

Principal's Perch



Greg Mortenson, co-author of the *N.Y. Times* best-seller *Three Cups of Tea*, recently spoke at the Gallo Center for the Arts. Promoting books over guns, Greg has established a number of schools in remote areas of Afghanistan and Pakistan. Allow me to share some of the notes I took during his presentation:

**Throughout the world, 120 million children do not attend school. An example is Abdul, an orphan who fixed Greg's radiator in Afghanistan. Abdul was sold into slavery and forced to work 12-15 hours a day as a mechanic.*

**Greg once observed eighty kids in Afghanistan writing with sticks in the sand without a teacher present; they wanted to learn more than anything else in the world.*

**In 2006 a 14-year-old boy was so excited about learning that he daily herded his goats near his school's construction site in Afghanistan. The boy never realized his dream, however; he was killed by a land mine shortly before the building was completed.*

**Girls as well as boys in Afghanistan must be given learning opportunities. Mothers ask their daughters to share words found on the newspaper wrappings of meat brought home from the market.*

**5% of American students spend ten or more hours learning from their grandparents. 90-100% of children in Afghanistan learn respect, family traditions, and folklore at the feet of their elders.*

**Leaders in one region of Afghanistan decided to allow school construction after swinging on swings found on another school's playground. American children need to get away from the computer and simply play outside.*

Heading out to find a swing of my own,
Mr. De Weerd



Hot Lunch: Hot lunch this Wednesday, December 1, is burritos.



Knights Night Out: Need to get out of the house to do some Christmas shopping? Need a night in to catch up on stuff around the house? As a fundraiser, Ripon Christian sophomores will be offering a night of child care for you to do just that! Fun-loving sophomores will play games and lead activities in the old gym this Friday, December 3, from 6:30 – 9:00 p.m. for children ages 2nd grade to 6th grade. Donations will be accepted.



Ripon Christian Fall Fund Drive: Ripon Christian Schools' annual fund drive is under way. If you have already sent your gift, we thank you. If not, would you please consider a gift to the school? The money raised on this drive will be used to help keep tuition costs down and begin the process of raising funds for a new middle school library/classroom building. Thank you for your continued support.

Ripon Christian School Circle will be meeting this Friday, December 3, at 8:30 a.m. at Almond Valley Church (corner of Second and Wilma). New members are always welcome! Come join us for a short business meeting. Nursery is provided. Consider your holiday gift giving through TRIP, available for purchase at this location also.



Yard Duty Volunteers: Mrs. Segaar is putting together a new volunteer schedule for January through March. If you would like your name added or deleted, please contact her in the elementary office. Thank you for your continued support of this much needed service.

Vision Screening: Dr. Hoek will be here on Wednesday, December 1, to finish up screenings for grades 3 and 5.



Exploratorium: This first-time R.C. event will showcase science-based, interactive projects designed by our 7th- and 8th-graders. The Exploratorium's purpose is to develop a hands-on learning environment for exploring scientific principles and ideas. **The middle school invites families to attend this Thursday, December 2, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the middle school gym.** Classes will be able to touch and manipulate the following morning.



The Ripon Christian Boosters Club is selling spiral cut hams for \$20. An e-mail was sent home with an order form or you may pick one up in the elementary office.



Yard Duty Volunteers

Mon. – S. Johnston, S. Vander Helm
Tues. – B. Brouwer, J. Haugg, J. Manus
Wed. – G. Van Vliet, W. Bryan, F. Larson, J. Fisher
Thurs. – T. Van Vliet, M. De Abreu, M. Petlansky, L. Van Vliet
Fri. – G. Perez, J. Silveira, C. Sarkozy
Mon. - G. Leonard, T. Mensonides, L. Weaver



December Calendar

12/13 High School Christmas Concert
- 7:00 p.m. in the PAC
12/14 Grades 5-8 Christmas Concert –
7:00 p.m. in the PAC
12/17 K-12 minimum day – 12:00
p.m. dismissal



Middle School Sports

11/30 6th gr. girls' BB @ Turlock
Christian – 3:45p.m.
12/2 6th gr. girls' BB @ St. Stanislaus
3:30 p.m.
12/1 7th & 8th gr. girls' BB @ home
3:30 p.m.
12/2 7th & 8th gr. girls' BB @ Ripon
Elementary – 3:30 p.m.