

# Mar Vista Elementary

## PARENT NEWSLETTER

www.marvista.pvUSD.net

CHRISTOPHER HERTZ, PRINCIPAL

4:00

October 2, 2008

OFFICE HOURS: 7:30 –

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### CALENDAR

Tues	10/7	Site Council (4:30 – 5:30); ELAC (5:30 – 6:00)
Wed	10/8	2:05 dismissal
Sat	10/11	Monte Fireworks Show
Mon	10/13 – Fri 10/17	<b>Parent Conference Week / 12:05 dismissal</b>
Mon	10/13 – Fri 10/17	Book Fair @ library / 8:00 – 4:00
Fri	10/17	Lost and Found donated to charity
Sat	10/18	Family Fix It Day #1 of 2 / 9:00 – 1:00
Mon	10/20 – 10/30	Student Council's 2 <sup>nd</sup> Harvest Food Drive
Tues	10/21	Make-Up Picture Day (for students who missed picture day)
Sat	10/25	Fall Harvest Festival / Parent Club Event
Fri	11/7	End 1 <sup>st</sup> trimester
Mon	11/10	No School
Tues	11/11	Veterans' Day / No School
Tues	12/09 – Fri 12/12	Sixth Grade Outdoor School (Bussing Provided) / \$142 per student

**Editor's Note:** This year our parent club is putting together an email database of Mar Vista families in the all-new Directory. If you provide your email, you can expect an email in a few weeks from Mar Vista about the E-Newsletter ready to download from the school website. Families who still need a paper newsletter will always have the opportunity to ask that one be sent home with their child. Our goal is to improve communication, lower operating costs, and to be a "greener" school. Please provide your email to the Directory to support your school.

### Parent - Teacher Conferences

As you should be aware, Parent Conferences are about two weeks away. Teachers began contacting parents today via the Thursday Folder. You may find the following tips useful:

#### **Before the conference:**

- Review your child's work and any progress reports the teacher may have sent home.
- Make a list of things you want to find out from the teacher (discipline and homework policies, peer relationships, standardized test scores, how parents can help).
- Think of any concerns that might affect your child's performance to share with the teacher.
- Is the curriculum and homework appropriately challenging?

**At the conference:** *Please arrive on time for your appointment so that conferences do not back*

*up. Teachers will stick to the schedule to honor everyone's time.*

- Make sure you understand how your child's work is being evaluated.
- Find out what is expected of your child with home and class assignments, if you are still unsure.
- Inquire how your child is relating to peers.
- Discuss with the teacher any specific plan of action that sets responsibilities for you, your child, and the teacher. Set high but realistic goals.
- Walk away with something specific that you can praise your child for, and at least one specific area for improvement.

#### **After the conference:**

- Keep charting your child's progress in school and reviewing homework.
- Continue communicating with the teacher about specific problems or changes in situations that arise throughout the year.
- Discuss the conference with your child in a way that motivates your child.

### Voice Mail @ Mar Vista / It's Here

Let's keep in touch through Voicemail! Teachers will check their messages at the end of the day. If you need immediate contact, call the office. A list of extensions can be found in today's Thursday folder.

### **Toyota Drawing Tickets**

Students brought home a letter last Thursday with a packet of six tickets. Please help your child sell all 6 tickets. You can get more from Barbara in the office. 100% of the money stays with Mar Vista! You might win a new Toyota Camry Hybrid too! This is an important fundraiser. Thanks for your support.

#### **Goals**

Earn \$10,000 for: classroom aid, math tutoring, student recognition, scholarships, etc.

Sell 2 packets of tickets per student (*We would actually earn over \$19,000!!*)

#### **Dates**

Unsold tickets back by Oct. 9

Final day for money and stubs: Oct. 17

Drawing Oct. 26th at the Boardwalk

### **Monte Fireworks Tickets on Sale**

Support Mar Vista by buying your Monte Fireworks Show tickets at the Mar Vista office. \$10 of your \$15 purchase price comes right back to the Parent Club (MVP'S). You'll get 10% off on popular items at the local skate shop and deals at Baskin Robbins Ice Cream all year too! Our school depends on this fundraiser each year. Please support your school and have fun too! Call Barbara Di Puma and she can send the tickets home with your child. Thanks!

### **Book Fair / Support Your Library**

The fair will be open during conference week each day from 8:00 to 4:00. The sign up sheet for volunteers is posted on the window of the office. Proceeds from this event will be used to purchase more library books.

### **Mr. Ertl's Data & Assessment Corner**

At Mar Vista we use "multiple measures" when it comes to assessing student success. This means that we use both formal and informal assessments to measure progress. Examples of formal assessments are: state / district / classroom tests, & writing rubrics. Informal assessments are things like: student work samples, anecdotal evidence, student interviews, journal writing,... Often times these more informal assessments are called "authentic assessments", because they are based on an authentic task. When you conference with your child's teacher be sure to understand how your child does on both types of assessments.

I am looking for parent input on what you'd like to know more about when it comes to the data we

use, or the types of assessments we give here at school. Please let me know and I'll be sure to include them in future columns.

Together for Students,  
Mr. Ertl

### **After School Programs: Art, Music, Spanish, Robotics**

Is your child looking for something to do after school? If so, check out one of Mar Vista's many after school classes. **Imagination Creations** is a drawing/painting class for 1st-3rd grade students where they create characters and creatures from their imagination. Jenni Ward returns for her 2nd year at Mar Vista and along with her current class she hopes to offer an advanced class drawing/painting class as well as a class for upper grades. **Roberta Dallimonti** also returns beginning Thursday, October 2, with her clay class open to all K-6th grade students. In Roberta's fall class students will create a Cornucopia with oak leaves, acorns and fruits as well as a Turkey bowl for food, candy or flowers. **Lindsey Irvin** is back for a third year with his hands on science program. This is a fun class with something new offered each session. **Kristine North's Robotics** class begins in December and she will offer an advanced class after Winter Break. Students create a carnival, whirling sculpture or hopping robot with Lego parts and program a computer to control its movement. New classes added this year include **Spanish** for grades 1-3 (a class is in the works for a 4th -6th grade class), and **music** with **Miss Carolyn**, an instructor familiar to many of our 1st grade students. Information for all of these classes is sent home via Thursday's communication folders or can be obtained in the office. If you have questions, all instructors are open to direct contact and numbers can be obtained from the office or by contacting Susan McAnerney at [smcanerney@comcast.net](mailto:smcanerney@comcast.net).

### **We're Off To See the Wizard!**

Congratulations to all the 3rd – 6th grade students cast in the Wizard of OZ. Students acted, sang and danced their way through auditions and will now spend approximately 60 hours working on this production learning dance numbers, how to puppeteer and much more. The Wizard of Oz is a classic movie that will come to life on the Mar Vista stage November 7th and 8th. Mark your calendar to bring the whole family for this magical event. Wizard of Oz is an after-school program run by Ben Jammin. Ben will also offer a Christmas Caroling class in the winter and a performing arts class for 1st – 3rd graders in the

spring.