




WEEKLY NEWSLETTER
August 24, 2018

<p>UPCOMING EVENTS</p> <p>Monday, September 3rd Labor Day No School</p> <p>Thursday, September 6th Back to School Night 6:00-7:00</p> <p>Thursday, September 20th Author Night in library</p> <p>September 20th-22nd Book Fair in library</p> <p>Saturday, September 22nd Tacos and outdoor movie on the field</p> <p>Friday, October 19th Conference Day No School</p> <p>Monday, October 22nd Staff Day No School</p> <p>Monday, November 12th Veterans Day No School</p> <p>November 19th-23rd Thanksgiving Break No School</p> <p>December 24th-January 4th Winter Break No School</p> <p>January 7th Classes Resume</p>	<p>A Message from Ms. Seekins</p> <p>Dear Willow Creek families,</p> <p>Happy new school year!</p> <p>It was delightful to welcome our returning students back to school and to meet our new families and Kindergarteners this week! We had an incredibly smooth first few days back, thanks to our wonderful team.</p> <p>This year, our teachers have asked me to use my first Friday Letter to reinforce the importance of arriving to school on time every day. Our Assembly starts at 8:15 every morning for students in grades 1-8. While Assembly is short in duration, it serves an important role in weaving the fabric of our community. We encourage families to attend Assembly with their children!</p> <p>In grades K-6, each class dedicates the first 20 to 30 minutes of instruction to a Morning Meeting, where students practice community building and problem solving skills as they prepare for the academic portion of their day. In grades 7-8, academic instruction begins immediately after Assembly ends. In either instance, arriving promptly is extremely important to help students begin their day feeling included and confident at school.</p> <p>Please make arriving at school on time every day one of your new school year resolutions this year!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Best,  Tara</p> <p>Attendance Report Average Daily Attendance this week: 95% Funds lost this week due to absences: \$2,448 Total funds lost this year due to absences (est.): \$2,448</p> <p>Please remember that you can request an Independent Study for your child for any planned absence of 3 or more days. Please visit Ms. Aleshia in the front office to complete an Independent Study form at least 7 days before the absence is scheduled to begin.</p> <p>News and Reminders Student safety is our first priority. Please help us keep our students safe by parking only in our parking lots (not in the MPR turn around areas) and by driving slowly as you approach campus. New this year: our Kindergarten parking lot is reserved for Kindergarten families!</p>
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Ms. Melissa

Ms. Duran

MR. PHIL

Ms. Freely

Mr. Baker

Ms. Rizzo

Mr. Carlos

Ms. Goodman



MS. POWERS

The Willow Creek Pledge

(adapted from a pledge created by educator Marva Collins)

*This day has been given to me fresh and clear.
I promise myself that I shall use this day to the fullest,
realizing it can never come back again.
I am the only person who has the power to decide what I will be.
I make myself what I am.*

Welcome back, Willow Creek!

We are looking forward to a wonderful new school year!!

Mr. Villalobos

Mr. Seckins

Ms. Browning

Mr. Breakstone

Ms. Thompson

Miss Emilie

Ms. Carrode

Ms. Gregory

Mr. Austin

Ms. Hope

Ms. Siskin

Miss Karima S

Mr. McDonald

Mrs. Mayes

Mrs. Devol

Ms. Lindsey

Mr. Derrick

Ms. Q

Ms. Stung

Mrs. B

Ms. Sumaira

Ms. Haberly

Coach Lynnette

Miss Jackson



Thanks for a great first week!

Please remember that students not attending the Explorers program need to get picked up or start walking home from campus by 3:15 daily. We appreciate your help keeping our students safe and accounted for after dismissal!

