

Mar Vista Elementary

PARENT NEWSLETTER

www.marvista.pvUSD.net

CHRISTOPHER HERTZ, PRINCIPAL
July 4, 2008

OFFICE HOURS: 7:30 – 4:00
VOLUME 44 Number 1

CALENDAR

Wed	8/6	Mar Vista Office Reopens
Fri	8/8	Class Lists posted @ office / 5:00pm
Mon	8/11	Summer Session AR @ Home Program ends
Tues	8/12	New Family Walking Tour of Mar Vista / 2:00 – 3:00 Meet Your Kindergarten Teacher / 3:00 – 4:00
Wed	8/13	First Day of School for 2008 – 2009 school year / 2:05 dismissal Welcome Parent Coffee / 8:05 – 8:45
Tues	8/19	School Site Council Meeting / 4:30 – 5:30pm ELAC Meeting / 5:30 – 6:00pm
Wed	8/20	MVP'S Meeting / 6:00 – 7:30pm
Thurs	8/21	Back-to-School Night / 6:15 – 8:00 MVP'S Fair / 6:15 – 7:00pm Primary Teachers & Kindergarten Presentations / 7:00 - 7:30 Intermediate Teacher Presentations / 7:30 – 8:00
Wed	8/27	Room Rep Annual Orientation & Exchange @ MUR / 8:15 – 9:15
Mon	9/1	Labor Day Holiday
Tues	9/9	Picture Day
Mon	9/13 – Fri 9/17	Parent Conference Week / 12:05 dismissal
Sat	10/25	Fall Harvest Festival
Fri	11/7	End 1 st trimester
Tues	12/09 – Fri 12/12	Sixth Grade Outdoor School (Bussing Provided) / \$135 per student

Principal's Message

In August we will be welcoming your children back to school! On behalf of the Mar Vista Staff, we truly look forward to helping our students grow and to be successful. We will strive to educate our students with engaging activities and at a level that is challenging yet comfortable for each child. Please come to Back-to-School Night on Thurs., August 21st to learn how to work closely with your child's teacher to support your child's success. Until we see you in August enjoy your summer break together and take time each day with your child to practice reading, writing, and math skills.

Together for kids,
Chris Hertz

Library Saved!

The library program has been saved! The Board of Education was able to fund all elementary libraries again this school year. Mrs. Ullman, our library technician, will be returning too! She is excited to help students

check out books within their AR range and facilitating quizzing. Mrs. Ullman has plans to add many more AR-leveled books to the shelves and to complete the AR leveling of the entire book collection this year. (Currently 80% of the books are color-coded for students.) It is so exciting to have our library program and Mrs. Ullman back!

Speed Bumps / Slow Down for Safety

The Maintenance & Operations Department has widened our incoming parking lot to better accommodate traffic flow. Autos should no longer need to be driven off pavement anymore. Additionally please note that two speed bumps were added to encourage drivers to slow down.

New Computer Lab Coming Together!

We have received 32 new computers and the wiring is completed. New matching tables and chairs will soon be ordered. The lab will be completed by September. We are thankful to Mark Van Meter, former Mar Vista parent

and owner of Van Meter Construction for completing the wiring of the lab. Without Mark's generosity this project would not have been possible. Additional thanks are owed to Tim Landeck, former Mar Vista parent and director of the Technology Department for providing expertise and many needed materials. Thanks to the many PVUSD employees who worked to design the lab, set up the security system, provide the computers, and bargain for best prices on materials. Our students should be very please this September!

Walkathon \$13,000.00! / \$3,000 to Play Structure

Congrats to parent leaders! The MVP'S made their goal of earning \$10,000 for the many ongoing programs they support and remaining \$ will be applied to the play structure fund. Thank you to everyone who supported the most successful walk-a-thon ever!

Accelerated Reader

Mar Vista is encouraging students to use the Accelerated Reader Program. This is a licensed software program to evaluate students' reading comprehension levels. First, your student must read a book that has a coordinating quiz. There are lists of books that we have quizzes for on our Mar Vista website. Next, your student may take a quiz from any computer with internet access. If they pass the quiz, they score points! We will be monitoring students to make sure they are reading and taking quizzes within their reading level. At the end of this summer we will be recognizing students who met their personal summer goal.

6th Grade Outdoor School

Outdoor school information will be provided at the beginning of the school year however the dates and cost are set. Due to the tremendous fundraising efforts of parents and staff the cost of \$239 per student for the week has been lowered to \$135! Outstanding! This includes bussing to and from camp. The dates are in the calendar above.

Walking Tour of Mar Vista

New students with their parents are invited to join Mr. Hertz on a guided tour of Mar Vista School on Tuesday, August 12 at 2:00pm. Meet by the Mar Vista sign in the front parking lot. See you there!

