



Mar Vista Elementary

PARENT NEWSLETTER



761-6177

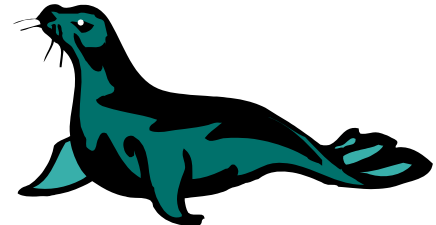
www.marvista.pvusd.net

CHRISTOPHER HERTZ, PRINCIPAL
January 15, 2009

OFFICE HOURS: 7:30-4:00
VOLUME 44 Number 10

CALENDAR

Today	District "Parent Surveys" Distributed
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	Student Council Spirit Day "Twin Day" MVP'S / 6:30 – 8:00
Thurs 1/22	Science Fair Display Boards Come Home
Fri 1/23	District "Parent Surveys" Return Deadline
Mon 2/9	President's Day / School Closed
Wed 2/11 – 2/13	Mar Vista Science Fair
Thurs 2/12	Science Fair Parent Night / 6:00 – 7:30pm
Mon 2/16	President's Day / School Closed
Tues 3/3	4 th grade STAR Writing Assessment
Thurs 3/5	District Parent Survey Results Released
Fri 3/6	End 2 nd Trimester / End 2 nd AR Goal Period
Fri 3/13	Report Cards Sent Home with Students
Fri 3/20	Honor Roll Assembly
Sat 3/28	MVP'S Auction Dinner Dance / 5:30



Annual District Parent Survey

A paper copy of the District Parent Survey is in your child's Thursday Folder. Please return completed surveys to office staff by January 23, 2009. Our goal is to get the parent survey results back to parents by March 5th. (Parents may alternatively complete the online version of the survey posted on the district website: www.pvusd.net.)

The MV Site Council will use the survey results to help develop school improvement priorities. Several current school improvement priorities such as, building a computer lab, were derived directly from survey results. Another priority identified in the Parent Survey was to improve the play structure. Rebuilding or replacing the play structure has been adopted by the MVP'S as a funding priority. Survey results are taken seriously by school and parent leaders. We need every parent to respond for **each** of their children. (Teachers at different grade levels receive results specifically for their grade level.) Unfortunately fewer parents are responding. With so few parents responding the validity of the survey is statistically questionable. So PLEASE respond.

% Parents Returning Annual PVUSD Survey

30%	07-08
32%	06-07
45%	06-05
51%	05-04

This year we want 100%!

Computer Use for Mar Vista Students

Students in grades 2nd – 6th use the all-new computer lab twice weekly. (K & 1st once weekly) The lab was paid for through the Cookie Dough Fundraisers conducted the past two years and from generous donations from parents, community members and district departments. The following learning applications available to students and teachers are:

- Ultra Key (Typing)
- Word (word processing)
- Success Maker (individualized math)
- Math Facts in a Flash (speed math)
- Web Browsing (research)
- AR (individualized reading comprehension)



Is Your Child Being Challenged?

This is a good time to contact your child's teacher if you feel that the curriculum has been too challenging or that your child has been under challenged.

Please call or email your child's teachers. We want to keep in touch with families about this import issue.



Million Word March / Who is on Target?

Students in grades 4 through 6 are expected to read 1,000,000 words through AR each school year.

Students in grades 1 through 3 are expected to read and quiz 25 books through AR each school year. You can track your child's progress through "Home Connect" on our school website. Since we are about 1/2 of the way through the year, your child should be about 1/2 of the way to the goal. Please log on and check in on your child's progress. This is a rigorous expectation and your child needs your support to get there.



Head Lice? Please Call Us

We want to stop the spread of head lice. When we receive a call that a child has head lice, we check the entire class and send home exposure notices. Students with live lice are excluded from school. If parents don't call us and tell us, then we don't know to check. If you would like further explanation of how we work to stop the spread of lice, please call our Health Assistant Deborah Foxworthy at extension 4980 or email her at Deborah.Foxworthy@pvusd.net.

Mar Vista "Girls on the Run" Program Starting Soon!

Girls on the Run is a national organization that promotes fitness and health through fun running games and hands on learning. GOTR combines training for a 5K run/walk event with curriculum that promotes good choices for a lifetime of self-respect and healthy living. Every aspect of this program is geared toward supporting girls to feel good about who they are - physically, emotionally and socially. Some examples of the topics are: How to Make Good Decisions, Learning to Listen, Being a Girl of Your Word and How Gossip Hurts. We are excited to offer this great program to the 3rd-6th grade girls in our school this coming spring for the 4th year! ***NEW*** The 6th graders will have their own Girls on Track lessons specially geared to their age level.

Girls on the Run will meet on Mondays and Wednesdays from 2:05-3:30pm and 12:05-1:30pm for 10 weeks beginning the week of March 2nd. The girls will train for a 5k run/walk event to be held on Saturday, May 16th. Registration is limited and will be accepted on a first come/first serve basis. Registration forms will go home the week of January 20th and the fee is \$175. Scholarships are available.

For more information, please visit the website at www.girlsontherun-sv.org or contact the Mar Vista coaches Alli Livingston 685-9379 (parent) or Risa Schwartz extension 4906 (teacher).

We hope to see your girls out on the field this spring!

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 application 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.

Science Boards Come Home Soon

Thank you to teacher Heidi Schacher for securing a grant to give every 4th – 6th grade Mar Vista student a 3' x 4' display board to take home next week (weather permitting). These boards are free to our students and are to be used on their mandatory science fair project. Students brought home a packet before winter break describing the science fair parameters and dates. Look for your child's board next Thursday. You can't miss it! Visit <http://science.santacruz.k12.ca.us> for more information.

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 5:30PM on Saturday, March 28th. More details will be provided soon. 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.

ALL VOLUNTEERS and VISITORS ARE REQUIRED TO SIGN-IN AT THE OFFICE AND WEAR A NAME TAG. THIS IS FOR THE SECURITY OF OUR STUDENTS. SIGN-IN IS PART OF OUR SCHOOL AND DISTRICT SAFETY PLAN! IF YOU DO NOT WISH TO REGISTER YOUR VISIT AND WEAR A TAG, THEN YOU MUST NOT PASS BEYOND THE PATIO WAITING AREA BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 7:20 TO 2:05.