

# Mar Vista Elementary School

## PARENT NEWSLETTER

www.marvista.pvUSD.net

CHRISTOPHER HERTZ, PRINCIPAL  
May 22, 2008

E HOURS: 7:30 – 4:00  
VOLUME 43 Number 17

**May Character Theme:** Positive Attitude/Setting & Achieving Goals

### CALENDAR

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 <sup>rd</sup> Trimester AR Period Closes / Summer Session begins Saturday
Mon	5/26	<b>Memorial Day Holiday</b>
Tues	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.) Talent Show Day & Night / 8:15, 12:40, & 6:00pm
Wed	5/28	MVP'S Final Meeting / 6:00pm
Thurs	5/29	Talent Shows / 8:15 \$ 12:40
Fri	5/30	End 3 <sup>rd</sup> Trimester
Wed	6/4	<b>dismissal / 2:05</b> Honor Roll Assembly for 4 – 6 / 10:15 – 11:00 6 <sup>th</sup> grade promotion ceremony & reception / 5:00 – 7:30pm
Fri	6/6	Last day of School / (PM kinder come early) / <b>school dismissal / 11:00</b>
Mon	6/16	Summer School begins at Bradley (July 4 Holiday)
Fri	7/4	4 <sup>th</sup> of July Parade (meet at the Aptos Public Library) / 9:00
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

There are two 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!

Thank you for your support of the MVP'S walk-a-thon. We have over \$8,000 in pledges and \$2,000 in business & organizational support. It is very possible that we will make our goal of \$10,000, our "biggest fundraiser of the year"!

You're invited to Open House on Thursday, May 22, where you can visit classrooms and enjoy outstanding results of excellent teaching! 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!

Many parents are asking how budget cuts directly affected next year's programs. I will try to answer this briefly here. Our school nurse will visit far less often. She helps audit health records, administers annual screenings, and helps with our 5<sup>th</sup> grade health program. Our 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grade students will no longer

have a PE specialist teacher. The classroom teachers will need to prepare and lead PE lessons. Classroom teachers also lose preparation time to ready materials for other subject lessons. We have been allotted 17 rather than 18 teachers, effectively lowering our enrollment capacity as a school and increasing class size slightly. Finally, if that isn't enough, all of our 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!). What a loss for our students and their futures. It's crushing but together we will find a way to keep all of these services happening for our students. How can Mar Vista families help? Please give as generously of yourself as you can. 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 keep books flowing to our kids and help teachers with new PE 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 feel better about the prospects of the next school year.

### **Send Checks with Memo Info**

When sending checks to the school make sure to put these details on your memo: child's name, child's teacher, & what the \$ is for. We get many checks that we must spend time researching because there is insufficient info on the memo.

### **Walk-a-Thon Reminder and Thank You**

Pledge sheets were returned to students yesterday. Students should now use their pledge sheet to help them collect pledges. Please return pledged \$ asap! Volunteers have tallied up all the laps and calculated expected pledge money and we should just make our goal of \$10,000! 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 to John Murray, Joe Kusler, Joe Del Colletti, Jim Wason, and Stephanie Hocom for heading this fantastic fundraiser. In all, the students walked about 1,000 miles! Mr. Hertz enjoyed spraying water on the students. The kids got even at the end of the day! Please send in pledged money asap! This fundraiser supports next year's valuable programs!

### **Laser Cartridge & Cell Phone Recycling**

Thank you for supporting the MVP'S by dropping off your used cartridges and cell phones. Speak with your employer and let them know you want to bring their items to Mar Vista. Please drop items off at the office! The program is going well. So far we have brought in \$223.00 with about another \$100.00 in payments pending. This week another large shipment was processed. At the beginning of the school year, the goal was to bring in \$500.00 so we might just do that. Thank you to everyone that has participated.

### **Student Council Recycling & Update**

Bring your cans and plastic bottles to school and place them in our green recycling bins. Your not just recycling, but helping our student government to raise funds for items they value. The student council is still hoping an adult will drive the cans and bottles to the recycling center. Recently the student council voted to spend their remaining funds on library books and jump ropes! They also decided that the last week of school is "Spirit Week". Look for flyers next week about crazy clothes to wear to school each day the last week of school. Sport day! Hat day! More!

### **Parent Leaders Step Up / Congratulations**

Joining Kim Marks (secretary), Joe Del Colletti (president), Joe Kusler (VP), is Julie Stoffel as our new MVP'S treasurer! Julie was voted in at the last MVP'S meeting. The new MVP'S board is looking forward to an exciting year of working together to support our school. Andrea Miller has agreed to fill the two-year vacancy on the Site Council. Since no other parent expressed interest before the last Site Council Meeting there is no need to conduct an election. The Site Council is glad to have Andrea's experience and leadership as they help to keep us focused on student priorities. Thank you and congratulations to Julie and Andrea.

### **Superintendent's 1,000,000 Challenge / May 9<sup>th</sup>**

The superintendent's office set May 9 as the deadline for students to reach the 1,000,000 word challenge (25 books / k-3). At Mar Vista we use AR to track progress (except @ K). We are proud to share:

- 33 intermediate students read 1,000,000 words on Accelerated Reader
- 119 primary students read/passed 25 books on Accelerated Reader
- 52 kindergarten students read 25 books

### **Summer School Update**

The Mar Vista teachers have selected 84 students who really need summer school. 28 students' parents have accepted this valuable offer. This means the 13 students on our official wait list can now go since the deadline to sign up has passed. If your child is on the wait list, you are now encouraged to contact the Extended Learning Department at 768-2390. If you think your child should have been invited to attend summer school, please contact the principal today. Perhaps it's not too late.

### **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.

### **County Math Contest / Mar Vista Scores Gold!**

### **Individual**

- 1st Place Winner for 5<sup>th</sup> grade: Teagan Knight
- Honorable Mention for 6<sup>th</sup> grade: Buzz Tilford

### **Team**

- 1st Place Winners 5<sup>th</sup> grade: Teagan Knight, Lisa Ikeda, Melinda Faulk, and Kyle Cunningham
- 3rd Place Winners: Buzz Tilford, Joe Sherman, and Andrew Kahn

### **AR Home Connection**

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 [www.pvusd.net](http://www.pvusd.net), under the AR section on the Student tab. 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.

### **"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.

### **Accelerated Reader Update**

Our 07-08 AR Period is closing on Friday, May 23 @ 9:00pm. Yes, AR 07-08 is closing tomorrow. However, AR Summer 2008 begins Saturday, May 24! Your child's 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 highlights:

### ***Students Earning Point Clubs***

Club	# of students
500	3
250	12
100	50
50	73
25	88
Total	226

### ***Words Read & Comprehended***

Primary (1-3)	33,697,773
Intermediate (4-6)	105,682,568
Total	139,380,341

### **Note from Coach / Farewell**

Dear Mar Vista Family,

It was with a heavy heart that I finalized my retirement paper work this last week. Working at Mar Vista for the past three years has been a wonderful experience and this was a very difficult decision to make. With my job cut and my future with the district uncertain I decided to end on a "career high". I plan to continue teaching in some capacity (subbing/ limited contract) so this is not really a "retirement" or a "good-bye". But this certainly is the time to thank all of you for making me feel like such a part of the Mar Vista family and for making these last three years so professionally rewarding and personally gratifying. You are the best!!!

Coach Lemke

### **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.