas. White Hill will need more classrooms by 2012-13 to accommodate the increased enrollment. All projections show that incoming kindergarten classes will continue to be larger than the graduating 8<sup>th</sup> grade classes. We are putting our full attention on solutions for the facilities and will be holding meetings in the community to keep you updated. A Facilities Committee with parents, Board members and district staff will act as an advisory group for short term and long term enrollment solutions.

### **Trustee Vacancy**

Trustee Don Wilson has decided to step down from his position on the Board for personal reasons. On behalf the families of Ross Valley, I thank Don for his service over the last two years. He has brought budget expertise, commitment, and the compassion to the position. Thank you Don.

The Board must now appoint a trustee to fill the vacancy. If you are interested in applying for this important job, please fill out the application in this newsletter. The Board will interview applicants at an open meeting in October (to be announced) and select the candidate. The term will start immediately and run until December 2011.

### **Partnering with YES**

Please be aware that we in the District are working hand-in-hand with the YES Foundation to provide an excellent enriched education for our children. Art, music, library books, theater, assemblies, poetry, middle school clubs and sports ... these are just a few of the wonderful programs that YES funds.

This year the YES Foundation has committed to raising \$900,000 to cover existing program costs plus contribute money to the District to help protect our children against state budget cuts and continue excellence in the classroom. Participation was up to 70% last year, the level of other successful foundations in our County, showing this community's commitment to a well-rounded education and hopefully making their goal achievable. The Foundation expects to continue to see that participation grow even larger given every child in the District benefits from YES programming.

YES will be launching a Family Giving campaign soon and we hope that you will choose to participate. For more information and to donate online, please visit [www.yestokids.org](http://www.yestokids.org).

**Highlights from the Board Meeting**  
**September 10, 2009**

- The Board discussed enrollment and facilities and the need to open a new K-5 school site. They will hire a construction project manager to lead the process. A Facilities Committee.
- A report of the student results of the California Standards Test (CSTs) or STAR were reviewed. Particular strengths were noted in increasing math scores in grades 4 through 7 and Algebra. Fourth grade scores in Language Arts showed great growth with 91% proficiency, up from 70% the prior year. There is a dip in third grade scores that is common throughout Marin County. One reason may be that during second grade the SCT is read to the students. Third grade is the first year that students have to complete the test by reading all questions and directions.
- The Board approved a contract with KD Anderson & Associates to conduct a traffic study of the following properties: Red Hill, Deer Park and Marin Town & Country. The Board will use the information in the decision making process to decide which school site open to accommodate enrollment growth.

*You can view the entire board packet and view all the topics the board will be addressing at <http://rvsd.csbaagendaonline.net>.*

***If you have any questions, please contact the Superintendent's Office.  
Thank you for your continued support of the District.***



**September 14, 2009**

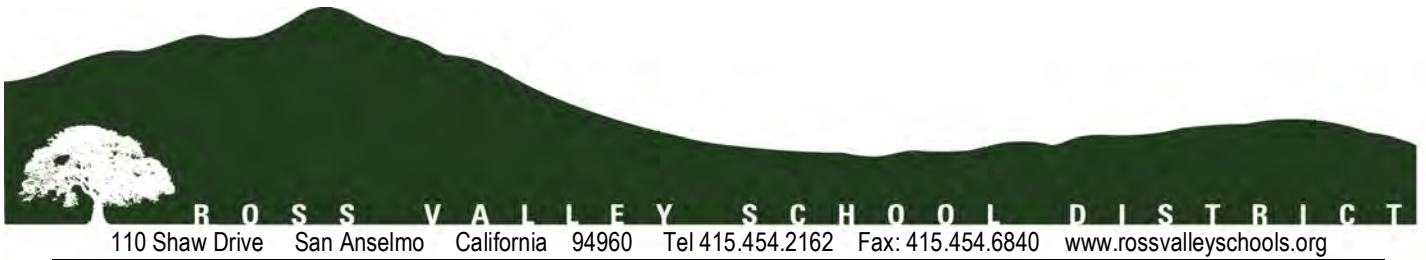
**NEWS RELEASE  
RVSD BOARD OF TRUSTEES OPEN SEAT  
(Term Through December 2011)**

Bryce Sumnick, Superintendent of the Ross Valley School District, announces that applications for the open seat on the Governing Board will be available at the District Office, 110 Shaw Drive, San Anselmo, CA. The deadline for applications is COB—4:00 p.m. (Close of Business) Friday, October 2, 2009.

