



Mar Vista Elementary

PARENT NEWSLETTER

761-6177

www.marvista.pvusd.net



CHRISTOPHER HERTZ, PRINCIPAL
Thursday, April 2, 2009

OFFICE HOURS: 7:30-4:00
VOLUME 44 Number 14

Calendar

Thurs	4/2	Student Council Coin Drive Continues (\$ for playground balls)
Mon	4/6	North Zone Advisory Meeting @ AHS Career Room / 7:00 – 8:30pm
Tues	4/7	Kindergarten Registration Day
Fri	4/10	Spring Break
Mon	4/20	School Resumes
Tues	4/21	Site Council @ library / 4:30 – 5:30 ELAC @ library / 6:00 – 7:00
Wed	4/22	Student Council Spirit Day / "Sports Day"
Thurs	4/23	Pages & PJ's Night / 6:30 – 8:00
Fri	5/1	Walk-a-Thon
Sat	5/2	Skate Night #3 of 3 @ Roller Palladium / 7:30 – 9:00pm
Mon	5/4	STAR Testing Begins (do not schedule doctor/dentist appointments) North Zone Advisory Meeting @ AHS Career Room / 7:00 – 8:30pm
Mon	5/6	MVP'S Meeting @ library / 6:30 – 8:00pm
Thurs	5/7	AJHS 6 th math test / 8:00am AJHS 6 th grade Parent Orientation Meeting @ AJHS / 7 – 9pm
Tues	5/12	STAR Testing Ends Site Council @ library / 4:30 – 5:30 ELAC @ library / 6:00 – 7:00
Sat	5/16	Family Fix It Day #2 of 2 / 9 – 1pm
Sun	5/17	6 th grade Car Wash / 10 – 3pm
Thurs	5/21	Open House (Spaghetti Feed @ 5:30 & classes open at 7:00pm)
Fri	5/23	Last day of AR for 2008-2009
Mon	6/1	Last North Zone Advisory Meeting @ AHS Career Room / 7:00 – 8:30pm
Wed	6/3	6 th grade Promotion Celebration / 5-6pm (Reception 6 – 7:30pm)
Fri	6/5	Last Day of School
Fri	6/12	Office Closes for Summer
June		Board of Education sets Budget Plan
Mon	6/15	Summer School Begins @ Rio Del Mar (ends Fri 7/10)
Tues	8/11	New Family Walking Tour / 2 – 3pm
Wed	8/12	1st Day of School!



Principal's Message

The Auction was a great success! Thanks to everyone who was able to attend, donate items, help with set up, or help with sales. Parent Janee DelColletti deserves special recognition to chairing the event from start to finish. The profits provide financial support to classrooms and school-wide programs next year and cover the last 15% (about \$2,500) needed for a newer play structure for our kids. The Parent Club began collecting donations about a year ago and found a fabulous barely-used play structure for an incredible bargain! Construction is scheduled for June! Congrats MVP'S! Pictures of the play structure will be posted outside the office. I'm glad our students will have an awesome play structure and that is was an unbelievable deal! Wow!

The Board of Education has had to reduce many programs and increase class sizes in some grades to

balance their budget. The effects at Mar Vista aren't yet fully known, but we will have few teachers. North Zone schools' operating budgets will be reduced by roughly 72%. Rather than working with \$80K, we will have \$23K. It is difficult for me to accept these changes, but I will try to lead our school through this adversity to hopefully better times. The Site Council will have to make difficult choices about priorities, but I am confident we are up to the task and that our children are in good hands. Teachers, support staff, and parents can work together to set and achieve goals to help our kids. We will have to become more efficient and work smarter and everyone will need to give in some way. Together we can provide our children the best education and school experience possible. There is nothing more fulfilling.

It is critical that we be completely focused on teaching and learning. Every minute of instruction counts as we

focus seriously on the high-stakes STAR tests, retention decisions, and summer school enrollment. Please use the feedback on report cards, corrected work in Thursday folders, and homework assignments to support your child's specific academic development. However, please don't ever hesitate to contact your child's teacher if you are unclear about curriculum goals. It takes a coordinated effort to help our students achieve their best.

