

Mar Vista Elementary

PARENT NEWSLETTER

www.marvista.pvUSD.net

CHRISTOPHER HERTZ, PRINCIPAL
June 6 2008

OFFICE HOURS: 7:30 – 4:00
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CALENDAR

Fri	6/6	Last day of School / (PM kinder come early) / school dismissal / 11:00
Mon	6/09	Office closes / 3:00 all week
Fri	6/13	Office Closes for Summer
Mon	6/16	Summer School begins at Bradley (July 4 Holiday)
Fri	7/4	4 th of July Parade (meet at the Aptos Public Library) / 9:00
Fri	7/18	Summer School Ends MV Summer Newsletter Mailed via US Post to MV Families
Wed	8/6	Mar Vista Office Reopens
Fri	8/8	Class Lists posted @ office / 5:00pm
Tues	8/12	New Family Tour / 2:00 – 3:00 Meet the Kinder Teacher / 3:00 – 4:00
Wed	8/13	First Day of school for 2008 – 2009 school year / 2:05 dismissal Welcome Parent Coffee / 8:05 – 8:45
Thurs	8/21	Back to School Night / 6:15 – 8:00

Principal's Message

Our year has rushed to a close. This week was packed with important events that celebrate our students' achievement of goals. Notably we honored students who had perfect attendance for the last trimester and for the entire school year. We recognized students who made their individualized trimester AR point goals and made it to a new "Point Club" level. We recognized students in grades 4 – 6 who made Honor Roll and we recognized student citizenship, improvement, and achievement of goals for students with special learning needs.

This has been an exciting year of achievement in other areas too. Our life lab program sprung back to life and we were able to harvest loads of vegetables. Our theater arts materials are organized in our new walk-in storage container. Through our bully-prevention program teachers were able to create an all new consequence guideline to deal with issues of teasing and physical aggression and encourage bystanders to speak up. Our State API score hit an all time high and we predict that it will be even higher next year. Many students placed in the County Science fair. One student received first place. Several students placed in the county math competition with one team earning first place and one individual first place too! Our students read over 140,000,000 words at their level, more than double last year's total! At our two Family Fix It

Days we spread over 60 cubic yards of wood chip to suppress weeds and beautify the hillside and life lab gardens. We added 40 used (but newer) computers throughout the school and plans for our brand new computer lab were approved. Construction begins in July!

Our MVPS club raised over \$22,000 and big thanks are owed to Officers Jim Wason, Sarah Cunningham, Mary Ann Gabay, and Susan McAnerney for the many hours they put forth to help our school. These parents have been so incredibly supportive the last two years and it just isn't possible to thank them enough. Our Parent Club is fantastic! The new board is off to a great start with the recent walk-a-thon and plans for a school-wide family directory next year!

Our Student Council held many spirit days, a Skate Night, and a movie night. They bought hundreds of dollars worth of balls for the playground and new ball pump. They launched a recycling program too. The Council's achievements have made our school more spirited and supportive for students. It's been an outstanding year for the Student Council.

At the urging of our teachers a major goal for this year and last was to improve student attendance and behavior. I am proud to have seen Mar Vista students be recognized for having the best attendance in the Aptos area for the months

of March, April, and May. The teachers and I are grateful for the continuing assistance of our assistant principal, Mr. Ertl and our campus safety supervisor, Andrea Miller, next year. They do so much to help create a positive and orderly climate for our students.

We have many goals in place for next year (including keeping our library open for our kids) and we are already working on them; however, it is important to acknowledge our achievements as the year closes. Our Mar Vista community has so much to be proud of as we look back and reflect on the tremendous effort our amazing teachers and parents have put forth to support our wonderful students.

Have a safe summer filled with family fun. Remember to help your children keep their academic skills fresh with daily practice. Below are some new ideas to help you. Remember, practice is key!

Together for student achievement,

Chris Hertz

Summer Session AR @ Home Program Begins

This is the best summer reading program possible because it is leveled to your child's independent reading ability and your child's teacher individualizes the point goal. You can quiz from any location online! Kids who practice academic skills over the summer retain and even grow, whereas kids who don't regress or lose academic skills. Don't let your child slip! Log on now!

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, 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 at a real book case! It's just one more motivational tool available to parents.

"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 math facts speed at home. (Reference the website.)

Good Bye Staff

Mrs. Fernald (6th grade teacher), Mrs. Culver (4th grade teacher), Mrs. Johnson, (reading and math support teacher), & Mrs. Lemke, (PE teacher) are off to new adventures and will be leaving Mar Vista. We offer heartfelt thanks to them for their years of service and innumerable contributions to our students. Best wishes for the future. You will be missed. (We are still hopeful that Mrs. Ullman, our library technician will be with us next year!)

Open House Fundraisers Successful

Thank you to everyone who came to the spaghetti feed; our 5th graders earned \$2,300 to off-set outdoor school costs for next year. The MVP'S earned \$2,300 for the general fund through the parking spot drawing and auction!

Student Council Recycling Program

The Student Council began a school wide recycling program this year. The students recognized a problem, developed a plan, and acted on it. What a great lesson in social action! I am proud to report that our first recycling run earned the school \$60 and saved a mountain of plastic from going to the landfill. We will continue this work next year and we are looking for a parent who can help our school with sorting and hauling recyclables once a trimester. Please let Mr. Ertl know if you are interested in this valuable work.