

## YES CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND MEETINGS

### November

- 6 Wade Thomas Assembly: Bernie Jones (Author Sharon Bushell)  
10 No School--Veteran's Day  
13 Brookside Assembly: Storyteller Carla Ravetta  
15 **YES Fiesta Night at Pancho Villa's Restaurant**  
23-24 Thanksgiving Vacation  
27 Wade Thomas Poetry in the Schools Begins for 3rd, 4th and 5th grades

### December

- 1-3 White Hill's YES Theater production *Crazy For You* at the Playhouse  
5 & 6 Brookside *Cinderella* Audition Workshops  
6, 8 Wade Thomas *Odyssey* Audition Workshops  
11, 13, 15 Wade Thomas *Odyssey* Auditions  
12, 14 Brookside *Cinderella* Auditions  
13 Wade Thomas Assembly: Wildlife Association--The Rainforest  
13 YES Board Meeting

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# YES Assemblies Bring Learning to Life

By Karen Hawkes

As a parent, I know the thrill of your child coming home after school, eyes wide with excitement, tongue-tripping over words to tell you about something amazing that happened at school that day. Some of the most eye-opening experiences for our children are happening at our YES-funded assemblies.

YES funds six assemblies each year at Manor, Wade Thomas and Brookside schools on average. The assemblies are a terrific way for our children to see, hear, and experience what they can't in a classroom setting. From storytelling to science and the performing arts, our children are inspired, and their lives greatly enriched by the YES assemblies.

"Assemblies extend the walls of our classrooms, and they often provide a first-hand, up-close demonstration of what our children are learning in their classrooms," says Kendall Galli,

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classrooms"*

YES board member and former White Hill teacher. "We are so fortunate to have dedicated parent volunteers acting as site coordinators at each campus who line up such stimulating programs for our children."

Maddison Brusman agrees. "Ranka's Marionette Theatre was extremely creative, very musical, and it made the audience fill the room with laughter," says Maddison, a fifth-grade student at Wade Thomas. "The puppets were as small as the eye could see, to as big as the Eiffel Tower. It was interesting to see all the different items that she had used to make the puppets."

Billie Lindemulder, a third grade teacher at Brookside adds, "The assemblies give our students unique hands-on experiences, often tied to lessons being learned at school, or life lessons in general. These assemblies can have such a strong and positive impact. I still remember, and am still inspired, by my trip to the Bronx Zoo as a young schoolgirl in New Jersey."

We all hope our children will be engaged and inspired at school. The YES assemblies play an integral part in making this happen for our children.

## Did You Ever Wonder?

*Shedding light on the myths and misconceptions about your YES Foundation*

from Julie Whyte, YES Co-Chair

**Is the YES Foundation a totally volunteer run organization?**

The foundation has grown rapidly over the last six years, from a small organization supporting a few programs and raising just over \$100,000 to one supporting ten programs for \$633,000. That growth was fueled by the dedicated efforts of hundreds of volunteers working on everything from the board to the gala to Friends of YES.

Last year, in order to meet the needs of our growing foundation, the Board decided to invest in a paid staff position to support the growing cadre of volunteer activities.

We looked to more established school foundations like Kiddo in Mill Valley, The Corte Madera/Larkspur School Foundation and the Kentfield School Foundation to see how they managed this transition. After careful consideration, the YES Board made the decision to hire a one-half time Administrative Coordinator to support foundation fund raising efforts and help build the infrastructure necessary to sustain YES for years to come.

## The Arts Impact Learning

"When young people are involved in arts, something changes in their lives," begins the preface to *Champions of Change*, the report published by The Arts Education Partnership, The President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities.

Funded by the G.E. Fund and the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the report is the result of research by seven independent teams, from UCLA's Imagination Project to Harvard's Project Zero, using a range of methodologies to rigorously assess the impact of the arts on learning. Their separate findings resulted in consensus that when well taught, the arts reach students' minds, hearts and bodies, engaging them authentically, making the experience meaningful and nurturing the development of "cognitive, social and personal competencies."

The other findings common to the seven studies underscored that the arts:

- ♦ reach students who are not otherwise being reached;
- ♦ reach students in ways they are not otherwise being reached;
- ♦ connect students to themselves and each other;
- ♦ transform the environment for learning;
- ♦ provide learning opportunities for the adults in the lives of young people;
- ♦ provide new challenges for students already considered successful;
- ♦ connect learning experiences to the world of real work.

Moreover, research consistently shows the arts as effective ways to integrate learning, address multiple intelligences and create meaning for children at all ages. Watch for more information about *Champions of Change* in future YES News, or go to [yestokids.org/newsletter.php](http://yestokids.org/newsletter.php) to link to the full report.

*A grounding in the arts will help our children see; to bring a uniquely human perspective to science and technology. In short, it will help them as they grow smarter to also grow wiser.*

**R.E. Allen Chairman & CEO AT&T Corp.**

## Are You Ready for Holiday Shopping?

from Shana Bruner, YES Shop

It's hard to believe that Christmas and Hanukah displays are going up, catalogs are arriving and it's time to think about holiday shopping. This year, you can make money for YES as you do your shopping in stores or on the Internet.