Interested persons who live within the boundaries of the Ross Valley School District and who are registered voters are welcome to apply for the one existing vacancy. All applications will become public records upon receipt by the District.

Candidates will be interviewed in open session by the four current Governing Board members at a meeting scheduled for that purpose (Date TBD / in October). Persons wanting to submit questions for the existing Board members to consider during interviewing should do so by the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of October 2009.

Inquiries from qualified citizens can be made by calling 415.454.2162 or email [superintendent@rossvalleyschools.org](mailto:superintendent@rossvalleyschools.org).



**SCHOOL BOARD VACANCY  
Application Form**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home Tel. #:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Work Tel. #:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Cell Tel. #:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Biographical Information**

1. Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

2. Education \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Public Schools Related Experience \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Community Involvement \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. Years of Residence in the Ross Valley School District \_\_\_\_\_

Briefly explain how you can assist the Board of Trustees as a member (use back side or attach a separate sheet):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please Note: Upon receipt by the District this Form will be a matter of public record.



## **BOARD MEMBER QUALIFICATIONS**

### QUALIFICATIONS

A list of desirable qualifications for prospective Board members shall include, but not limited to the following:

1. Is dedicated to the public education of youth.
2. Is committed to the community at large.
3. Has knowledge of unique characteristics of the Ross Valley School District.
4. Demonstrates courage and ability to explain and enforce a rule which might not be popular but which is necessary.
5. Has awareness that leadership often involves the turning of public opinion to acceptance of a feasible policy.
6. Has a sense of humor.
7. Has appreciation of moral and ethical values.
8. Shows ability to withhold judgment on critical issues until the facts are available.
9. Is dedicated to truth, liberty and toleration.
10. Has unselfish interest in public schools, the community and in every child.
11. Does not have personal interests that would invalidate service to the Board.



# the Mustang News

Wade Thomas School | 150 Ross Avenue, San Anselmo, CA 94960 | (415) 454-4603 | [www.rossvalleyschools.org/wadethomas](http://www.rossvalleyschools.org/wadethomas)

## Important Dates

- Sept. 17th **WTPA Meeting,**  
7:00 pm  
Wade Thomas  
School Library
- Sept. 28th **Book Fair**  
– Oct. 2nd
- Oct. 1st **Mustang Round Up**  
**Barbeque, 5:00 pm**
- Oct. 10th **WT Spruce Up Day,**  
9am to noon
- Oct. 10th **Octoberfest**  
Brookside Lower  
Campus
- Oct. 14th **Lap-A-Thon**
- Oct. 15th **Picture Day**  
–16th

## Girl Scouts at Wade Thomas

Join us for a Girl Scout parent information meeting!

**Monday, September 21,  
6:30 pm**

Wade Thomas Elementary School  
150 Ross Avenue, San Anselmo

For more information:  
[sgraab@girlscoutsnorcal.org](mailto:sgraab@girlscoutsnorcal.org)

**Emergency Hotline (415) 721-4751**

The Mustang News is published weekly on Wednesdays. Please submit newsletter articles by Monday (2 days prior), 3pm to [wtinfo@rossvalleyschools.org](mailto:wtinfo@rossvalleyschools.org). All submissions will be approved by the Ross Valley School District office prior to inclusion.

## Calling All Room Parents!

### Room Parent Orientation Meeting, Thurs. September 17th at 6p.m.

Now that you've signed up to be a room parent, are you wondering how to get started? Come to the Room Parent Orientation Meeting this Thursday and find out. You'll get all the information you need to be successful in your role. The meeting will be held on **Thursday, September 17th at 6 p.m.** in the Library. And plan to stay for the WTPA meeting which will start at 7 p.m. in the same location to learn even more about what's happening at Wade Thomas.

**Questions?** Contact Holly Casey at 415 717 8790 or [casey@glocap.com](mailto:casey@glocap.com).

## Safe Routes to School News

Thank you to all the parents for not driving the back ways to school. It makes a huge difference to the riders and walkers. The change is noticeable and will keep all of our kids safer.