Important Dates for 2007 – 2008 School Year

August 13	First Day of School (2:05 dismissal)
Sept. 1	Labor Day – No School
Oct. 31	Teacher Work Day – No School
Nov. 10 - 11	Veteran's Day – No School
Nov. 26 – 28	Thanksgiving Break – No School
Dec. 22 – Jan. 12	Winter Break – No School
Jan 19	MLK Jr. Day – No School
Feb. 9	Lincoln's Birthday – No School
Feb. 16	Presidents' Day – No School
April 10 - 17	Spring Break – No School
May 25	Memorial Day – No School
June 5	Last Day of School

Regular Communication

Please look for this newsletter every other Thursday in your child's "Mar Vista Communication Folder". Important notes from your child's teacher and returned work will come home on Thursdays too.

Voluntary School Supplies

Any instructional supplies that your children bring to school are to be provided voluntarily. You are not required to donate any instructional materials to our school. A suggested donation list is attached to this newsletter.

Emergency Cards

An emergency card is coming home the first day of school, complete it as thoroughly as possible, and return it immediately to school. It assures us, your child, and you that we can locate guardians, parents, daycare providers in case of an emergency. It is very important to provide us with accurate and legible phone numbers; this is how we will find you should something serious happen at school. Remember, no student can ever be released to anyone not listed on his/her emergency card. Thanks!

Parking Lot Safety

A reminder to parents that for safety reasons, please refrain from using your cell phone in the parking lot. The area along the front of the school (yellow curb) is reserved for parents who drive in to quickly drop-off or pick-up their children, so please do not leave your vehicle parked there.

Back - to - School Night: Thurs., Aug. 21

6:15pm – 7:00pm, MVP'S Volunteer Fair @ MUR

7:00pm – 7:30pm, Primary Teacher Presentations

7:30pm – 8:00pm, Intermediate Teacher Presentations

At 6:15pm, join our Mar Vista Parent and School Club for coffee & treats and visit volunteer booths to mingle with parents behind the scenes here at Mar Vista and learn how to get involved! You'll be able to purchase spirit wear, yearbooks, Subaru Drawing tickets, Monte Fireworks Tickets, and more! At 7:00PM the intermediate teachers will begin their presentation in their classrooms. At 7:30PM the primary teachers will start their presentations.

Please, Back-to-School nights are for parents to learn how to best maximize the school year for their child. Children should not attend if at all possible. If your child does attend, have him sit with you in the classroom and not unattended on the playground. This will allow every parent to listen carefully, take notes, and ask reflective questions. You may want to consider childcare arrangements with parents from other schools and reciprocate with them when they attend their child's Back-to-School Night. This investment of your time will pay-off in your enhanced understanding of your child's teacher's programs.

After School Enrichment Classes

This upcoming school year, Ben 'Jammin' will return to direct "The Wizard of OZ"; all 4th, 5th and 6th graders are invited to audition.

Also returning is Jenni Ward who taught "Imagination Creations", a drawing class, to Mar Vista 1st, 2nd and 3rd graders. Jenni may offer an advanced class for students who attended one of her sessions during the 2007-2008 school year. Roberta Dallimonti will

return as well with her clay class, Irvin Lindsey with his hands on science class and many others. (Irvin's Chemistry classes (for 3rd through 5th graders) begin Aug. 27. The flyer is posted outside the office or give Irvin a call @ 423-5925. We are also hoping to offer a performing arts class for younger students and a Choir in the spring. During the 2007-2008 school year, the MVP's were able to offer \$4,500 in instructor stipends and scholarships for students; however, this year due to limited funds, MVP's are not in a position to offer this support. Financial assistance will be determined on a class by class basis by the individual instructor.

Box Tops for Education

Congratulations to Ms. Risa's 2nd grade class who won Popsicle's for collecting the most Box Tops over the 2007-2008 school year. Remember to clip, clip, clip over the summer and send Box Tops in with your student(s). Box Tops may be turned into classrooms which participate in a collection contest where the winning classroom celebrates with a popcorn/popsicle party. Students may also use Box Tops as cash in the Student Store where they may purchase pencils, erasers, and pencil sharpeners along with many other items. Next year students will have an opportunity to participate in a collection sheet raffle to win prizes. Thank you parent Anna Winston for leading this fundraiser!

Welcome New Teachers

We want to welcome four new teachers joining our school this year. Welcome to: David Manier / 5th grade, Heather Reaves / 4th grade, Sara Winterburn / PE (sharing this position with Mrs. Lemke), & Jessica Alvarez / RSP (sharing this position with Mrs. Edlestein). Each teacher has much previous teaching experience and is very excited to be joining us!