



Mar Vista Elementary

PARENT NEWSLETTER



761-6177

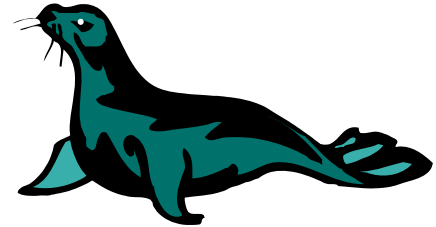
www.marvista.pvusd.net

CHRISTOPHER HERTZ, PRINCIPAL
December 18, 2008

OFFICE HOURS: 7:30-4:00
VOLUME 44 Number 9

CALENDAR

Fri	12/19	Lost and Found to Charity / 3:00pm
Mon	12/22	Winter Break begins
Tues	1/13	School Resumes
Mon	1/19	Martin Luther King Jr. Day / Holiday
Tues	1/20	SSC / 4:30 – 5:30; ELAC 6:00 – 7:00
Wed	1/21	MVP'S / 6:30 – 8:00
Wed	2/11 – 2/13	Mar Vista Science Fair
Thurs	2/12	Science Fair Parent Night / 6:00 – 7:30pm
Sat	2/28	MVP Auction Dinner Dance / 5:30



Administrators' Desk

Winter Break is upon us! We wish each of our Mar Vista families a safe, joyful, and renewing Holiday and break. Much has been accomplished at school this year. Pride and enthusiasm seems up at school. The Site Council recognizes that huge budget challenges are coming this winter and is ready to work with staff, parents, and our school district to minimize the impacts of budget cuts on our students.

As we go into our time off, please support your child over the holiday break by doing some basic academic activities. Some daily practice ideas are:

- Reading: Encourage your child to read books within their AR level at least 20-30 minutes daily. (AR quizzing remains available online.)
- Math: Accuracy and speed with basic +, -, X, & division are important life skills and help students later when more difficult skills are learned.
- Writing: Thank you notes and journals provide practical opportunities to practice writing skills.

Happy Holidays,

Chris Hertz & Jeremy Ertl

Used Book Sale Coming in January

Our January used book sale will directly benefit 6th grade end-of-year activities. Contact library technician Patricia Ullman for more information at her email (see school website) or via voicemail (extension 4984).

Your Sick Child Needs You

This is the beginning of the cold and flu season. When children get ill at school, they must go home. Please be sure that we have current phone numbers for both parents and for people who can pick up your child if you cannot be reached. Please inform your employer that when our office calls about your ill child, you are expected to



respond immediately. Your ill child needs to be picked up promptly.

Lost and Found to Charity / Label Clothing

We about to send our third shipment of lost coats, sweaters, etc. to charity. Volunteers check each item for names and then return the lost item to the student; however, many items are not labeled. Please consider putting your child's name in outer garments-especially spirit wear!

Mar Vista Recycling Program



Our Mar Vista Recycling Task

Force is preparing to take our first round of CRV materials to the recycling center in Watsonville. They have worked hard to collect, clean, and sort these materials for drop off. In the process, they have learned about organizing, educating, and creating an action plan... You can support our fundraiser by dropping off any of your CRV materials between the cafeteria and the new arts storage shed. Thank you for your support!!

Speed Math / Helping Your Student

School-wide we are focused on students' speed in basic math computation. Addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division skills need to be automatic for our students. This will allow students to tackle complex math problems with greater confidence and mental focus. Parents and guardians can greatly help their student by spending just a few moments each day with drills. Students can practice independently with flash cards and answer keys too. Measure your child's speed & accuracy. Keep records, set goals, and have fun watching their growth! You can also have your child use our online **Math Facts in Flash** program via the school website. This basic program will really help your child to feel and be successful at school. If you have questions about your child's program in class, please contact your child's math teacher.



Celebrating Student Success

The teachers and support staff at Mar Vista Elementary want our students' to feel good about their scholastic efforts and we look forward to recognizing our students' accomplishments. We hope to inspire our students to continue to strive for excellence as we acknowledge achievement and effort. Beyond what is happening in our individual classrooms, here are a few regular school-wide recognition programs:

Honor Roll: Every trimester our 4th – 6th grade teachers recognize students with all A's and B's on their report cards. Parents are highly encouraged to attend. You'll know if your child qualifies when report cards come home and office staff will call to invite you to the assembly.

Blue Slip/Caught Doing Good: Students at Mar Vista are also recognized for acting as good citizens through our "Caught Doing Good" program. When students are spotted doing something special for our school such as helping our custodian, they receive a "Blue Slip / Caught Doing Good Ticket". The ticket is entered into a monthly raffle for prizes!

Character Assemblies: Every trimester our teachers recognize students who demonstrate the qualities of our character trait program. Students receive certificates, spirit pencils, and bumper stickers. This is a big recognition!

Perfect Attendance Recognition: Students are honored monthly for perfect attendance. They receive a certificate of recognition and participate in a raffle to attend the Mar Vista's Monthly Pizza Party on the stage. Students with perfect attendance each trimester and at the end of the school year receive a certificate of recognition and a spirit pencil too.

AR Assemblies: Students are honored at the close of each trimester at grade-level assemblies when they meet personal point goals and/or reach a "point club". Certificates and token rewards are given to students and student names are added to the "Wall of Fame" in the cafeteria.

Parental Support for Students

Often, parents ask us how they can support their child's learning. The following tips may help answer this question:

- Send your child to school on time and everyday with breakfast and a good night's sleep.
- Praise your child's school effort.
- Ask your child to share what he/she has learned in school.
- Help your child through frustrations—they are a normal part of life.
- Provide a time, place, supplies, and support for homework.
- Call the teacher if you have questions about your child's progress.
- If your child is ill, allow him/her to stay home to get well before attending school.

Bully Prevention- Be an "upstander" not a "Bystander"

The major thrust of the Mar Vista Bully Prevention initiative is to encourage students (and families) to speak out against others being physically or emotionally hurt. Speaking out in the defense of other students could mean telling the bully to back off, telling the victim that she or he is welcome to play with you, and reporting the incident to an adult at school. Parents with information about bully behavior should call the principal. On behalf of the students who are being bullied, thank you for making the call!

Raising Funds / Parent Lead Fundraisers

The school staff greatly appreciates the efforts of parents to raise funds for school projects. It is important that all fundraising be done properly to make sure details are communicated and to avoid common problems. Anytime a parent would like to raise or collect money in excess of \$50.00 for any purpose, the fundraiser idea must receive prior approval from the principal. The principal always reviews the idea with the office manager and parent club president prior to approval. Fundraiser request forms are always available in the office. Thank you for your support!



Science Fair draws near

All 4 - 6th grade students should also consider working on their science fair project over the break. 4th grade teacher, Mrs. Schacher has prepared a packet for each student so that s/he may be able to work on the project over break. This packet went home with 4th - 6th grade students on Thursday, Dec. 13. The Mar Vista science fair will be on Wed., Feb. 11th through Feb. 13th. Parent Night at the Science Fair is on Thursday, Feb. 12th from 6:00-7:30. This means students have two months to complete their project. The time to start is winter break!



Save the Date: Wine & Roses Auction

You don't want to miss this fundraiser! The Wine & Roses Auction will be a night to remember. Come and enjoy a night of delicious food, wine tasting, silent and live auctions, live music, and dancing! The Wine & Roses auction will begin at 5:30 on Saturday, February 28th. More details will be provided when we return from winter break. We are currently looking for auction items with a value of approximately \$50 or more. If you have a good idea, or an item, please notify our auction coordinator - Janeé Del Colletti at 685-0362.

