



Argonne Elementary Parent Teacher Organization

680 18th Avenue SF, CA 94121

www.argonnesf.com

ARGONNE NEWS

Tuesday July 12, 2011

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL

SAFETY FIRST! PLAN YOUR ROUTE! LEAVE ON TIME!

IF YOU DRIVE, PLEASE USE THE DRIVE-THROUGH DROP-OFF ZONE IN FRONT OF THE 17TH AVE. GATE.

DO NOT DOUBLE PARK ON 18TH AVE.

DO NOT DOUBLE PARK IN THE BICYCLE LANE ON CABRILLO ST.

IF YOU WANT TO ESCORT YOUR CHILD INTO SCHOOL, PLEASE FIND A LEGAL PARKING SPACE AND WALK TO SCHOOL.

FIRST FUNDRAISER OF THE YEAR AUG 12-14

Last year Argonne raised over \$10,000 by turning the Argonne Playground into the Argonne Parking Lot during the Outside Lands Festival and Hardly Strictly Bluegrass Festival. This year we hope to exceed that amount since we have one extra day to raise money. We need your help.

The first festival is Outside Lands Festival, and we need volunteers on August 12th, 13th, and 14th. Shifts run 3 hours, and we need 2-4 volunteers per shift. Last year we had a tremendous response from our parent volunteers. If you haven't volunteered in the past, or if you are new to Argonne, this is a great way to meet other Argonne Parents, support the Argonne PTO, and make some money for our kids programs!

If you are interested in volunteering for the Outside Lands Festival on August 12th, 13th, or 14th, please go to www.SignUpGenius.com/go/outside2 to sign up for a shift on any day. **Thanks. If you have any questions please email Eric Lichtenwalter at ericlich@yahoo.com** or send a message back in your Tuesday Folder.

ARGONNE AWARDED \$23,000 FOR OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

Green Argonne is thrilled to announce that we will be a recipient of the San Francisco Community Challenge Grant for \$23,000 to build an outdoor garden classroom on the Cabrillo side of our school! Very few of these awards go to schools and the review was competitive so we are fortunate, indeed, to receive this award. We owe a huge THANK YOU to Alexandra Minnis and Neil Hrushowy (parents of Aidan, 1st grader) for taking the initiative to write this grant.

We expect this project, which integrates a native garden with edibles, not only beautifies our school community but will provide educational opportunities for Argonne teachers to engage students in hands-on learning of math, science, and California history while instilling environmental stewardship in our children.

Please look for upcoming announcements to learn how you can get involved in creating the garden. You can learn more by contacting us at: GreenArgonne@gmail.com.

Many thanks go to SWA Group, a landscape architecture firm that developed the design concept for the proposal; to the SF Grey2Green initiative leaders; and to the other agencies and individuals who supported our proposal, including Supervisor Eric Mar, Phil Ginsburg of SF Rec and Park and School District Commissioner Rachel Norton.

Furthermore, we are grateful to the parents and school staff who have pledged time to help create the garden! We look forward to building this new asset at our school.

Upcoming Events Calendar		
Date	Day	Event
July 23	Sat.	K. Playdate; 1-3 Argonne Yard
July 25	Mon.	K. Orientation Group#2; 8:30 Library
July 26	Tues.	PTO Meeting; 6-7:30 Library
Aug 3	Wed	Breakfast w/ Principal Francois; 8:30 Conference room
Aug 5	Fri.	Summer Session Ends
Aug 12-14	Fri.-Sun	Outside Lands Parking Fundraiser
Aug 15	Mon.	Fall Session Begins

Ground Broken for Argonne's California Native Garden

On the heels of great news regarding funding for our school garden, Argonne started the school year with sidewalk removed along Cabrillo Avenue for a drought-tolerant garden. The crew at Department of Public Works Urban Forestry program cut and hauled concrete, SF Recreation and Parks delivered mulch and

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parents shoveled to lay the groundwork for our future demonstration garden. Planting will happen in the months to come.

SILENT AUCTION IN NOVEMBER 2011

Survey Link: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/7S36558>

To help keep class sizes low in the 4th and 5th grades, the PTO will be supporting an additional 4/5 teacher in 2011-2012. As such, the PTO's expenses will exceed our budgeted income by \$53,000 this year. In hopes to raise more funds, we have made a few changes to Argonne's PTO Fundraising efforts. Other schools have had successful evening silent auction events. Therefore, this year, we have voted to separate the silent auction from Mayfair. The silent auction will be an evening adult only event held in November between 6:00p and 9:00p. Some of the advantages of separating the silent auction from Mayfair include creating an Argonne community event earlier in the year, bringing more focus to fun activities for the upper grades to Mayfair in May and providing an opportunity to find unique holiday gifts for family and friends while raising money for Argonne. Having a separate adult only event in November also has a few disadvantages. Parents will need childcare the same night as the event. We do plan to provide childcare the same night for a small fee. In addition, some of the vendors that donated items in last May will only donate once per calendar year. We hope that Argonne parents will all chip in and bring in new donations for the November Auction. To help make our evening silent auction event a great success, we would love your feedback by filling out a 10 question survey -- see link above. We thank you so much for your continued support and hope to see you at the auction in November! Jennifer Loudermilk (Mother to Jack (3rd) and Charlie (1st))

ARGONNE_ES YAHOO GROUPS

There are many ways of receiving important communications regarding events at school. New to the 2011-12 school year is a **Kindergarten specific** discussion group. Watch your email boxes for an invitation to join, or go to www.ArgonneSF.org to find a link to join. We have set up Yahoo groups for each classroom in addition to the the Argonne_ES group which is used for productive school-wide discussion and information dissemination, however Argonne is now participating in the Schoolloop program. We are discussing the best method for electronic communication. If you have an opinion, please email Cassandra Belair (Communications Chair) at ArgonneES_News@yahoo.com.

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER ITEM SUBMISSIONS

Do you have an announcement or news item for the entire Argonne community?

Submissions are welcome! The deadline is each Friday at 10 pm, for inclusion in the coming week's newsletter. Send it earlier if you would like it translated. Please email your blurb (remember, less is more) to Cassandra Belair at ArgonneES_news@yahoo.com, Subject: "Newsletter"