



Mar Vista Elementary

PARENT NEWSLETTER

761-6177

www.marvista.pvusd.net



CHRISTOPHER HERTZ, PRINCIPAL
Thursday, April 30, 2009

OFFICE HOURS: 7:30-4:00
VOLUME 44 Number 15

Calendar

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| Sat | 5/2 | Skate Night #3 of 3 @ Roller Palladium / 7:30 – 9:00pm (\$6.50) |
| Mon | 5/4 | STAR Testing Begins (do not schedule doctor/dentist appointments) North Zone Advisory Meeting @ AHS Career Room / 7:00 – 8:30pm |
| Wed | 5/6 | MVP'S Meeting @ library / 6:30 – 8:00pm |
| Thurs | 5/7 | AJHS 6 th grade math placement 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 (benefits end-of-year activities) |
| Thurs | 5/21 | Open House (Spaghetti Feed @ 5:30 & classes open at 7:00pm) |
| Fri | 5/22 | Last day of AR for 3 rd trimester (Help your child reach their goal!) |
| Sat | 5/23 | 1 st day of Summer AR program |
| Mon | 6/1 | Last North Zone Advisory Meeting @ AHS Career Room / 7:00 – 8:30pm |
| Wed | 6/3 | 2:05 dismissal 6 th grade Promotion Celebration / 5-6pm (Reception 6 – 7:30pm) |
| Fri | 6/5 | Last Day of School / (PM kinder come early) / school lets out at 11:00am |
| 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) |
| July | | Check the school website for updates for 09-10 |
| Tues | 8/11 | New Family Walking Tour / 2 – 3pm |
| Wed | 8/12 | 1st 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 8:05 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

Student Council Update / Skate Night

The Student Council had a successful coin drive for playground equipment. They raised \$750! And yes, they taped Mr. Hertz to the wall at lunch as promised! The kids have ordered \$400 in balls, \$200 in jump ropes, and two new soccer nets at about \$40. They'll decide how to spend the remaining \$110 at their next meeting.

The Student Council's last fundraiser is Skate Night this Saturday at the Roller Palladium. Admission is

\$6.50. Proceeds will benefit the purchase of spirit popcorn, pencils, and estimation contest goodies. Many thanks are owed to our student leaders for making Mar Vista a fun place to be a kid!

Swine Flu / We Are Taking Action

A letter from the principal was sent to parents yesterday with details about how Mar Vista is working to prevent the flu at school. Office staff are tracking illnesses and having parents keep ill kids home. (Those parents are staying in close contact with office staff and there are no confirmed cases of Swine Flu in our county.) Teachers have been given direction on symptoms to watch for and office staff are keeping a list of ill kids. If an outbreak were to occur, the County Office of Education would likely have us shut down for a period of time. We are daily reminding kids about good hygiene: wash hands frequently; don't touch your eyes, mouth, or nose; and use tissue when sneezing etc. Please reinforce these good habits at home with your child. (See next article.)

What You Can Do to Stay Healthy?

There are everyday actions people can take to stay healthy.

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread that way.
- Try to avoid close contact with sick people.

Hooray! Mrs. D Returns to MV!

We are glad to inform you that Mrs. D. has returned to teaching! As you may recall, 2nd grade teacher, Mrs. DellaMaggiore had a bad ATV accident in December and has been rehabilitating ever since. It's great that she is back with her students and feeling much better!

STAR Testing / Tell Your Child To Do Well

Here are a few things to keep in mind to give your child the best opportunity to show his/her knowledge.

1. Set an early bedtime and make them stick to it.
They need 10 hours of sleep each night to function well at school. Well rested children can think much better.
2. Go easy on the sugar in their diets. Protein and complex carbohydrates help the mind work better, particularly in children. We will have snacks for them, but a healthy breakfast – oatmeal, eggs, sandwich – gives them the fuel to power their bodies and their minds. Sugar coated cereal only makes them more scattered and tired. (that goes for donuts and muffins too!)
3. Explain that you want them to do their best on the tests but not to stress over them. There will be things on the tests they don't know and that's okay. They need to read everything carefully and make their best choices. Tell them that you know they can do it, and if they put out their best effort, they will do fine.

STAR Testing Dates – Grades 2nd – 6th

The State & Federal STAR testing program will begin May 4 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!

Mar Vista Has a New Phone Number!

Our new phone number is 761-6177. Please make a

note of it. The old number often gives you a busy signal and will be completely disconnected in the near future.

Summer Letter on Web Site / Saving \$

In an effort to conserve paper and scarce resources there will be no paper summer parent newsletter mailed out to parents. We just can't afford the postage. Rather, parents will need to check the school website at the end of July for updates. In this way we can keep resources available for classroom use. \$ will be very limited next school year.

School Site Council Parent Seat Vacancies

There are three vacant two-year seats for parents on our School Site Council. We need parent-candidates to run for office. This is the single most important committee at school in steering school improvement goals. The committee consists of four parents, three teachers and one support staff member. The principal works besides the committee to analyze needs, set direction, and evaluate progress. The Board of Education sets expectations for the committee and establishes criteria for the approval of the School Improvement Plan.

This year's plan was finalized last May by last year's committee and constitutes a large number of the priorities for staff and principal. Throughout the school year the committee reviews progress and discusses next steps. At the end of the year an assessment of progress and an adjustment or confirmation of goals occurs.

We meet once a month on Tuesdays from 4:30 – 5:30pm and obviously some additional reading beyond meeting times will be needed in order to be an informed representative. **Are you interested in running for office?** Look for an official candidate form in our school office or call us and we'll send one home to you via your child's teacher. Candidate forms are available now & are due back to Mr. Hertz by May 13th. Official ballots will go home to all parents May 21st, if there are multiple candidates. Elections close May 26th. Results will be the May 28th Newsletter. Help lead our school to never-ending improvement.

Parent Survey – See Website

The parent survey results and analysis are now posted on our school website. In the eyes of parents we are making progress, however we remain focused on improvement. The Site Council has used the survey to help determine goals for next year. Check it out and stay informed!

Salad Bar Every Thursday / Cafeteria

Remember we serve salad with our hot meal every Thursday, no extra charge! Here is a healthy choice for your child!