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# The Rare Bird

Audubon Charter School PTO  
December 3, 2009

ANNUAL GALA—SAVE THE DATE; 450+ RARE BIRDS EMAILED THIS WEEK!; IMPORTANT DATES; TRICK-OR-TREAT FOR UNICEF UPDATE; GRANDPARENTS/SPECIAL VISITORS DAY; RAREBIRDS IN *THE NUTCRACKER*; EXTRACURRICULAR/ARTS REACH MEETING; MOVIE NIGHT; BABY FOOD JARS NEEDED; RAINY DAY GAME DRIVE CONTINUES; CARTRIDGES FOR KIDS DRIVE AT DEC. PTO MEETING; ANNUAL GIVING; DREAMS COME TRUE AT NOMA; LA FETE DES ENFANTS; YEARBOOK POLL; GOT POWER SCHOOL?; BROADWAY PARKING NOTICE; COMING SOON—LAST RARE BIRDS OF 2009

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## ANNUAL GALA—SAVE THE DATE!

Mark your calendars for Audubon's annual fundraising gala on the evening of **Saturday, January 23** at the beautiful Elms mansion. Join us as we support our students while enjoying fabulous food, dance music by Flip Side, and a bevy of exciting auction items for your bidding pleasure!

Special advance-price tickets will be available starting next week through December 31. See next week's Rare Bird for ticket prices and order information.

To volunteer or donate an auction item for the gala, please contact Sophia Griffies, Development Specialist, at 324-7100 or [Sophia\\_Griffies@auduboncharter.com](mailto:Sophia_Griffies@auduboncharter.com).

## ELECTRONIC RARE BIRD UPDATE

Thanks to our fantastic volunteers and teachers and parents, **450+** Rare Birds will be emailed this week! When it comes your way, please consider signing up for electronic/paperless delivery. It saves paper and money and you will get your Rare Bird with no crinkles, creases, crayon marks or delays.

## IMPORTANT DATES

- *Thursday, December 3:* Pre-K/Kindergarten Applicants Curriculum Meeting, 5:30 p.m., Broadway campus cafeteria
- *Friday, December 4-Tuesday December 8 and Friday, December 11-Tuesday, December 15:*

Sunship II - 5<sup>th</sup> grade students overnight trips in Covington, LA

- *Saturday, December 12:* FAME Board meeting, 10 a.m., Broadway campus cafeteria
- *Tuesday, December 15:* Extracurricular/ArtsReach meeting, 5 p.m., Broadway campus cafeteria
- *Tuesday, December 15:* PTO general meeting, 6 p.m., Broadway campus cafeteria
- *Wednesday, December 16:* Box Tops Collection Day: send in your Box Tops, CC's, Campbell's labels, etc. in a Ziploc-style bag
- *Monday, December 21-Friday, January 1:* Winter Break—No School

## TRICK OR TREAT FOR UNICEF UPDATE

The Broadway campus of ACS had a goal to collect \$583.00. This goal was set by two 3<sup>rd</sup> graders from Ms. Rona's class, Yejin and Song; and Layla McM. and Ms. Melanie to provide basic needs for children, such as food packs, school packs and especially warm blankets. Many classes watched a short introduction to UNICEF. I am happy to report that the students exceeded the goal by \$55.00 and collected \$638.00.

To all of the children who participated—GREAT JOB!!!

## **GRANDPARENTS AND SPECIAL VISITORS DAY**

Audubon is pleased to host a new Grandparents and Special Visitors Day at the Broadway campus Wednesday, December 16 at 2:00 p.m. The event will begin with a welcome and refreshments, followed by visits to the children's classrooms. If a grandparent is unable to attend, a special guest (relative, friend, or either parent) may join your child instead. Further information will be sent home with students shortly.

A separate event will be held at the Carrollton campus in February or March. Details will be announced at a later date.

We look forward to welcoming your children's grandparents and guests to Audubon! For further information or to R.S.V.P, please contact Sophia Griffies, Development Specialist, at 324-7100 or [Sophia\\_Griffies@auduboncharter.com](mailto:Sophia_Griffies@auduboncharter.com).