After School Pick-Up Procedures

- Kindergarten meets at the classroom door
- Grade 1-2 meets near the blue gates
- Grade 3 meets near the classrooms
- Grades 4-8 meets near the basketball court
- Older siblings may pick up younger siblings and meet their family in a previously agreed upon location.
- Students who are walking must leave campus immediately after dismissal.
- **Students who are not picked up by 3:15pm will go to the Explorers Program; daily fee will be charged.**

If you have any questions, please contact:

Kristine Duran, Assistant Head of School

kduran@willowcreekacademy.org

Starting October 1st

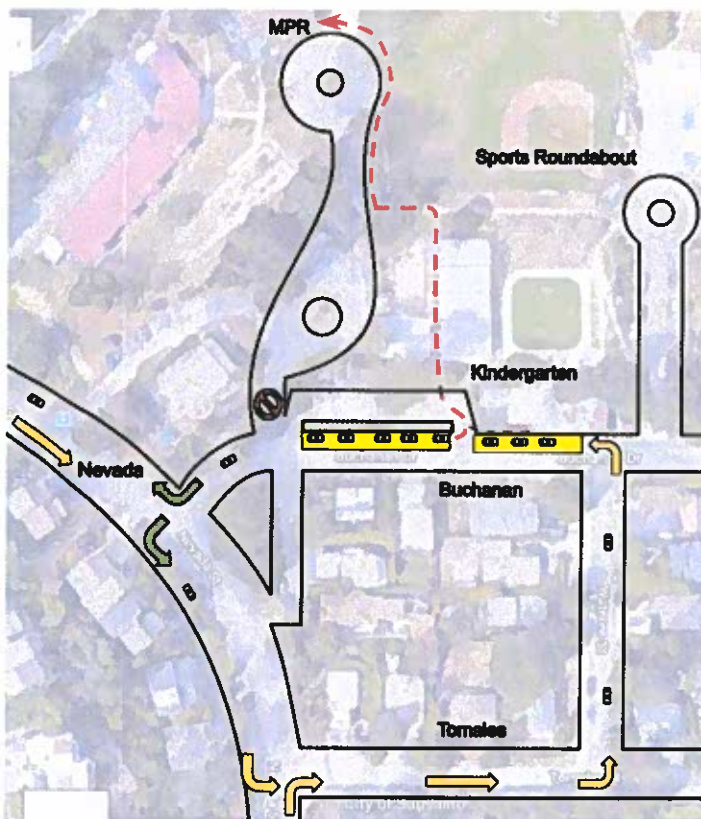
Help WCA become a car free campus!

In order to promote safety for all students, our Student Council and Safety Patrol will be piloting a **car free campus** program this year. Beginning October 1, 2018, **personal vehicles will be prohibited from driving on campus from 8:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.** when most students are arriving to school. Exceptions are allowed for students requiring special assistance.

Options for Morning Arrival by Car

- Use the **New Buchanan Drive Drop-off Zone** near the kindergarten lot
- Use the Sports Roundabout near the basketball courts
- Park on Nevada Street, Tomales Street, or Wateree Street and walk onto campus
- Drivers walking kindergarten students to classroom may park in kindergarten lot

Introducing the New Buchanan Drive Drop-off Zone!



Arrival Route

- Approach on Nevada St. from North or South
- Turn onto Tomales St.
- Left on Wateree St.
- Left on Buchanan Dr.

Buchanan Drive Drop-off Zone

- Pull all the way forward to open spot
- Stop vehicle
- Put vehicle in park
- Students **exit curbside only**
- Students exit quickly
- Driver remain in vehicle

Exit Route

- Driver exit when safe
- Exit on Nevada St. (North to 101 or South to Bridgeway)

Student Tips:

- Students must always exit the passenger side of the vehicle and use the sidewalk.
- Students should prepare by having backpack ready for a quick exit.
- Students must follow the painted walkway to the stairway and up to the MPR.

Walk or bike to school to get bonus SchoolTag points!

Drop off at the New Buchanan Drive Drop-off Zone to get bonus SchoolTag points!



Do the best you can until you know better. Then, when you know better, do better.
--Maya Angelou

August 24, 2018

Dear Willow Creek Families,

It is our pleasure to introduce two important elements of our Restorative Justice system at Willow Creek Academy: our Maya Angelou Center for Restorative Practices (known here on campus as "MAC") and our Student Support Specialists for grades K-4 and grades 5-8. This program began as a pilot in 2013 and has grown to be an integral part of our school culture.

Our Restorative Justice system is based on the following principles:

- Building a strong and inclusive school culture (our "social fabric") prevents misconduct.
- Any misconduct tears the social fabric of our school community.
- Students learn from mistakes when they reflect on and repair the harm caused by their misconduct.
- Addressing the root causes of misconduct is critical to resolving it.
- Where appropriate, our community seeks alternatives to discipline that excludes.

