

Mar Vista Elementary

PARENT NEWSLETTER

www.marvista.pvUSD.net

CHRISTOPHER HERTZ, PRINCIPAL
August 13, 2008

OFFICE HOURS: 7:30 – 4:00
VOLUME 44 Number 2

CALENDAR

Tues	8/19	School Site Council Meeting / 4:30 – 5:30pm ELAC Meeting / 5:30 – 6:00pm
Wed	8/20	MVP'S Meeting / 6:30 – 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 / Parent Club Event
Fri	11/7	End 1 st trimester
Tues	12/09 – Fri 12/12	Sixth Grade Outdoor School (Bussing Provided) / \$142 per student

Principal's Message

Welcome back to school. We are very excited about this school year and have many goals to make this the best year ever for your child. Please read the articles below and review the first-day-packet to know what is going on this school year and please feel free to contact me if I can help you or your child get off to a great start this year.

Sincerely,

First Day Packet Contents to Return

Parents, please review, sign, and return as appropriate the following six items from the first-day packets:

1. Superintendent's Annual Notice to Parents (pages: 28, 29, 30, & 31/ four items in all) (parent retains booklet) (This will be in next week's folder.)
2. Emergency Card
3. Permission to Take Books Home Agreement
4. Parent Club Volunteer Sign Up Form

After-School Child Enrichment

The staff at the Mar Vista After-school Childhood Enrichment (ACE) program are very excited to start another school year. The ACE program offers fun-filled afternoons of art, science, cooking, sports, games, homework tutoring, and exciting field trips to

the Boardwalk, beach, movies, roller rink, swim center, bowling alley and more! The Mar Vista ACE staff members are professional, experienced, and dedicated to creating a rich and varied program. Last February, they welcomed a new site director, Liz Hill, who has been working hard to improve the program and add new activities. Liz studied art and science at Stanford University and went on to get her Elementary Teaching Credential and Master's of Education at San Jose State University. For more information about the Mar Vista ACE program, please stop by Room 19 or call (831) 454-7929. Hope to see you there!

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

6:15pm – 7:00pm, MVP'S Volunteer Fair @ cafeteria
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 primary teachers will begin their presentation in their classrooms.

At 7:30PM the intermediate 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.

Changing Your Child's Classroom / "Complaint Window"

On August 29 we will be closing our three-week window to request a different classroom for your child. As you know, all elementary schools in the North Zone of PVUSD ask parents to wait for three weeks before we begin making any changes. After Tuesday, Sept. 4 the Mar Vista office will no longer accept such requests for consideration, so please let the principal know now by writing him this week. On Tuesday, Sept. 4 Mr. Hertz will contact each parent and let him or her know if he will honor the request. All changes will go into effect on Wed., Sept. 5 after the parent has spoken to their child about the move and teachers have had a chance to coordinate between classes. Please, we do not encourage requests, nor will we be able to honor many requests, but we recognize that we do not always understand the "whole picture" and want to hear from you in writing to determine if a change of placement may be a sound decision.

MAR VISTA PARENTS / (MVPS)

As a family member or guardian of a Mar Vista Elementary child, you are a part of the MVPS! We are a group of parent volunteers and staff who work together to raise funds to support programs, provide materials, and improve our school to create the best learning

environment for our children as we can. The various fundraising events we sponsor support many programs throughout the year such as after school enrichments classes, Spectra Art Program, math tutors, instructional aides, "Family Fix-It" day (improving our school's campus), technology equipment, teacher appreciation and more.

STAR Reports Coming to Parents/Guardians of 3rd – 6th Graders

Soon parents/guardians will receive their child's STAR Student Report via the US Post that provides your student's 2008 test results for the California Standards Tests (CSTs). These tests are an important part of the California Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) Program. The purpose of the CSTs is to determine how well students are achieving California's content standards.

Students answered the multiple-choice questions on the CSTs by selecting one of four options as the correct answer. For the CST in English-language arts, students in grades four and seven also were required to write a response to a writing task. Scores on the multiple-choice questions and the writing task were combined to determine the overall score for the CST in English-language arts.

The state target is for all students to perform at the proficient or advanced level on the CSTs. If your student's performance is at the basic, below basic, or far below basic level in one or more subject areas tested, you are encouraged to schedule a meeting with your student's teacher(s) to discuss assistance the school can provide to help your student improve his or her academic progress. Along with the STAR Student Report for the CSTs, you also will find a guide designed to help you understand your student's scores.

It is important to keep in mind that information on the STAR Student Report for the CSTs is one source of information about the progress your student is making in school. Classroom work, grades, and other test results should also be reviewed for a more complete picture of your student's academic progress.