



Mar Vista Elementary

PARENT NEWSLETTER

761-6177

www.marvista.pvUSD.net



CHRISTOPHER HERTZ, PRINCIPAL
Friday, August 21, 2009

OFFICE HOURS: 7:30-4:00
VOLUME 45 Number 2

Calendar

Wed	8/26	Room Rep Annual Orientation & Exchange @ MUR / 8:15 – 9:15
Tues	9/1	Back to School Night / 6:10 – 8:00 Primary (K-3) 6:10 – 6:50 MVP'S Fair / Principal's Message 6:50 - 7:20 Intermediate (4 th – 6 th) / 7:20 – 8:00
Mon	9/7	Labor Day Holiday
Tues	9/8	Picture Day
Mon	10/12 – Fri 10/16	Parent Conference Week / 12:15 dismissal
Fri	11/6	End 1 st trimester / End 1 st AR Period
Tues	11/17 – Fri 11/20	Sixth Grade Outdoor School (Bussing Provided) / \$192 per student
Mon	11/23 – Fri 11/27	Thanksgiving Vacation

Principal's Message

Student enrollment is growing and we have some grade levels where we have more students than capacity. Other grade levels have many openings particularly kindergarten. As a result an additional 6th grade teacher has been added and we are reorganizing our upper grade classrooms on Monday. Our response in grades K-3 is still unclear. Our teachers and I have made several recommendations to the Superintendent's Cabinet. One suggestion is to just leave classes as they are (an average 24 students in rooms). The decision to leave rooms as they are would mean avoiding combination classes of up to 32 students but it would mean that classrooms in grades 1 & 2 would not be lowered to 20 students as is required. At 20 students we qualify for special State funding. In these times it is difficult to forgo critical funding sources. In summary we are still not sure how we will ultimately constitute our lower grade classrooms. This is why Back-to-School Night was regrettably delayed. Please stay in touch with me if you have questions or comments. I hope to have this all settled within a week.

The student's State Test scores have arrived and it appears that they have set a new record level of achievement. It appears that we have a new API of 854 – a significant jump! The official # is released by the State on the 24th. I am proud of students and wish to congratulate the teachers too.

We also lead our district schools in energy conservation, cutting 25% and 30% of our energy consumption the past two years respectively. The savings last year exceeded \$10,000.

Please attend BTSN on Tues., 9/1. Last year we set a record with 88% of parents/guardians present. There is a direct relationship between strong parental-school relations and student achievement. Make it a strong year for your child by really knowing the teacher's program.

Together for achievement,

Chris Hertz

State Test Results in Mail

Soon parents/guardians of 3rd-6th graders will receive their child's STAR Student Report via the US Post that provides your student's 2009 test results for the California Standards Tests (CSTs). These tests are an important part of the California Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) Program. The purpose of the CSTs is to determine how well students are achieving California's content standards.

Students answered the multiple-choice questions on the CSTs by selecting one of four options as the correct answer. For the CST in English-language arts, students in grades four and seven also were required to write a response to a writing task. Scores on the multiple-choice questions and the writing task were combined to determine the overall score for the CST in English-language

arts. **Please bring the report to you Parent-Teacher Conference in mid-October.**

Kindergarten Hours

All kindergarten students attend school from 7:50 – 12:15 on Tuesdays. This is also true during Parent Conference Week.



After-School Programs

ACE and Kinder Enrichment are after-school programs run by the County of Santa Cruz Parks Department. They are conveniently located on the Mar Vista campus and operate from school release until 6:00 p.m. daily. The programs offer a wide variety of activities such as games, sports, arts & crafts, cooking, special events and exciting field trips led by enthusiastic, experienced recreation leaders. There is also a daily homework time during which children are assisted by staff.

Registration is done on a monthly basis. Monthly fees vary, depending on the number of school days in the month. A variety of ACE registration options are available: 100%, 60% (average of 3 days a week), 40% (average of 2 days a week), and a 15-day punch card to use whenever needed throughout the school year. Kinder Enrichment also offers a variety of registration options.

Permanent Recreation Specialists (site leads) staff the ACE program; they are trained and experienced recreation professionals, dedicated to making a difference in children's lives. The site leads, as well as the recreation leaders who assist them, all have in common a desire to provide excellent recreation programming for your child.

For more information about ACE call 454-7924, and for Kinder Enrichment call 454-7922. To register, please call 454-7941 or log onto www.scparks.com.

After-School Enrichment Classes

The County of Santa Cruz also organizes and offers a wide variety of enrichment classes.

Please check homework folders or visit www.scparks.com to find out what classes will be offered in the fall. You can also access the page via the Mar Vista School website.

First Day Packet Contents to Return

Parents, please review, sign, and return as appropriate the following 9 items from the first-day packets:

1. Superintendent's Annual Notice to Parents (two pages to return) (parent retains booklet)
2. Emergency Card
3. Permission to Take Books Home Agreement
4. Insurance Sign Up Form
5. Emergency Authorization Notice
6. MVP'S Volunteer Sign Up Form
7. MVP'S Directory Form
8. Parent Handbook

Back - to - School Night: Tues., Sept. 1

- Primary 6:10 – 6:50
- MVP'S Fair / Principal's Message 6:50 - 7:20
- Intermediate / 7:20 – 8:00

At 6:10pm the primary (K-3) teachers will begin their presentations in their classrooms. At 6:50pm, join our Mar Vista Parent and School Club in the cafeteria for coffee & treats and visit volunteer booths to mingle with parents behind the scenes here at Mar Vista and learn how to get involved! You'll be able to purchase spirit wear, yearbooks, Subaru Drawing tickets, Monte Fireworks Tickets, and more! At 7:20pm the intermediate (4-6th) teachers will start their presentations.

Please, Back-to-School nights are for parents to learn how to best maximize the school year for their child. Children should not attend if at all possible. If your child does attend, have him sit with you in the classroom and not unattended on the playground. This will allow every parent to listen carefully, take notes, and ask reflective questions. You may want to consider childcare arrangements with parents from other schools and reciprocate with them when they attend their child's Back-to-School Night. This investment of your time will pay-off in your enhanced understanding of your child's teacher's programs.