Our over-arching goals are for all students to conduct themselves as responsible members of our school community and for our Upper School students, in particular, to serve as positive role models for younger students. In practice, three main components of this work help us to meet these goals:

Community Building: All students attend class meetings each day, where they practice positive communication protocols, connect with their classmates, and problem-solve together. Students in grades 1-8 attend our daily morning assembly where they reaffirm their intention to contribute positively to our school community. Our counselors offer groups where selected students (generally students referred by their teachers) practice pro-social skills development.

Family Group Conferencing: Our staff members use Student Study Team (SST) meetings as a first resort to support students who are experiencing crisis, transition, or other challenges. These meetings bring together the adults who are important in a student's life (including extended family members, coaches, youth ministers, etc.) for a conversation about the student's strengths, our areas of concern, strategies tried, and new strategies the team would like to try. SSTs help us to identify and resolve the root causes of issues that can negatively impact student learning.

Restorative Process: If a student moves through the progressive discipline system in his or her classroom (typically a system of warnings and escalating consequences), he or she will be referred to MAC to participate in a restorative process. At MAC, the student will reflect on the misconduct individually with his or her Student Support Specialist; the student will contact his or her family to

Willow Creek ACADEMY

discuss the misconduct; and, in grades 2-8, the student will complete community enrichment¹ at the school site in order to restore to the community what his or her conduct took away. A typical MAC session involves one or two students from a particular classroom and takes place during an elective class.

The reflection component of a MAC session encourages students to be honest with themselves about what they can do to make changes in their behaviors and relationships. The focus is on helping students feel empowered to make good decisions that will improve themselves and their community. While the focus is restorative and not punitive, we expect students to take MAC seriously. Any student who does not successfully complete any element of his or her MAC session will face consequences through the traditional school discipline system.

Our Student Support Specialists, Carlos Gonzalez (K-4), Phil Logan (5-8) and Jasmin Hall (5-8) are integral to the implementation of Restorative Practices at Willow Creek. Mr. Carlos, Mr. Phil, and Ms. Jasmin closely monitor students in classrooms and at recesses, they lead social skills groups, they provide insight and encourage family involvement during SST meetings, and they facilitate every element of our restorative process. Please see their bios (attached) for more information on the skills and passion they bring to this critically important work.

Over the past five years that we have implemented elements of Restorative Practices at Willow Creek, we have seen a dramatic decline in our referral and suspension rates for all students. This means both that students are receiving the support they need to participate fully in classroom learning activities and that our school climate is a safer, friendlier, and more peaceful place for all our students.

We welcome your questions and feedback about Restorative Practices at Willow Creek. Please direct any inquiries to Kristine Duran, Assistant Head of School at 415-331-7530, ext. 240 or Tara Seekins, Head of School at 415-331-7530, ext. 213.

Best regards,

Tara Seekins



Head of School

Kristine Duran



Assistant Head of School

¹ Community enrichment may include: planning and delivering on an act of kindness, creating a presentation or art project focused on an aspect of community, teaching a short lesson on character or kindness in a younger grade classroom, or completing a more traditional form of community service such as campus beautification.

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Carlos Gonzalez - Student Support Specialist (K-5)



My name is Carlos Gonzalez. I was born in Durango, Mexico. I came to the United States at the tender age of five and settled in Berkeley, CA. I attended Berkeley public schools which allowed me to grow up in a very culturally diverse environment. After years in the construction industry I attended evening classes at Berkeley City College. There, I was involved in the PACE program, which is a program set up for working adults who can only attend school in the evening or the weekend. I then attended Cal State East Bay in Hayward, CA, graduating with honors with a Bachelor's degree in Liberal Arts and Human Development. I volunteered at Cherryland Elementary school in Hayward for over five years as an academic mentor, interpreter, and also working with at risk youth to provide social and academic support to children

from all walks of life. I also participated in different gang prevention programs to help steer kids away from gangs and to also teach parents the signs of gang affiliation. Most recently, I worked as a paraeducator serving special education students in San Rafael City Schools. I believe in a hands-on approach and project based learning. I also believe in parent participation and the huge difference that it can make in a child's life. I am currently enrolled in the Masters in Counseling program at the University of San Francisco.

