

Head's Column



Twice as much is being spent on Halloween this year as was spent only five years ago, one newspaper recently reported. It is getting bigger and bigger every year, but nobody is really sure what explains its sudden surge. It is not just left to the children either, as it was in recent decades—it is now a time for adults to costume themselves and decorate their homes in a manner either goofy, scary, or some odd combination of the two, as in the ubiquitous display of the witch who has slammed into a telephone pole or tree.

Fads come and go, but we cannot just dismiss this upswing due to marketing and momentum. Something is going on here! Some have correlated it with the rise in popularity of such shows as *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* and the *Scream* movies—where students, only a bit older than our own, are threatened by horrifying forces they don't understand even as they go about their daily business in school and the suburbs.

Giving a face to our fears once a year on Halloween, or indulging in them by excitedly watching them metaphorically evoked on the screen, provides children and adults a way to manage what sometimes seems unmanageable. It is no surprise that we feel this need: frightening things do occur in our world, as the newspaper's front page reminds us daily. Even beyond the headlines, everyday matters create stress and tension that can be just as scary. Americans are living, most of us, the most prosperous lives of any people in the history of the world. Yet, the same prosperity in which we seek and find comfort simultaneously threatens us by providing us so much to lose. And these fears are then translated and transferred to our children—we've done so much to provide for them, we fear all the more for what will become of them. The children feel the pressure to succeed and advance, to test well and socialize effectively, so much so that ultimately it can

jeopardize what we want most for our children: an idyllic childhood of security, comfort and joy.

So Halloween grows as our fears grow, but that does not mean it worsens them. Quite the contrary: it lances them, laughs at them, helps us triumph over them. When we put spectacles of terror on display—monsters and demons, skeletons and black cats—we can gain confidence from seeing them in the light of day and recognizing they are not so terrible. *This* we can handle. We dispel the fears with a sense of humor, just as contemporary horror TV shows and movies “camp” things up with tongue in cheek, encouraging us to recognize that most of our anxieties are not justified. Perhaps that witch is coming for us, but she is more likely to run into a telephone pole than she is to snatch away our homes!

But even if irony doesn't rescue us, Halloween also provides us heroes here to save the day! Most of our youngest students dress up in the guise of Superman, Spiderman, or Buzz Lightyear, or perhaps a fairy princess or a Harry Potter magician. We all need to heed the wisdom that our youngest students possess: heroism still matters! Their heroes' slogans are not empty: “To Infinity and Beyond” inspires high goals, growth and achievement, not to mention a sense of humor and irony;” and we also teach our students, future leaders and stewards of our community, what Spiderman is taught and models: “with great power comes great responsibility.” Marching through our campus, is the living proof that our children still seek to emulate examples of moral courage and altruism.

Fear is real, but it doesn't hurt to make fun of it once in a while. Halloween is thriving in our world today because it recognizes this truth, and because it honors heroism and the character that makes it possible, which will be the only way we will ultimately triumph in making the world free from the fear that haunts it. Just as importantly, its rituals of candy and good humor go a long way to enacting an exuberant idyllic childhood which we so eagerly perpetuate for our children, and ourselves.

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Dear Saklan Valley Families-

The Parent Association has two very important goals that we, as your board, strive towards. One is to raise the level of volunteerism and the other is to raise funds for our children's benefit. I hope all of you took a look at the attachments that came with our last "mass produced paper Friday note." Paula Jaha, our treasure, has put together great information on eScrip, Schoolpop.com, and other ways to help our school raise money.

Often the Parent Association asks for you to participate in events and specific fundraising areas like Sally Foster. Using eScrip and the other programs requires so little, but the results can be rewarding. Just by doing your normal shopping Saklan Valley School receives money when you tie your credit card and/or debit card to the system.

The power of eScrip...eScrip can be an easy way to earn extra money for our school. We have a number of families who have been using this program for the past 2 to 3 years, but we would

like to see every family registered with eScrip. Please take a few minutes and complete the forms, returning them to Miss Karen in the office. You may sign up via www.escrip.com. Many of our new families might already be registered with eScrip. If this is the case, please be sure that Saklan is the organization that you support. In order to get the best results for Saklan Valley, we would like to have everyone registered before the winter holidays.

As Paula stated in her handouts, Saklan Valley earned \$5,323.96 last year from these programs. There is incredible fundraising power in these programs. Success is dependent on participation by parents, grandparents, extended family, and friends.

Thank you for your continued support of your Parent Association. We hope to see all of you at our next meeting, Tuesday November 12, 2002 at 7pm. Our speaker will be Anne Cunningham, Ph.D. on the topic of "The Value of Reading Engagement in Young Children: Does Reading Make You Smarter?" This meeting has been advertised to the public; please feel free to bring neighbors and friends.

Sincerely,
Annie Barendregt
Parent Association President

The Board Corner

Dear Saklan Families,

The Board of Directors is charged with maintaining and strengthening the long term stability of our school and the achievement and enhancement of Saklan's mission. We are proud to report our conviction that we are making great strides forward this year in strengthening Saklan's ability to provide the engaging, inspiring, enriching education cherished by our community.