Together for kids,

Wine & Roses Auction- What a night!

The Wine & Roses Auction was a huge success. Thank you to all the parents who volunteered their time and/or items to the auction. Special thanks are owed to Janee DelColetti who chaired the event and put in many hours to make the evening successful. Our school made at least \$15,000.

Coin Drive for Recess Equipment

The student council has created a coin drive to raise money to purchase new recess equipment. Each class has been given a plastic jug and students have been asked to bring in donations. The top classes will get a popcorn party. If we reach our goal of \$500 dollars then select students from each class will get to tape Mr. Hertz to the wall at the Intermediate lunch and Mr. Ertl at the Primary lunch. Student Council VP Evan Weiss will be supervising the fundraiser and possible taping down of the administrators!

Pages and PJs- Family Story Night

Pages and PJs will happen from 6:30-8:00 on Thursday, April 23rd. This is a fun family literacy event. We have invited local authors to come to our school and read stories to our families. Kids are encouraged to wear their PJs and we will have a bake sale in between readings- yum!

Science Fair Success!!

We had a very successful science fair. Thank you to Mrs. Schacher who did a ton of organizing and inspiring! We had three winners and seven alternates who all advanced with their projects to the county science fair: 1st place-Catherine Rancolph, 2nd place-Gabe Groves, 3rd place- Madison Dueck. Alternates: Devin Carr, Emma Wason, Molly de Castongrene, Kathryn Bockman, Madeline, Miller, Joshua Teeple, and Morgan Miller. Gabe Groves went on to take an award at the county fair! Congratulations to all the students who participated and to the families who supported our young scientists!!

08-09 AR 2nd Trimester Student Achievement

98.2% of all 2nd - 6th graders participated in AR during the 2nd trimester. 55% (154/280) 2nd - 6th graders made their individual AR point goal during the 2nd trimester! Currently 47 Mar Vista students are on pace to make the Million Word goal. Twenty-six students have already surpassed it! Well done. We hope to

see at least 80% of our students achieve their reading goal this trimester.

students	1 st Tri	2 nd Tri	3 rd Tri
% quizzing	98.9	98.2	?
% making goal	50.3	55	?
# on track to 1M goal	40	47	?
# made 1M goal	8	26	?

Importance of Reading at "Your Level"

The Accelerated Reader program has been well received with our students and teachers. We have seen many children really blossom. The kids who benefit the most from independent reading are those students who are reading books at their "level". Reading is most effective when we read books that challenge us without frustrating us. Research show us that the ideal reading level is material that we can read with 95% accuracy. If we read books with 100% accuracy (i.e. know all the words) we are not challenged to learn new vocabulary. If we can read less than 95% of the words in a book independently we will lose meaning and become frustrated. This is especially true for our young readers. Please help your child select books that are at "their level". Check out the Home Connect website (the link is on the Mar Vista webpage) for your child's book level goal and reading quiz results.

Parking Lot Theft

Please conceal valuables in your vehicles when left unattended. Earlier this month a car window was smashed and a purse was stolen off the front seat of the car. Last year we had three such events. Local law enforcement has responded with increased patrol presence, but the best prevention is to secure your valuables. Please report any suspicious persons or behaviors to the office.

Mar Vista In the News!

Check out the latest Aptos Times. Mar Vista is featured on the front cover. On March 13th, three representatives from the Aptos Grange came to Mar Vista to give 78 dictionaries to all of our 3rd graders. We thank the Aptos Grange for supporting our academic programs and the Aptos Times for highlighting one of the great programs that we have here at Mar Vista.

Home Stretch / Hang in There – Give It Your Best

There are 42 school days left in the school year (it's amazing how quickly it goes). This is crunch time in the school year. This is the time when students put together the individual skills they have been learning all year. Please make sure that your child is here at school and that they are putting their full effort into their studies. If you have any questions or concerns contact your child's teacher.