

Mar Vista Elementary School

PARENT NEWSLETTER

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

www.marvista.pvUSD.net

CHRISTOPHER HERTZ, PRINCIPAL
April 24, 2008

OFFICE HOURS: 7:30 – 4:00
VOLUME 43 Number 15

April Character Theme: Put Out Put Downs

CALENDAR

Thurs	4/24	Walk-a-Thon Pledge Cards go home with students
Fri	4/25	Lost & Found to Charity
Mon	4/28	STAR Testing Begins (do not schedule doctor/dentist appointments)
Sat	5/3	Family Fix It Day 2 of 2 (9 – 1:00)
Thurs	5/8	Deadline for Students make 1,000,000 word challenge / 25 book challenge
Fri	5/9	Walk-a-Thon Pledge Sheets due back to teachers/office
Mon	5/12	STAR Testing Ends
Tues	5/13	SSC 4:30 - 5:30, ELAC 5:30 – 6:00, MVP'S 6:30 – 8:00
Fri	5/16	Walk-a-Thon! (Benefits MVP'S General Budget and New Play Structure Fund)
Thurs	5/22	Open House (Spaghetti Feed @ 5:30 & classes open at 7:00pm)
Fri	5/23	Walk-a-Thon Pledge \$ Due to office 3 rd Trimester AR Period Closes / Summer Session begins Saturday
Mon	5/26	Memorial Day
Tues	5/27	Talent Show Day & Night
Wed	6/4	6 th grade promotion ceremony & reception / 5:00 – 7:30pm
Fri	6/6	Last day of School / (PM kinder come early) / school lets out at 11:16am
Mon	6/16	Summer School begins at Bradley (July 4 Holiday)
Fri	7/18	Summer School Ends
Tues	8/12	New Family Walking Tour of Mar Vista / 2:00 – 2:50
Wed	8/13	First Day of School

Principal's Message

Remember, State and Federal Testing is about to begin. Please help your child to “show what s/he knows” by being positive about testing, making sure your child has plenty of sleep, providing a filling breakfast, and making sure your child arrives at school on time. Students who arrive after 8:10 will unfortunately not be allowed into class until 9:45 so as not to interrupt the testing environment. Thank you for your crucial support. I don't want any student to opt out, but if a parent wants this, please meet with me and complete a specific waiver form from the State.

Together for student success,
Chris Hertz

Lost and Found Exploding Again

Jackets and sweatshirts are taking over the cafeteria and there is no more room. Please have your child look for their lost articles or come by yourself. Everything will be donated to charity on Friday, April 25.

STAR Testing Dates – Grades 2nd – 6th

The State & Federal STAR testing program will begin April 28 and continue through May 12. These are California and Federal mandated assessments. It is very important that students attend school, on time, so that we can complete the testing within the window allotted. Please do not schedule children's appointments during these weeks. If we do not test at least 95% of our students, then the state and federal government will automatically identify Mar Vista as an under performing school. Let's show everyone how able our kids are by being at school for STAR testing!

Summer Learning: Summer Quest Workbooks

Please look for a flyer in today's Thursday folder promoting this GREAT summer program. It's affordable and well received by kids.

Welcome New MVP'S Board (Treasurer?)

Congratulations & thank you to parents Kim Marks, Joe Kusler, and Joe Del Colletti on their recent election to fill the MVP'S Secretary, VP, and President positions respectively. They have hit the ground running! Please support them in their efforts to raise funds through the coming walk-a-thon (See today's Thursday for your child's pledge card.). They also hope to have a drawing for the two parking spots at Open House. We still need at least two candidates for our treasurer(s) positions. If you're interested, please come to the next MVP'S meeting in May! Thank you to parents Jim Wason & Sarah Cunningham who have been president and secretary the past two years. You have done so much to help our school and you will be missed.