By renewing or registering your credit or debit cards with eScrip, a percentage of every dollar you spend will be donated to YES, and it won't cost you a penny more. Buy gifts at retail locations like Macy's or shop online at stores like Barnes & Noble and Harry & David. Register or update your cards on [escrip.com](http://escrip.com) with ID#5109569 and YES Foundation Ross Valley Schools.

If you don't find the store you want in eScrip's online mall, register your cards with

Schoolpop.com and you can send gifts through the Schoolpop website from Gap, Old Navy, Overstock.com, FAO Schwartz, Target, eBay and many more stores, and a percentage of every dollar you spend will be donated to YES. Register on Schoolpop.com with group ID# 128812 The Ross Valley Schools Foundation

When you give gifts this holiday, give to YES at the same time. It's free.



Thank you to the teachers, Friends of YES, and everyone else who encouraged parents in each class to sign-up for eScrip. As you may know, there were some difficulties accessing the

eScrip website last week. Please try again today, before you start your holiday shopping. This is FREE money, from the grocers (Safeway, Andronico's, Good Earth, Mollie Stone's, Woodlands, Whole Foods, etc) and merchants (Maxwell the Cleaner, Lucky Drive Car Wash, Merry Maids, etc) we use every day. YES received almost \$60,000 in 2005 because many of us took five minutes to enroll or complete an annual update of our credit & debit cards. Our goal is to get everyone in the district, and our friends and relatives, to participate in eScrip. Register with group ID# 5109569 – YES Foundation Ross Valley Schools. Contact [info@yestokids.org](mailto:info@yestokids.org) or call 721-1555 if you have any questions..

## doodlebug Endures and Gives Back to Community

from Anne Newman, Co-Chair  
Business Support Schools

When Marnie Delaney's advertising job came out on the short end of a business merger between Bank of America and Nations Bank, and no job offer enticed her back, she decided to re-evaluate what she wanted to do with the next phase of her life. The turning point was the day she received a gift of handmade cards from her niece. This beautifully creative gift meant so much to her, and she realized she wanted a place for people of all ages to have access to create and produce handmade items. Two weeks later, in January 2001, she bought *Fire It Up* in San Anselmo, changed the name and opened *doodlebug*.

"People constantly come in and state, 'I'm not creative'," Marnie says. "Really they just haven't found the right medium."

You can certainly find your medium at *doodlebug*. The colorful store carries supplies for needle art, mosaics, decoupage, beading, drawing, painting, paper crafts, and of course ceramics in

all stages –pre-formed, sculpture and wheel. You'll also find a huge selection of toys, games and gifts suitable for age's pre-K through middle school. Marnie prides herself on carrying quality, thoughtful merchandise.

Marnie became a Business Partner supporting YES the year she opened because she believes that giving children opportunities to a broader education will result in a society of people with critical thinking skills.

"I think the world would be better if everyone had outlets to create in schools that offer well rounded, creative programs, whether it's through the arts or athletics. This is our next generation of business people, and they need to feel a part of their community."

YES isn't the only way Marnie gives back to her community. Among the groups she supports is a burn unit for kids. When you pass by the store you see her other passion on the flyers in her

window showing Pet Personals—animals who are up for adoption---for Pets Unlimited.

Walking into the store now, one would never know that Marnie has "weathered" trials over the last few years that may seem daunting to the average person: two major floods and a fire that caused her to completely rebuild and remerchandise. But she has never considered herself unlucky.

"I say to folks, stick with me and you'll get through anything."

Marnie, we'd like to thank you for providing all of Marin County with a creative outlet and for your commitment to our community.

YES Supports Businesses that support kids and Community- If you would like information on *doodlebug*'s upcoming classes for kids and adults or group party information, please check out the website [doodlebugmarin.com](http://doodlebugmarin.com) or call 456-5989.



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[www.yestokids.org](http://www.yestokids.org)

To Donate go to  
the website and click on  
Family Giving Campaign

YES, It's Working  
For All Our Kids!  
Brookside, Manor, Wade  
Thomas, White Hill

To view YES News on line and  
access links related to various  
articles, go to  
[yestokids.org/newsletter.php](http://yestokids.org/newsletter.php)



## Arriba! Fiesta! YES Night Nov. 15

Bring this ad to Pancho Villa's in Fairfax on Nov. 15  
and the restaurant will donate 20% of your entire  
order to YES.

Bring another family, tell your friends, or if you're just too busy, buy a gift  
certificate to use another day (don't forget to show them this ad) and Pancho's  
will still donate 20% of your entire purchase to YES.

On Oct. 4, Pancho's Fiesta Night raised \$248 for YES. Don't miss your  
chance to have a lot of fun and make money for your kids at the same time!  
Call 459-0975 for reservations (it gets crowded!)

## Pancho Villas

1625 Sir Francis Drake Blvd. in Fairfax