## **RAREBIRDS FLOAT HIGH IN NUTCRACKER**

ACS ballet talent is elegantly featured in this year's La Maison de Ballet Louisiana and L. H. Ballet Classique's production of *The Nutcracker*. Catherine H. and Chrise D. (1st grade) will be Angels and Zoe and Caitlin (K) will be a Snowflake. They will perform twice: Friday, December 11, 7 p.m.; and Saturday, December 12, 2 p.m. The performances will be held at Jesuit High School auditorium and tickets are still available at 482-0038 (L. H. Ballet Classique office). What a wonderful way to bring in the holidays as well as support our Rare Birds.

~ *Christine Brennan, French FAME Representative*

## **EXTRACURRICULAR/ARTSREACH MEETING**

Tuesday, December 15, 5-6 p.m., Broadway campus cafeteria

Please join us prior to the PTO general meeting to discuss offerings for extracurricular activities and ArtsReach offerings. Let us know what activities your child would enjoy after school. If you have a

particular talent or would like to teach an Arts/Reach class, please join us.

Questions or ideas? Contact Daliah Bauer at [daliahb@bellsouth.net](mailto:daliahb@bellsouth.net).

~ *Daliah Bauer, PTO Extra-Curricular Chair*

## **MOVIE NIGHT**

Movie Night will be Saturday, December 12th @ Mystery Park on Esplanade Avenue. There will be lots of food and beverages, a silent auction and a movie! Like a drive-in movie without the car! It's going to be BIG FUN! BYOBC (Bring your own blankets and chairs). More details to come in next week's Rare Bird.

All proceeds support the 5th grade French class trip! Vive la France!

## **BABY FOOD JARS NEEDED**

Ms. Melanie's class needs some baby food jars with lids for a project. Do you have some? Or know someone with a baby who might be able to give you some jars? Please bring your clean jars with lids to Ms. Melanie, Room 308, Broadway campus.

Thanks!

## **RAINY DAY GAME DRIVE CONTINUES**

Let's help keep our kids entertained during those rainy days during recess and in after care! Collection boxes have been set up in the Photocopy Room at each campus. This is a good time of the year to pick up an extra game for the school!

Some ideas include Mancala, Trouble, Connect Four, UNO, tic-tac-toe, checkers/chess, Sorry, Twister, card games, backgammon, charades, Pictionary, art supplies (markers, crayons, large paper, craft paper), building sets (Legos, blocks, etc.), soccer balls, basketballs, kickballs (soft), footballs, and hula hoops. DVDs such as Planet Earth documentary episodes, exercise tapes, or sing-a-longs are also welcome (no movies or cartoons please).

Questions? Contact Corinne Gibb [cgibb@uno.edu](mailto:cgibb@uno.edu) or Emily Flagler [eflagler@waringarchitects.com](mailto:eflagler@waringarchitects.com).

~ Corinne Gibb

### **CARTRIDGES FOR KIDS DRIVE AT DECEMBER PTO MEETING**

Please bring your old electronics (cell phones, PDAs, GPS, game consoles, digital cameras, laptops, and ink cartridges) to the December PTO meeting. This will be our first submission to see if we can participate in the Cartridges for Kids program. You'll find a complete list of wanted items at [www.auduboncharter.com](http://www.auduboncharter.com), the Cartridges for Kids link on the lower right hand side. Thanks in advance!

~June Erb & Todd Taylor

### **ANNUAL GIVING REMINDER**

*It isn't the size of the gift that matters, but the size of the heart that gives it.*

~from The Angels' Little Instruction Book by Eileen Elias Freeman, 1994

If you have not contributed to the Annual Giving Drive, please do so! We are a long way from 100% participation. Remember, we want every family to participate. It isn't the size of the gift that matters. \$10, \$100, or \$1000....Let's all show some LOVE! Make your donation before the end of the year and claim it on your 2009 tax return.