### Map of Bike Routes

As promised, I have created a map of the bike routes as I know them ([click here](#) to view online). If I have left off a key route, please let me know and I will add it. Use the map to find a good way to ride to school and use the map to

avoid driving the bike/walk route.

**International Ride & Walk Day is Wed Oct 7th.** We will meet at Creek Park at 7:45 am. Both riders and walkers. Police and fire escorts, snack and prize for all those riding, walking, carpooling upon arrival at school. We need a few parents to help hand out prizes and food. If you can help, please contact us or sign up on the WTPA bulletin board.

Ted Fehlhaber ([tf@mmcpro.com](mailto:tf@mmcpro.com))  
Tanya Henry ([tanyahenry@comcast.net](mailto:tanyahenry@comcast.net))  
Safe Routes Team Leaders



## School Lunch Program

Over Labor Day weekend there was a nationwide effort to improve the quality of food in our nation's schools. More than 300 Eat-ins were organized, including in Mill Valley, to encourage Congress to increase the National School Lunch Program standards towards promoting healthy,

locally-grown meals for our students. Our district already enjoys these benefits, building healthy lifetime habits and strengthening our students' learning capacity.

Place your order today at <https://order.revfoods.com>. This year online credit card payments make ordering even easier! If you're trying

the lunch program for the first time, you can register using the following school code for **Wade Thomas: S24K5Q**. The deadline is always Wednesday for placing orders for the following week.

**Questions?** Contact Susan Reed at 451-4074 or [food@rossvalleyschools.org](mailto:food@rossvalleyschools.org).

## 2009 LAP-A-THON SCHEDULE

And for those of you who want to help (we promise it's a really fun day) here is the raceday schedule:

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| 8:30 - 9:00   | Set up   |
| 9:00 - 9:15   | Meet with all room organizers outside of office    |
| 9:15 - 9:25   | Organizers to K/1st Classrooms—Prep for Run        |
| 9:25 - 9:40   | K/1st Outside and Stretch                          |
| 9:40 - 10:10  | K/1st Run  |
| 10:10 - 10:25 | Count Tally Cards, Mark Shirts, Hand out popsicles |
| 10:25-10:45   | Snack Time   |
| 10:45 - 10:55 | Organizers to 2nd/3rd Classrooms—Prep for Run      |
| 10:55 - 11:10 | 2nd/3rd Outside and Stretch                        |
| 11:10 - 11:40 | 2nd/3rd Run  |
| 11:40 - 11:55 | Count Tally Cards, Mark Shirts, Hand out popsicles |
| 12:00 - 12:45 | Lunch  |
| 12:45 - 12:55 | Organizers to 4th/5th Classrooms—Prep for Run      |
| 12:55 - 1:10  | 4th/5th Outside and Stretch                        |
| 1:10 - 1:40   | 4th/5th Run  |
| 1:40 - 1:55   | Count Tally Cards, Mark Shirts, Hand out popsicles |

## Lap-A-Thon News

We really appreciate all of your wonderful drawings contributions—there were some very creative pieces. It was a very hard choice, but we picked some great artwork for the t-shirt that will be proudly worn by all of the participants.

### The lap-a-thon is quickly approaching us on October 14th!

Pledge forms will go home with your child Wednesday, September 16th, as well as the instructions in an envelope. Please help them think of friends, relatives and neighbors who they can solicit for donations for their hard running work. (Just a reminder, please do not let them go door to door alone).

There are some great prizes for those who bring in donations over \$50.

- **\$50**—Frisbee
- **\$150**—Mustang Snack Bag and a frisbee
- **\$250**—A \$15 gift certificate to Doodlebugs in San Anselmo; Mustang Snack Bag and a frisbee
- **Student who brings in the most money for each class**—Choice of a cool board game

- **Class that brings in the most money**—An ice cream party AND dinner for your teacher
- **Grand Prize**—Your choice of a Wii, digital flip recorder or iPod.

Lastly, all proceeds benefits Wade Thomas directly for school programs such as, teacher supplies, recreational equipment, landscaping etc.