Student Cell Phones – Emergencies Only

Parents have asked when it is OK for a student to use a cell phone. Students in grades 4 – 6 may only use their cell phones for emergencies. Each student must have a signed agreement on file in the office. The agreement has more information and is available in the office for parents.

Two Successful Car Wash Events

Thank you to the Mar Vista community for supporting two recent car wash events. Our 5th graders earned just over \$700 for next year's trip to Outdoor School. Our 6th graders earned just over \$700 for their end-of-the-year celebration activities. The kids worked hard, parents really helped, and we made a lot of money! Thank you!

Family Fix it Day / May 3rd

Don't forget to join parent Kyle Smith and MVP'S for our Family Fix It day in May. There will be a huge BBQ for everyone to enjoy. We will need help with gardening, spreading mulch, & wood-work construction. The hours are 9 – 1pm. No need to RSVP; just show up!

Consider Kennolyn ~ It's like scrip for summer camp!

Kennolyn Day Camp supports Mar Vista school, and many other local schools, through a generous rebate program. In exchange for passing out their brochures, we receive a portion of the camp's fees for every one of our students that attends Kennolyn. So when your child brings a Kennolyn brochure home, that's why. In this time of budget cuts and declining enrollment, every penny counts.

Kennolyn is a traditional family-owned outdoor day camp that has been around for more than 60 years. You'll find the traditional songs, games, horseback riding, swimming instruction, etc. There is even an opportunity to sleep under the stars at "Outpost" if your child so wishes. And they have "Family Night" so you can see your child in action and chat with their counselor over a BBQ dinner. The camp is located on 300 acres of redwoods in Soquel and offers daily bus transportation from all over the county.

A free open house at the camp is planned this spring to give families a chance to visit and learn more about Kennolyn – April 26 & 27 from 10am-3pm. Kennolyn raffles off a week of camp each month so check out the open house and try your luck. The pool will be open during the open house too! Many thanks to Kennolyn Camp for its ongoing support of Mar Vista School!

Last year, Kennolyn gave over \$11,000 in tuition rebates and donated sessions and has given over \$80,000 since 1996. It's time for Mar Vista to get in on this opportunity so please check out Kennolyn Camp. You can reach Kennolyn Camp at 479-6714.

Car Windows Smashed Again During School Hours! Conceal Your Valuables! Beware!

On Friday, April 18 another car's window was smashed in and items taken during school hours. You must protect your belongings. Conceal items or don't put them in your car at all. Two weeks ago it happened at about noon and two months ago it happened at about 1:00pm. About four months ago a bike was stolen. A thief is out there. Be aware. The sheriff knows and is investigating.

International Games Successful

On Friday, April 18th, Mar Vista students competed in the 35th annual International Games at Soquel High School. The day started with opening ceremonies and a parade of athletes representing 7 different county schools. Christian Ruiz placed second in the 200 meter. Chloe Nelson placed second in the 1600. The girls 400 relay took second and the boys team took third.

In the 400 meter run Jade Bowdoin placed second, and the boys 500 meter shuttle team placed second. In the afternoon field events Mar Vista took both second (Keenan Conway) and third (Jack Stobaugh) in the long jump. Ricky Worden claimed a third in the football throw and Christian Ruiz placed second in the soccer kick. Sarah Colonna and Keenan Conway walked way with first in the standing long jump.

The show of support for our team was tremendous. The 6th grade classes gave us a great send off. And a big "Thank you" goes to Mr. Bee and Mr. Pushnik for volunteering their time to help with the pre-game workouts. Thank you to Mr. Ertl for stepping in on the day of the Games to coach and co-ordinate the runners. And of course, a thank you to all the parents who drove our team to Soquel High School and to those who came to cheer us on.