In addition to successfully extending the employment contract with our Head of School, Jonathan Martin, the Board has embarked upon two very large and exciting projects that will also greatly improve the stability and therefore long term success of Saklan Valley School: the Annual Giving Campaign, and this year our very special Capital Campaign: *Taking Ownership*. Success in these twin campaigns will move us forward toward the attainment of the values and objectives of our strategic plan, which outlines the requirements we must meet to best serve our children.

Funds raised by the Annual Giving Campaign will enable us to provide the many enriching programs that round out the education at Saklan that we so highly value. The Capital Campaign will provide the funds to not only pay for the playground that has significantly improved the facilities that directly impact our children's experience here at Saklan on a daily basis, but will also allow us to buy our site which in so many ways will enhance the education provided to our students. Purchase of our site will allow us to make needed improvements and will give us the ownership of a permanent site from which we can grow.

Progress toward meeting the goals of our twin campaigns is moving along at a great pace thanks to the leadership of the Development Committee of our Board. Our Board members and one other generous Saklan family have already donated funds to move us significantly, more than halfway in each case, towards meeting our Annual Giving and Capital Campaign goals. We are now reaching out to you and others interested in the successful achievement of our school's goals.

We very much look forward to working together on Saklan's exciting future. We hope that we can achieve the participation and enthusiasm achieved in prior years and we thank you in advance for your generosity.

Sincerely,
Ruth Bailey, Co-Chair
Paul Nathan, Co-Chair

Student Scoop

Fourth Grade Explorer Reports

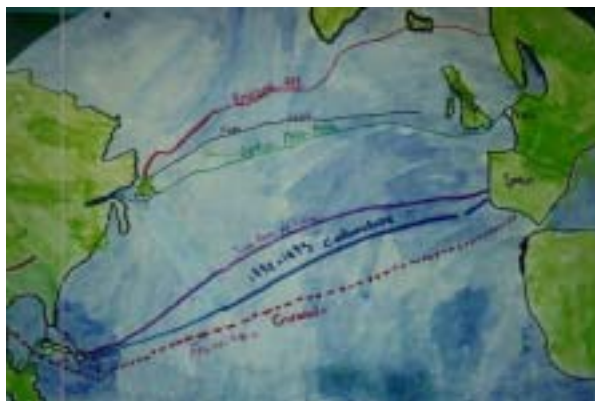
By Marianne Haesloop, Fourth Grade Teacher



Nicole Patera giving an oral presentation on Hernando Cortez.

The fourth graders learned how people migrated from Asia across the land bridge (Bering Strait) thousands of years ago and settled the Americas. They studied various tribes from different regions including the prairie, the arid Southwest, the Eastern woodlands, and the marshlands of the Bay Area and compiled a chart featuring specific resources, food, shelter, clothing, culture and religious practices. Through comparing and contrasting, they gained a

solid understanding of how certain people adapted to their surroundings.



Now the students are engaged in finding out what motives brought European explorers in the 900's and 1500's to the Eastern shores of the Americas. Each student researched an explorer of his/her choice and recorded on a hand drawn map the adventurer's port of departure and area of landing in the new world. On a large student-produced map, the students recorded all the explorers' voyages on one piece of paper. Their observations and discussions deepen their understanding and bring forth new and original questions.



Through reading, researching, drawing, oral presentation and active listening students are engaged in meaningful and valuable learning activities and they are having fun!



Student

Jared Madden
Kanika Patel
Andy Kirkpatrick
Sophie Nash
Olivia Hill
Carly Nathan
Nicole Patera
Garrett Franklin
Juliana Goodbar
Nina Pak

Explorer Report

Leif Erickson
Christopher Columbus
John Cabot
Jacques Cartier
Francisco Coronado
Francisco Coronado
Hernando Cortez
Hernando Cortez
Juan Ponce de Leon
Henry Hudson

November 2002

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 45%;"> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Oct 2002</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; font-size: small;"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td></tr> <tr><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td></tr> <tr><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 45%;"> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Dec 2002</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; font-size: small;"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> </div>					S	M	T	W	T	F	S		1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31			S	M	T	W	T	F	S	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31					1	2
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3	4	5 <small>MS National Math Test -1gr MOCHA -K Fire Dept.</small>	6 <small>5th gr. FT Marin Headlands</small>	7 <small>5th gr. FT Marin Headlands</small>	8 <small>5th gr. FT Marin Headlands</small>	9																																																																																				
10	11	12 <small>Parent Association Mtg. 7PM Childcare Available</small>	13 <small>Faculty Mtg. 2PM Dismissal Extended Day Open</small>	14	15 <small>-School Tour 8:30 - 10:00 am -Saklan v JMSG. 3:45 (away) Soccer</small>	16 <small>Harry Potter 9:00am Orinda Theater</small>																																																																																				
17 <small>Open House 3 to 5PM Please join us!</small>	18 <small>Saklan v Tehiyah (away) Soccer 4:00pm</small>	19 <small>MS National Math Exam</small>	20	21 <small>Family Groups 2gr. FT Storyteller in Lafayette</small>	22 <small>-End of Trimester 1 -MS Skate Night at Oakland Ice Center</small>	23																																																																																				
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