### **DREAMS COME TRUE AT NOMA**

Ms. Bettie's, Ms. Melanie's, Ms. Beth's, and Ms. Janis's first, second and third grade students will be visiting the New Orleans Museum of Art on the 16<sup>th</sup> to see "Dreams Come True: Art of the Classic Fairy Tales from the Walt Disney Studio," a major exhibition with hundreds of original Disney artworks, including artwork from Disney's newest film, *The Princess and the Frog*, set in New Orleans. Other first, second and third grade students have already seen the exhibit or will soon.

The exhibition, according to NOMA's website, "will feature a children's section celebrating Disney's connections with jazz music and the Crescent City. The artworks, on loan from the Walt Disney Studio Animation Research Library, will be accompanied by film clips to demonstrate how individual sketches and paintings lead to a finished celluloid masterpiece. Organized by the Walt Disney Animation Research Library and the New Orleans Museum of Art, this once-in-a-lifetime exhibition, which cannot be seen anywhere else in North America is set to coincide with the premier of Disney's upcoming animated feature, *The Princess and the Frog*, set in New Orleans during the 1920s Jazz Age" (<http://www.noma.org/home.html>).

The exhibition closes March 14, 2010. Disney Dream Come True admission fees for Louisiana residents with valid photo identification (includes audio tour): Adults \$8; Seniors (65 and up) \$7.50; Children 3-17 \$5; Children under 3 Free. Admission fees for out-of-state visitors: Adults \$16; Seniors (65 and up) \$15; Children 3-17 \$10; Children under 3 Free.

For more information, go to <http://www.noma.org/home.html> or call NOMA at 504-658-4100.

### **LA FETE DES ENFANTS**

On Saturday, December 5th at 10:00 a.m., the French consulate and the Alliance Francaise will present "La fete des enfants" at the Prytania Theatre. It's a morning of animated movies, snacks, music, and fun, and it's free! You just have to reserve your place at 504-569-2877.

### **CALL FOR 2009-2010 ACS YEARBOOK VOLUNTEERS; POLL—WE NEED YOUR INPUT!**

Volunteers are still needed for the yearbook. Also, if you have pictures of events that have already taken place this year, please send them to [audubonyearbook@gmail.com](mailto:audubonyearbook@gmail.com) with a short description and the names and grades of the persons in the photos.

A poll is still being conducted to find out what kind

of yearbook the ACS community is interested in.  
The choices:

- full color hard cover for \$30
- full color soft cover for \$25
- black and white soft cover for \$16

Just send an email listing your choice to [audubonyearbook@gmail.com](mailto:audubonyearbook@gmail.com). We will make our decision based on your input so let us know what you want!

~Tracy Keller Cameron, PTO Membership Chair

### **GOT POWER SCHOOL?**

Power School is a great way to keep up with how your children are doing in school, *whether they are in the Montessori program or the French program*. Go to [ps.powerschoolnops.com/public](http://ps.powerschoolnops.com/public).

Please stop by the Carrollton campus office to pick up your user name and password if you have not done so yet. These can only be given to parents; no user names or passwords will be given to students.

Note that parents at the Broadway campus also have a user name and password; however, since students do not receive letter grades, the only information that shows up in Power School is attendance.

~ Alisa Dupre, Operations Manager

### **BROADWAY PARKING NOTICE**

The City of New Orleans has been ticketing cars parked in the freight zone on Pine Street of the Broadway campus. Please be aware of where you are parking and, as always, please do not block driveways. Thanks!

### **GOT NEWS?**

If you have an announcement, please send it to the editors at [rarebirdnewsletter@yahoo.com](mailto:rarebirdnewsletter@yahoo.com). The deadline for the next issue is **Monday, December 7, 12 noon**. Deadlines are always 12 noon the Monday before the Thursday issue.

We only have two more issues before the winter break—December 10 and December 17. If you want an item to appear before the break, be sure to get it to us on time. And you can send us things early; just let us know what week you want the item to run!

Please check your email after submitting and item or send a phone number in case we have questions. We sometimes need your help to be clear and accurate. If you have a time-sensitive item, the earlier you send it to us, the better.

~ The Editors