

# News and Notes - Walden Academy

April 8, 2013  
Volume 1, Issue 24

School Director Mele Benz  
Administrative Assistant Yvette Garcia  
(530) 361-6480

## Walden CARES

- \*Cooperation\**
- \*Assertion\**
- \*Responsibility & Respect\**
- \*Empathy\**
- \*Self-Control\**



## Upcoming Events

- ◆ 4/9: Board Mtg. @ 5:30 PM at GCOE Board Rm.
- ◆ 4/10: Talent Show @ 1:45 PM
- ◆ 4/15-4/19: Spring Break
- ◆ 5/6-5/10: STAR Testing
- ◆ 5/29: End of Year Celebration

Questions?  
mbenz@  
waldenacademy.org

## Director's News

Thank you to all of the parents who helped out at our Work Day last Saturday! Thank you to Judy Spears for stepping up to take the foreman role. Our next Work Day is scheduled for Saturday, May 4.

**Spring Break is April 15-19.**

### Bike Rodeo

Walden Academy will be hosting its first Bike Rodeo on April 25 at 9 AM. The event will help teach students about bike safety. To participate, students must bring a bike and a helmet. All bikes must have proper locks. **We are looking for six volunteers to help with the event. Double hours will be given to those who help out - please contact Mrs. Benz if you are interested.**

### Preparing for STAR

Test prep has a bad reputation, but assessment plays an integral role in effective instruction. Assessment provides teachers and students with feedback that they can use to improve their performance. State standards allow us to track students' mastery of grade level content.

Before I had my son, I used to participate in road races. I think of the STAR test like the 10k races I used to run. When I trained for races, I liked to use a training program that inserted shorter races prior to my big race so the feel of race day wouldn't be a surprise. My last training runs would be shorter,

were fun, and helped me prepare mentally for the big event. My performance in the race told me how well I had prepared and helped me map out my plan for my next race. STAR testing serves the same for us as educators.

Our recent benchmark assessments gave us important feedback about where your student is with mastery of his/her grade level content standards. If we've done our job right as parents and educators, the benchmarks offer us insight about which areas to focus on during these last few weeks before STAR. We then take the feedback the STAR test offers and use it at the beginning of the next school year to hit the ground running with your student. The data lets us start up where we left off, and helps us do our job better each year. It's all part of a cycle of continuous improvement.

In the coming weeks, I'll be sending home tips for helping your student test his/her best. Our goal is to have our students feel well-prepared for the big race so they enjoy showing what they know.

**STAR testing is May 6-10.**

### Upcoming Enrichment

4/10: Talent Show  
4/24: Drama & Spanish  
5/1: Drama & Art  
5/8: Drama & USDA