



Mar Vista Elementary

PARENT NEWSLETTER

761-6177

www.marvista.pvusd.net



CHRISTOPHER HERTZ, PRINCIPAL
Thursday, May 14, 2009

OFFICE HOURS: 7:30-4:00
VOLUME 44 Number 16

Calendar

Thurs	5/14	Walk-a-Thon (Last MVP'S big fundraiser of the year)
Sat	5/16	Family Fix It Day #2 of 2 / 9-11pm
Sun	5/17	6 th grade Car Wash / 10-3pm (benefits end-of-year activities and scholarships)
Tues	5/19	Talent Show #1
Wed	5/20	Talent Show #2
Thurs	5/21	Open House (Spaghetti Feed (\$8adult/\$6student) @ 5:30 & classes open at 7 to 8)
Fri	5/22	Last day of AR for 3 rd trimester (Help your child reach their goal!) Last day to Check Out Books from Library
Sat	5/23	1 st day of Summer AR program
Mon	5/25	Memorial Day Holiday
Tues	5/26	Walk-a-Thon \$ Due Back to School (to counts toward pizza party contest)
Wed	5/27	All Library Books Due Back (Students who don't return books by the last day of school will not receive their report card.) Board of Education @ Board Room / 7:00
Thurs	5/28	Walk-a-Thon \$ Due Back to School
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)
Thurs	6/4	Last MVP'S Meeting / 5:30 (Budget Setting)
Fri	6/5	Last day of School / (PM kinder come early) / school dismissal / 11:00
Mon	6/8 - 6/12	Office Open / Hours: 8 to 3:30 Play Structure Installed! (Hooray!) Lost & Found to Charity
Tues	6/9	
Fri	6/12	Office Closes for Summer
Wed	6/24	Board of Education @ Board Room / 7:00 (sets Budget Plan)
Mon	6/15	Summer School Begins @ Rio Del Mar (ends Fri 7/10) (7/3 Holiday) (7:30-1:30 daily)
July		Check the school website for updates for 09-10
Mon	8/3	Mar Vista Office Reopens
Fri	8/7	Class Lists posted @ office / 5:00pm
Tues	8/11	New Family Walking Tour / 2-3pm Meet Your Kindergarten Teacher / 3:00 - 4:00
Wed	8/12	1st Day of School! First Day of school for 2008 - 2009 school year / 2:05 dismissal Welcome Parent Coffee / 8:05 - 8:45
Fri	8/14	Welcome Back Family BBQ @ 5:00pm (pot luck & greetings)
Thurs	8/20	Back to School Night / 6:15 - 8:00



Principal's Message

There are three weeks left! The year is going by faster than ever. We are completing many end-of-year assessments, projects, field trips, units of study, and performances. Things are busy but hopefully our students are enjoying the rush of the many fun activities and the sense that summer break is not far off!

State and Federal Testing has concluded. Teachers report that students were positive about testing, seemed well rested and nourished, and arrived at school on time. We had very few students who had to make up exams. On behalf

of the teachers we appreciate your support as we assess our students skills. Results will be released in August and will be used to set academic goals for next school year.

Today your child participated in the walk-a-thon! It looked like a lot of fun. Our hope is for each child to collect \$25 so that we will achieve our goal of \$8,000. Mar Vista School needs the support of our families more than ever. Thank you for your support of the MVP'S walk-a-thon.

You're invited to Open House on Thursday, May 21, where you can visit classrooms and celebrate

student growth and achievement! Please honor that this is not a time to interview a possible “next year’s teacher” or conference about an individual student or individual philosophy. It is a time to celebrate the work and accomplishments of this year’s class. Parking will be a challenge so we will open our lower field. This will help greatly, but please try to carpool! There will be several exciting drawings during the Spaghetti Feed so bring your wallet! Please celebrate with us!

Many parents are asking how budget cuts directly affect next year’s programs. I will try to briefly share the current situation. Our nurse will visit far less often. Office support has been reduced. The counselor and campus supervisor positions have been eliminated. The school supply budget has been cut by 77%. The teacher and aide positions that support English Language Learners have been eliminated. 4th – 6th grade class size will average 33 rather than 26. K-3 grade class size will average 22 rather than 18.5. We have been allotted 14 rather than 17 teachers, effectively lowering our enrollment capacity as a school. Students will not have access to their library. We lose our library technician. She not only checks out books to kids but she also helps them select books at their AR level! She tracks unreturned books and helps kids remember to bring them back. She shelves books accurately so that they can be located again. (About 13,000 books so far this year!). This is real loss for our students. The cuts are crushing, but together we will find a way to keep essential services happening for our students.

How can Mar Vista families help? Study the ballot initiatives in next week’s special election and please give as generously as you can to the Walk-a-thon. Our MVP’S will stay focused on supporting our kids but they need more fundraising dollars. Stay in touch next August to see how you might be able volunteer to help our kids and help teachers with new supply challenges.