Jasmin Hall -- Student Support Specialist (5-8)



I first joined the Willow Creek Academy staff in 2012-2013 as a student support specialist with a desire to assist our students in becoming better critical thinkers and communicators. I am a parent myself. My oldest son, Robert, is an alumnus of Willow Creek Academy and my youngest son, Kernus, is entering into his fifth grade year now. I am invested in this school as a part of my community. I want to be supportive to the students and families of Willow Creek Academy through proactive practices of restorative justice, dialoguing, community building, encouragement, and accountability. I believe in the power of self-reflection and I want to teach our students to use it as a tool that helps guide them into making productive/ non-reactive choices for themselves and their community. I am looking forward to this year and all the experiences we will have together.

Joel Villalobos - Student Support Specialist (5-8)



Joel Villalobos was born in San Francisco and raised in Richmond, California where his passion for education began. All the support gained through various mentors motivated him to pursue working with students in order to give others the same support he was given all throughout his educational experience. He graduated from the University of California, Santa Cruz and majored in Environmental Studies with a minor in Education. Throughout college he worked in various settings with students. Joel worked in summer camp programs with the YMCA and COSMOS, which is a 4-week program that supports gifted students in math and science. Joel has also worked in a more traditional classroom setting in Costanoa High School, a continuation school located in Santa Cruz. There he maintained great student relationships with students who often had behavioral issues with the intention to increase their academic success. Joel is currently enrolled in the Masters in Counseling Program at the University of San Francisco.



Willow Creek
ACADEMY

Dear Middle School families:

Willow Creek Academy has adopted new technology policies regarding use of school computers/electronics and personal cell phones.

Technology contracts are being sent home for student and parent/guardian signatures. Please read the contract, which covers responsible, respectful, and safe use of school technology. Review the contract with your student, sign and return it. Students will not be issued any school technological devices until the signed contract is returned. Students will be issued one specific chrome book and that is the only one they will use.

Students who bring cell phones to school will turn them in first thing in the morning. They will be kept secure until dismissal. There will be no need for phones in any classes. If a student fails to turn in a phone, the teacher will keep it until the end of day on the first occurrence. If there are subsequent occurrences, the phone will be given to the Assistant Head of School, Ms. Duran, and will only be returned directly to the student's parent or guardian.

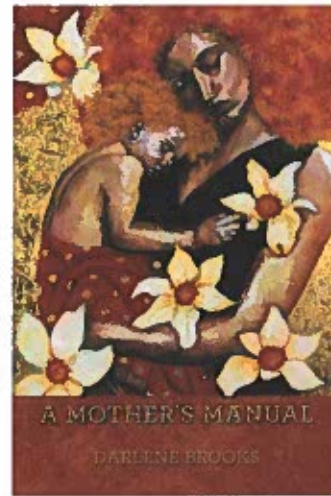
Thank you for your support as we institute these new policies. Please contact me with any questions or concerns at mrizzo@willowcreekacademy.org or 415-331-7530.

Monica Ellen Rizzo
6th Grade Humanities Teacher
Middle School Lead Teacher
Willow Creek Academy

Darlene Brooks Thomas

Author of

A Mother's Manual



Author & Parent Mentor Darlene Brooks Thomas will be at the
Marin City Library to discuss

"Partnering with Your Child for Success".

Come and meet Darlene to get a free signed book, ask questions, win prizes, share refreshments, and talk about raising our children to be their best.

www.amothersmanual.com

Saturday, August 25, 2-4pm

Marin City Library

164 Donahue St. Marin City CA 94965

All Ages Welcome

All Library events are free. Call 415.332.6159 or visit www.marinlibrary.org



Requests for accommodations may be made by calling (415) 473-3220 (voice/TTY) or 711 for the California Relay Service or Emailing library@marincounty.org at least **four work days** in advance of the event. Copies of documents are available in alternative formats, upon request.

Name: _____
Age: _____ Grade: _____ Home Phone _____
Parent/Guardian's Name _____
Email _____

Emergency Contact Person & Phone# to be reached during Dipsea Kidz activity: _____

Dipsea Kidz Student Agreement:
I agree to participate and comply with the Dipsea Kidz program rules. I will maintain a satisfactory conduct and regular attendance to school and Dipsea Kidz. It is important to have at least a 2.5 GPA. I will inform the coaches in advance if I can't attend scheduled activities. I will respect my coaches, volunteers and peers at all times. I will come prepared with proper athletic shoes and clothes ready to participate and with a positive attitude and encourage others to participate and do their best in the program.