Mar Vista placed second over all in this all county event and a congratulations goes to the entire team for their outstanding efforts. The team included: Marisa Vega, Melinda Faulk, Nicki Gorman, Jade Rogers, Mairén Magee, Keisha Magua, Lisa Ikeda, Chloe Nelson, Sarah Colonna, Jade Bowdoin, Analeece Julien, Nicole Richter, Nancy Hernandez, Grace Harrison, Kacie Kusler, Jack Stobaugh, Keenan Conway, Eric Julien, Christian Ruiz, Carlos Pachecho-Miranda, Patrick Mrozowski, Connan Houser, Joel Rivas, Tyler Ayers-Nusbaum, Ricky Worden, Demi Maack, Ryan Dailey, Jaime Cruz, Malachi Rodriguez, and Wyatt Stoker.

- Coach Lemke

Summer School Invites Go Home

The summer school program is designed to support students who are not meeting grade level standards. The teacher and the principal have met and are recommending 72 students. (Mar Vista is limited to 72 seats this year.) We have about 20 students on the waiting list. Teachers are sending home those letters this week with students. The principal has a master list. Call the principal if you have questions.

Theater Arts Has Its Place!

Thank you to the Site Council! Our new Theater Arts Storage Container is here! Now we have a place to keep costumes and props other than classrooms shelves or the stage itself. You can see the container behind the cafeteria. (Soon it will be pushed closer the building and then we will put it to work.)

\$O\$ Drives Brings Needed Cash to MVP'S

Thank you to the many families that have been able to give support to Mar Vista. So far we have received \$300 for the play structure, \$120 for the library, and \$1,021 for the MVP'S general budget. Thank you again to Stoffel Construction for sponsoring our SOS donation drive. Please send your checks and let the principal know if you wish to direct your contribution to a specific cause.

Superintendent's Accelerated Reader 1,000,000 Word Challenge

This year's deadline is May 8 for students in grades 4 – 6 to make the AR million words challenge goal. Students in grades 1 – 3 will need to have passed 25 quizzes on AR. One month is left!

Next Year's Teacher & Parental Input

Sometimes parents and guardians want to give some input into which classroom their child is placed next year. Parental input is valued and considered, however parents and guardians must understand that our larger goal is to create classrooms that are balanced according to the criteria below. We cannot promise a specific teacher. We want to create the best overall learning situation for the most students possible.

If your child does have a special situation or unusual learning need, then please let us know. Input forms are available through May 9. The teachers and administration take pride in our balanced approach, but we also recognize special considerations. However, **we cannot guarantee that we will be able to meet everyone's requests** because of the many variables to balance. When describing your child's unique educational needs, we ask that you try to avoid including teacher names or room numbers. This is because teacher assignments may change over the summer and even after the year begins. If you do include a teacher name, then we must remind you that **we cannot promise you a specific teacher**. Thank you for acknowledging our requests and for understanding our larger goal of creating balanced classes to meet the greatest needs.

Balanced Classroom Criteria

- Ability balance
- Student behavior balance
- Gender balance
- Even mixing of previous year's classes
- Student language needs / teacher certification
- Ethnic balance

Teachers Need New Refrigerator

One of our two staff refrigerators has stopped working and our teachers need a replacement. Please call our custodian Kirk Durand at 688-5211 if you are able to help our teachers out.

Parent Leadership Vacancies

Our Site Council has one parent vacancy. This is a two-year term to review school goals and student achievement data; set new goals and set budgets. If more than one parent expresses interest, then there will need to be an election. Thank you to parent Karen Medina for being the parents' representative these past two years.

The MVP'S are still looking for two co-treasurers for next school year. This position helps our school greatly by making deposits at Wells Fargo, tracking fundraiser income, and writing checks to pay for things or field trips. If you are good with money and numbers and want to help please come to the next MVP'S meeting in May. Thank you to parents Mary Ann Gabay and Susan McAnerney for helping our school as co-treasures the past two years.

Walk-a-Thon / Fundraiser of the Year

We want to earn \$14,000. The first \$10,000 will benefit the MVP'S general budget and the remaining will support the installation of the new play structure. Look for pledge sheets to go home today!

Security Begins by Wearing an ID

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 7:30 TO 2:30.