Lastly, please do not undervalue the importance of keeping your child practicing reading, writing, and math skills over the summer months. Your child will not only keep skills up, but also feel better about the prospects of the next school year.

Together for student achievement,

PVUSD Statement Regarding Swine Flu

Pajaro Valley Unified School District (PVUSD) Superintendent Dorma Baker issued the following statement regarding the District’s response to concerns about reported cases of the swine flu:

“I want to assure students, staff and families that we have no reported cases of the swine flu in PVUSD. County health officials are maintaining constant contact with PVUSD and our school sites have been provided specific directions, information and guidance to assist them in monitoring this situation”.

AR “Home Connect”

Parents can keep connected to their child’s AR reading through a wonderful new online tool available from AR. It’s called “Home Connect”. You can find the link at the Mar Vista website. It shows students’ overall progress and has a tab called “bookshelf.” From there you and your child can see all the book covers read in FULL COLOR, as if you were looking a book case! It’s just one more motivational tool available to you.

Accelerated Reader Update

Our 08-09 AR Period is closing on Friday, May 22 @ 9:00pm. However, AR Summer 2008 begins Saturday, May 23! Your child’s 3rd trimester goal is now their summer goal unless your child’s teacher sets a different goal. When students log on during the summer they will view their summer goal and see their progress. Remember, your child should be reading within their “zone” or “AR reading level”. Our students know their level but parents should be monitoring selection choices. When school starts back up in August we will find a way to recognize students who meet their personal goal.

This was an exciting year of AR reading achievement and while we are still just days away from the close of our AR school year, here are some year-end highlights:

- Words Read & Comprehended: 161,831,036 (record!)
- Books Read & Passed: 12,988 (record!)
- Students who read 1 million words: 40 (record!)

“Math in a Flash”

Please have your child practice math speed online. You may have to check your system’s software, but if you play around you’ll be prompted to download software and your child

should be able to practice their speed at home. It all begins at the AR home page.

Aptos Baskin Robins Supports Reading

Thank you to Aptos Baskin Robbins and owner Mr. Keang Lee for his generous support of the AR Reading Program. Each year Mr. Lee donates hundreds of certificates valued at hundreds of dollars in support of student AR reading achievement. Students earn certificates at the end of each trimester when they make it to a point club. Please let me Mr. Lee know that you appreciate his support of our school's reading program by patronizing his store located at 100 Rancho Del Mar or by giving him a call at 688-3166.

Summer School Update

Applications were mailed home last week to families with students needing summer school. Each of these students regardless if they attend summer school will take a pre- and post- reading assessment. Summer classes will support student growth through computer programs such as "Lexia" and "Success Maker" (the same programs introduced to our students over the last few months in our new computer lab). Parents are strongly urged to enroll their student to continue the work started this year. This is the support your child needs over the long summer.

County Math Contest / Mar Vista Scores Silver! / Congratulations!

Team

- 2nd Place Winners 5th/6th grade (out of 100 teams): Teagan Knight, Evan Weiss, Catie Randolph, Molly deCastongrene, & Prayasha Chandhary

Individual

- Honorable Mention for 5th grade (out 360 students): Madison Dueck

Parent Leaders Step Up / Congratulations

Parents Jeanne Tabatabai, Sean Spencer, and Laurel Nakanishi have agreed to fill the three two-year vacancies on the Site Council. Since no other parents expressed interest before the last Site Council Meeting there is no need to conduct an election. The Site Council helps to keep us focused on student priorities. Thank you and congratulations to Jeanne, Sean, and Laurel.

Walk-a-Thon Reminder and Thank You

Pledge sheets were returned to students today. Students should now use their pledge sheet to help them collect pledges. Please return pledged \$ asp! Volunteers have tallied up all the laps and calculated expected pledge money. This is incredibly needed money. Thank you to the dozens of parents and community members who donated their time, energy, and financial support. Special thanks are owed to parents Joe Kusler and Joe Del Colletti, for heading this fantastic fundraiser. The students put out a great effort today. Mr. Hertz enjoyed spraying water on the students. Please send in pledged money ASAP! This fundraiser supports next year's valuable programs!

Girls on the Run / Shoe Drive

The girls in "Girls on the Run" are collecting shoes for the less fortunate. The "Soles for Souls" drive is from 5/13 to 5/22. Visit www.giveshoes.org for more information. The collection bin will outside of room 6. Thanks for your support.

Library Books due May 27

All library books are due back on 5/27. If your child cannot find the book, then please pay for the book. Library Technician, Mrs. Ullman will send you an invoice. If the bill is not paid, then we will not be able to issue more library books to your child from any PVUSD school and we will be forced to hold on to the report card. Thank you for helping your child return valuable library books.

Warm Weather / Dress Code

With the warmer weather we have seen an increase in dress code violations. Please, no spaghetti straps, short-shorts, or flip-flops. Please review the Thursday folder for our complete code. Thanks for supporting our academic climate.

