

Mar Vista Elementary School

PARENT NEWSLETTER

6860 Soquel Drive, Aptos, CA 95003 (831) 688-5211

www.marvista.pvUSD.net

CHRISTOPHER HERTZ, PRINCIPAL
February 28, 2008

OFFICE HOURS: 7:30 – 4:00
VOLUME 43 Number 12

March Character Theme: Integrity & Honesty

CALENDAR

Sun	3/2	County Spelling Bee @ UCSC Rooms 1 & 2 / 12:00 – 4:00 (cheers for Evan & Kenny!)
Tues	3/4	4 th Grade State Writing Test / Please Do Not Disturb
Wed	3/5	Parent Visitation Day 1 of 2
Fri	3/7	End 2 nd Trimester
Sat	3/8	Santa Cruz County Science Fair @ Civic Auditorium / begins 9:30am
Wed	3/12	Parent Visitation Day 2 of 2
Fri	3/15	Report Cards sent home with students
Wed	3/19	Kindergarten Registration Day (Make your appointment now!)
Fri	3/21	Begin Spring Break (21st-30th)
Mon	3/31	School resumes
Fri	4/11	Book Fair Begins (supports future book purchases) (until 4:00pm daily)
Fri	4/18	Book Fair Ends
Mon	4/28	STAR Testing Begins (do not schedule doctor/dentist appointments)
Sat	5/3	Family Fix It Day 2 of 2
Mon	5/12	STAR Testing Ends
Thurs	5/22	Open House (Spaghetti Feed @ 5:30 & classes open at 7:00pm)
Fri	6/06	Last day of School
Mon	6/16	Summer School begins at Bradley (July 4 Holiday)
Fri	7/18	Summer School Ends
Wed	8/13	First Day of School

Principal's Message

Next Friday is the end of 2nd trimester grading period. Staff and students are working hard finishing final assessments, units of study, and projects. Teachers will use data from these assessments and their observations to report to parents and guardians about student achievement. Your child will bring home his/her report card in an envelope on Friday, March 15. Please review the report card with your child and identify at least one area to praise your child for and at least one goal area to work on at home. Please send back the signed envelope on Monday, March 18.

Principal Chris Hertz' March Wish List

(Call me for details!)

- Parent help at lunch with students
- Parent help with fundraising
- Reams of canary-colored copy paper
- Tissue paper

Walk a Thon Coming in May

The MVP'S biggest fundraiser is the Walk-a-Thon this May! We want Mar Vista families to embrace this 100% profit fundraiser and encourage their children to get pledges. This will be the last major fundraiser by the MVP'S this school year. Look for details soon.

MVP'S Officers Needed for 08-09

Our current elected board will be ending their two-year term in June. This means we will have several vacancies: president, VP, secretary, and two treasurers. The treasurer positions are considered to be the most demanding and require several hours each week. Please come to the MVP'S meetings, get involved in supporting our school, and consider being an officer. You will be able to make a huge impact on the lives of hundreds of children and our community. You are truly needed.

Cash Donations Accepted

Please consider making your next tax-deductible donation to Mar Vista School. Our MVP'S do such valuable work for our school and need more funds than our several fundraisers have thus far brought in. Please visit the MVP'S link on our school website to see this year's use of funds. All money collected this year will benefit our school next year. Have questions? Please call Principal Hertz and he can help you target your dollars where you want them to go. Currently we are working on a complete makeover of our computer lab. There is serious discuss going on about creating a fund to replace both play structures too! Our library can always use more books. Please donate to Mar Vista!

Nob Hill Supports Mar Vista

Mar Vista has earned \$1500.00 since we started in 2/2005. During 2006 & 2007 we received just under \$500.00. So far in 2008 we have earned \$67.77. There are consistently 15 families using their Nob Hill cards. Thank you for remembering to swipe your Nob Hill card and thus bring funds to our kids. You can pick up a Nob Hill card in the school office anytime. Thanks to parent Laurie DeCastongrene for coordinating this fantastic money-maker.

Support Our Library / Book Fair Coming

Please see the calendar above and plan to drop in on the Book Fair until 4:00pm each day. Thank you to our library technician Patricia Ullman for organizing this valuable fundraiser to expand the library collection.

Search Our Library From Home!

Good news! Parents and students are now able to search our library book collection from home. Look for the "library" link on the Mar Vista web page. Click on "library" and begin searching! Your child can print call numbers, search by topic, author, or book title. This will help you get involved in your child's reading program from the comfort of your home and will save your child time when he or she goes to the library for the weekly visit. Enjoy and get reading!

Accelerated Reader / Get Quizzing

We are 89% of the way through the 2nd trimester. As of today 35% of students (121 students out 348 participating students) are on target to reach their personal goal this 2nd trimester. Their teacher will recognize students who make their personal goal shortly after the trimester ends. Thank you to the MVP'S for creating a special fund to recognize student achievement. Additionally students who make or surpass their goal will have their name added to the Wall of Fame in the cafeteria. Now is the time to read and quiz.

STAR Testing Dates / 2nd – 6th grade

Mark your calendars now please!

- Testing: Apr 28 - May 9
- Make -Ups: May 12
- 4th Grade Only: STAR Writing Test: Tues., March 4th
- Make-Ups: Wed. March 5th only

Please plan ahead. Your child's regular, punctual attendance during this crucial testing period is very important. Please do not schedule any appointments, etc. during this two-week period. We greatly appreciate your cooperation during this high-stakes assessment period.

Parent "Visitation" Days

This year we have reserved the two Wednesdays prior to Kindergarten Registration for parents to visit classrooms. These two Wednesdays are intended to

showcase our school to new incoming families and the focus should be on the students' overall learning environment and student achievement. Current Mar Vista families are of course welcome to see classrooms in action too. Parents are reminded that the purpose of these two days is not to screen classrooms or select teachers for next year's classroom enrollment. Look for articles in the parent newsletter as we begin to gear up for next year's enrollment.

Garden Blog on Website / Get Involved

Please visit the Mar Vista website's Garden Blog. This is the place to see what the gardens' needs are. Thank you to parent Maggie Caldwell for developing this useful site. Check it out!

Student Council Skate Night Hugely Successful

Thank you to the 100 or so students and parents who came to Skate Night. Your support not only helped to build community and but also raised money for our student government body to purchase their new ball pump and spirit pencils. The pump will mean it will be easier to keep bouncy balls on the blacktop and the pencils will be given away to students who participate in Spirit Days. Thank you to Mr. Ertl for organizing the event.

Welcome Napoleon Amour & Veronica Watson

Welcome to "Foster Grandparent" Napoleon Amour. Napoleon will be working with students in classrooms through the United Way's "Foster Grandparent" program. Welcome to grandparent Veronica Watson. (She is a grandparent of two Mar Vista students) Veronica is helping to watch over students during lunch. We are very glad to have two more seniors supporting our kids! Welcome aboard!

Auto Broken Into at School / Conceal Valuables

On Tuesday an auto was broken into in our front parking lot and items were taken. The car had been left unattended for just a few minutes. The sheriff was contacted. Please remember to conceal your valuables when you park your car in our lots.

Cell Phone Use = Decreased Safety

Please do not use your cell phone and focus on safety during drop off and pick up. Complaints of cell phone use in the Parking Lot have increased significantly. Please turn them off and please use the crosswalk.

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.