If you have any questions please contact Molly ([mollyburkefraser@comcast.net](mailto:mollyburkefraser@comcast.net)) or Shannon ([Shannon\\_wolford@yahoo.com](mailto:Shannon_wolford@yahoo.com)).

Happy Pledging!!

## “COMMUNITY INFORMATION”

SEPTEMBER 14, 2009

Information for RVSD happenings, various community programs, services and other opportunities.

### RVSD BOARD MEETINGS

(All meetings are held at the District Office, Board Conference Room, 110 Shaw Drive, and San Anselmo)

- **Board Meeting/Brown Act Workshop** Thurs., 9/24/09 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm DO Conference Rm.
- **Board Meeting/Open Session** Thurs., 9/24/09 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm DO Conference Rm.
- **Board Meeting/Open Session** Thurs., 10/8/09 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm DO Conference Rm.
- **Board Meeting/Open Session** Thurs., 10/22/09 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm DO Conference Rm.

For a board agenda and all supporting documents please visit <http://rvsd.csbaagendaonline.net> or pick-up a copy at the District Office. (Note: Agenda and board packet information are available 72 hours prior to each meeting.) Questions: Call 415.454.2162 or e-mail [superintendent@rossvalleyschools.org](mailto:superintendent@rossvalleyschools.org).

### OTHER RVSD MEETINGS / EVENTS

- **Finance Committee** Mon., 9/14/09 4:00 – 5:00 pm DO Conference Room
- **Emergency Preparedness Com.** Thurs., 9/17/09 9:30 a.m. DO Conference Room
- **MAP Board Meeting** Wed., 9/17/09 6:30 pm Manor Library
- **Finance Committee** Mon., 9/21/09 4:00 – 5:00 pm DO Conference Room
- **YES Board Meeting** Wed., 9/23/09 6:30 p.m. DO Conference Room
- **Community Meeting / Sponsored by MAP** Wed., 9/23/09 TBD Manor

### COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

- **San Anselmo Recreation Department Including Stay N’ Play Sessions:** For questions and more information on current class schedules, how to register, etc. contact the San Anselmo Recreation Dept., 1000 Sir Francis Drake Blvd, San Anselmo at Tel. 415.258.4640/Fax. 415.455.8229 or online at [www.townofsananselmo.org/](http://www.townofsananselmo.org/). *Note: Fees involved.*
- **Town of San Anselmo News:** For information on the happenings in the Town of San Anselmo log-on to [www.townofsananselmo.org](http://www.townofsananselmo.org).

### SPORTS ACTIVITIES

- **St. Anselm’s CYO Anselm’s Registration for 2009 CYO Basketball Season:** Grades 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Registration closes October 2<sup>nd</sup>. Mandatory placement sessions held during the nights of 10/14 – 10/18. Participants must reside within the St. Anselm parish boundaries. For more information contact the Co-Athletic Director at 415.453.2342 ext. 22 or email [contactus@stanselmcyo.com](mailto:contactus@stanselmcyo.com) or visit the website at [www.stanselmcyo.com](http://www.stanselmcyo.com). *Note: Fees involved.*
- **St. Rita’s CYO Registration for 2009 CYO Basketball Season:** Grades 3<sup>rd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Registration closes October 9<sup>th</sup>. Mandatory placement sessions held during the nights of 10/12 – 10/14 at White Hill Gym. Participants must reside within the St. Rita parish boundaries. For more information contact the Co-Athletic Director Steve Gallagher at 415.453.2184 or email [stritchcyo@yahoo.com](mailto:stritchcyo@yahoo.com) or visit the website at [www.strita.edu](http://www.strita.edu) - click on CYO. In person registration available on Saturday Sept. 26<sup>th</sup> 10am-Noon St. Rita Schoolyard. *Note: Fees involved.*

### OTHER COMMUNITY PROGRAMS / EVENTS / ACTIVITIES

- **Girl Scouts of Northern California - Girl Scout Parent Information Meeting on Joining the Girl Scouts:** Mon., 9/28/09, from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm at Manor School. Flyers available at the elementary school sites. For more information contact Sheryl Graab at [sgraab@GirlScoutsNorCal.org](mailto:sgraab@GirlScoutsNorCal.org) or call 1.800.447.4475 ext. 118. *Note: Fees involved.*