Student Signature _____

Family Support Agreement: I have read the above requirements and give my child permission to participate in the Dipsea Kidz program. I also allow any picture/video of my child to be used for Dipsea Kidz program support only. Myself and family agree to support the efforts of our child in meeting the goals outlined above. To encourage our child's physical activity, promote healthy and safe lifestyle.
My child may be transported by the coaches, school or other parent drivers to & from field trips. (All field trips will be planned and communicated in advance.)

Parent Signature _____



**Great Futures
for Kids
Start Here!**

DIPSEA Kidz

FAQs:

Q: What if my child has never run before?

A: Don't worry, kids are natural runners. The Dipsea Kidz program wants them to move. It starts with short runs with a gradual build up.

Q: What kind of gear is needed?

A: Good running shoes, comfortable clothes and water bottle.

Q: Suppose we can't afford to buy running shoes?

A: Please contact coach about it. Regular attendance at practice is required

**Head Coach
Ana Levaggi**

Dipseakidz@gmail.com

415 250 6082





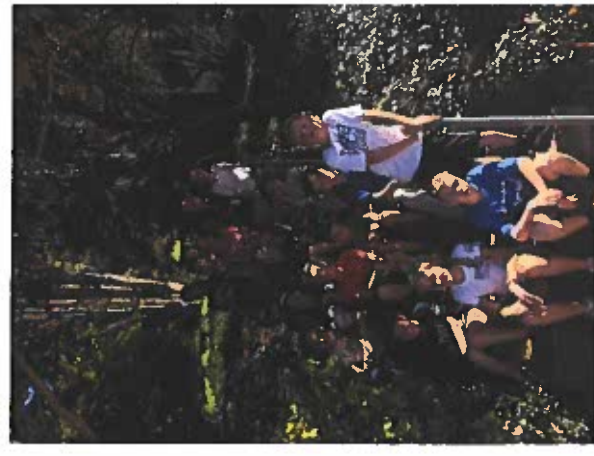
Kids Testimonials:

"I'm so glad I participate in the Dipsea Kidz, I've learned a lot about running".
Mari

"I like Dipsea Kidz because I learn how to run fast". Lucas

"I like running with my friends". Abby

"Our coach makes running fun!" Nick



LEARN HOW TO RUN FARTHER FASTER & SAFER

About Dipsea Kidz

The Dipsea Kidz is a distinctive youth development program established by The Dipsea Race Foundation, available to all students of Willow Creek Academy
FREE of charge.

It is coached by experienced, dedicated coaches.

Dipsea Kidz Days:

Mondays 3:15 - 4:15

Wednesdays 2:15 - 3:15

The program is designed for students grades **4th to 8th**.

The workouts take place on school grounds, at the oval track located within Martin Luther King Jr. Park, or as determined by the coaches.

Appropriate running shoes and water bottle are required.

Our mission:

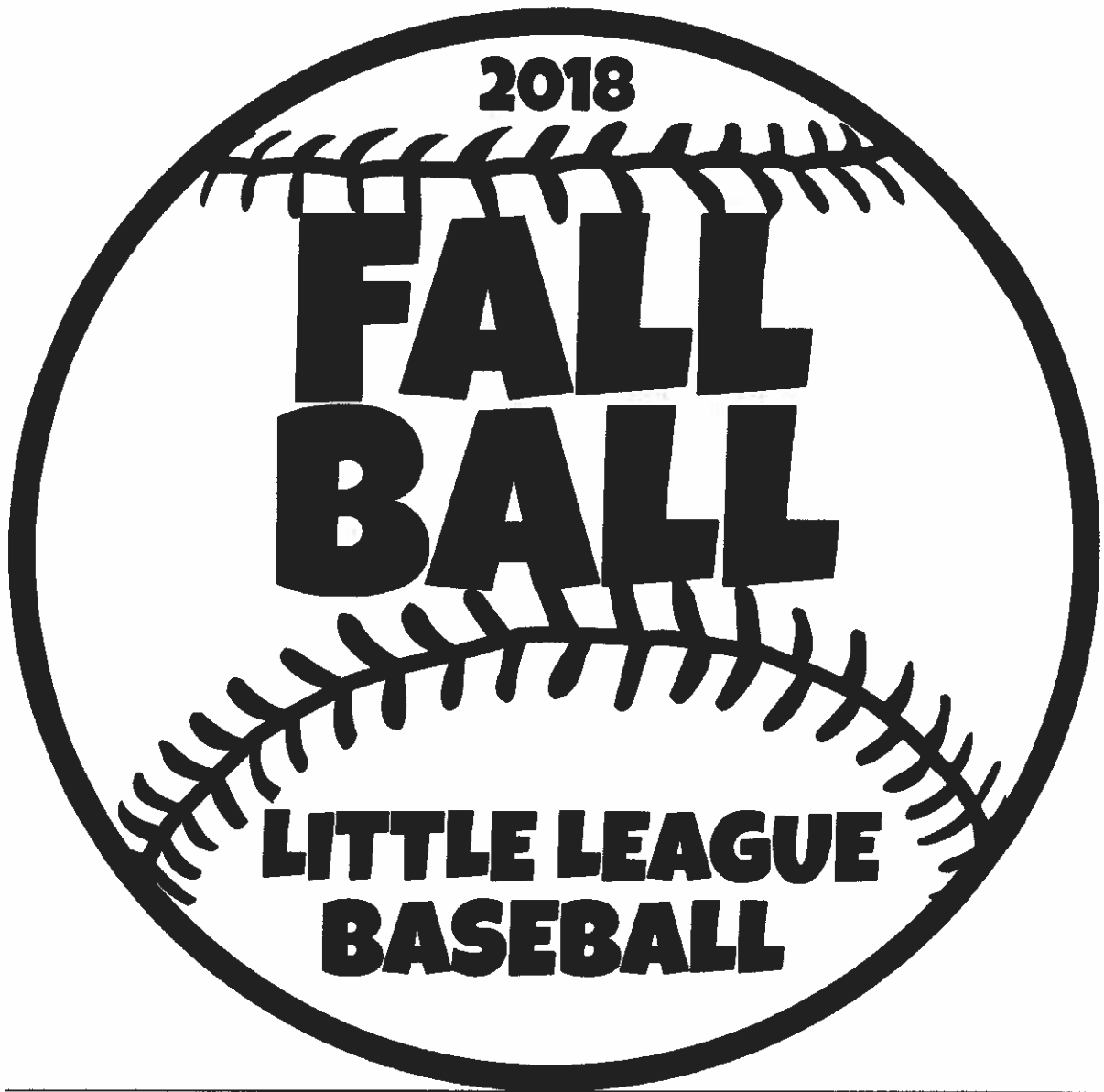
Provide a safe, non-competitive environment to children. Promote, the benefits of physical activity, stretching and healthy eating.

Experience pride in goal setting and personal accomplishment.

Most importantly,
teach life long

positive habits while having fun!

SAUSALITO-MARIN CITY



SUNDAY GAMES 9/9-10/28

REGISTER BY FRIDAY AUGUST 31ST

EMAIL: SALTYDOGSFALLBALL@GMAIL.COM

PLEASE INCLUDE CHILD'S NAME, AGE & ADULT CONTACT INFORMATION

\$100 REGISTRATION FEE - SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

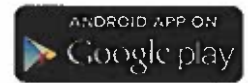
SMCLL.COM

WANT TO JOIN A SCAVENGER HUNT?

In honor of Sausalito's 125th Birthday, we are holding a City-wide app Scavenger Hunt! Follow the instructions below to join in the fun!



1. Download the Scavify App
Apple (iOS)



2. Create an account/login
3. Find the "Sausalito's 125th Birthday Hunt"
4. Have Fun!

Prizes awarded to those who 3000 points or more!

Hunt starts on August 17

Hunt ends on September 14

For more info: www.sausalito.gov/125



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
SAUSALITO!

COME CELEBRATE!

SATURDAY SEPT. 15

1:00PM-3:00PM

MARINSHIP PARK

Cupcakes!

MUSIC!

Ice Cream!

**Food & Entertainment
is free for Sausalito
Residents!
(must have ID)**

**10,000 sq/ft
Bounce House!**

125



**for more info
www.sausalito.gov/125**

