

Mar Vista Elementary School

PARENT NEWSLETTER

6860 Soquel Drive, Aptos, CA 95003 (831) 688-5211

www.marvista.pvUSD.net Radio Mar Vista: 1630 AM (in the parking lot only)

CHRISTOPHER HERTZ, PRINCIPAL
August 23 2007

OFFICE HOURS: 7:30 – 4:00
VOLUME 43 Number 3

CALENDAR

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|-------|-------------------|--|
| Thurs | 8/23 | MVP'S Volunteer and Fundraising Fair / 6:15 – 7:00 Back to School Night / 7:00 – 7:30 & 7:30 – 8:00 |
| Mon | 8/27 – 8/31 | AR STAR Week (students test to determine their AR independent reading level) |
| Mon | 8/27 | After-school Theater Auditions / 2:15 – 4:15 |
| Tues | 8/28 | Tennis Assemblies / Outside: (8-8:30 1st grade) (8:30 – 9 2nd & 3rd grade) - (9 - 9:30 4th & 5th) (10:10 – 10:40 6th grade) After-school Theater Auditions / 2:15 – 4:15 |
| Wed | 8/29 | After-school Theater Call Back / 12:05 – 1:05 |
| Fri | 8/31 | Blue Slip Assemblies / 10:15 & 1:30 After-school theater cast list posted / 2:15 |
| Mon | 9/3 | Labor Day Holiday |
| Tues | 9/4 | Homework Club begins every Tuesday & Thursday / 2:05 – 4:05 |
| Wed | 9/5 | After-school Theater Rehearsals begin (most Mondays and Wednesdays) / 12:05 – 3:05 |
| Fri | 9/7 | Earthquake Drill / 9:10 – 9:25 Character Assemblies: Friendship/Youth Debut of Anti-Bully Program Primary 9:45 – 10:45 & Intermediate 1:00 – 2:00 |
| Mon | 9/10 | After-school Art Class begins @ kinder room / 2:05 – 3:35 Science Club begins @ room 16 (usually library) / 2:05 – 4:10 |
| Thurs | 9/11 | Picture Day Comfort Bags due School Site Council Meeting / 4:30 – 5:30pm ELAC Meeting / 5:30 – 6:00pm MVP'S Meeting / 6:00 – 7:30pm |
| Sat | 10/13 | Monte Fireworks (buy your tickets from Mar Vista now!) / 1:00 – 10:00 |
| Mon | 10/15 – Fri 10/19 | Parent Conference Week / 12:05 dismissal |
| Sat | 10/20 | Family Fix It Day #1 of 2 / 9:00am – 1:00pm |
| Tues | 10/23 | Sixth Grade Outdoor School Begins (Bussing Provided) |
| Fri | 10/26 | Sixth Grade Outdoor School Ends (Bussing Provided) |
| Sat | 10/27 | Fall Harvest Festival |

Principal's Message

We are off to an outstanding start! Our students deserve real recognition for their ability to get back into school routines and getting along with each other. They look like they are having a lot of fun becoming reacquainted with friends and making new ones. Teachers seem really excited about the social chemistry in their classes. Our estimated Academic Performance Rank based on standardized State testing is at an all time high of 795! This is great news. Numerous after-school programs are being made available to students and very needed fundraisers are kicking off. It all seems so good. Thank you to our outstanding and caring teachers and support staff for making Mar Vista so special for our kids.

On a very down note, I am sad to report to you that Foster Grandma Charlotte Firkus passed

away this summer. Teachers have shared this sad news in class meetings and offered students the opportunity to contribute to a memory book in honor of Grandma Charlotte. The book will be placed in the library with other books about grandparents. Counseling is available for students who may need it.

Grandma Charlotte was an important part of our school community. She made a big difference for us on many levels and we miss her. Please stop into the library in the coming month and read the beautiful books dedicated in her memory.

Together for kids,

Welcome new staff at Mar Vista!

Joining our team for 07-08 is Shelly Keasey in our 5th/6th combination class. She has been a teacher for 6

years in three states. She has worked with all ages and grades in special education. Shelly joins us from Hall School and I know she is glad to be with us. Our new AP is Jeremy Ertl. He recently taught a 4/5 combo at Radcliff Elementary. He joins us with ten years experience as a teacher and two summers as head teacher. Welcome to the best school ever!

Anti-Bully Program In Place

Mar Vista teachers have kicked off a big program to bring awareness about bullying issues to make our school an even safer place grow. Special anti-bully rules are posted all over school and class meetings will occur every month to explore all kinds of ways to minimize the culture of bullying. One very big way to minimize bullying is to teach children to not inadvertently encourage bullying but rather to speak out against it. Another way is to teach students to reach out to students who are easily left out. Please look for regular articles to acquaint you with our efforts. We need parental support to make our school bully-free.

Keep Your Child Safe on the Way To and From School

Regardless of whether your child walks or bikes all the way to school or just to the bus stop, you want him/her to stay safe. You can help your child stay safe by doing the following:

- Plan ahead. Whether your child walks to the bus stop or to school, figure out the safest route. Choose a way that has the fewest street crossings. If you can, avoid vacant lots or places where there aren't many people. Walk the route with your child.
- There's safety in numbers. If possible, arrange for your child to walk with a friend, neighbor or family member.
- Play "What if" with your child. What if he/she gets a bloody nose? What if a large dog is in the path? Talking about these unexpected things will make handling them easier for your child.
- Teach your child never to ride with strangers. Remember, a stranger is anyone your child doesn't know well. Many families have a "secret code." If you had to send a friend to pick up your child, you would tell the person this secret word. It is a signal to your child that this person is safe to ride with.

Report Safety Concerns to the Principal

Parents, if you see a safety concern, please send me a note or call me at 688-5211. Your observations and ideas have been extremely valuable over the past years. I look forward to working with you to make our school ever safer. Also, please tell your child to contact me or a staff member if they think there is a dangerous incident. This includes aggression on campus, stranger danger, or if someone talks about harassment or suicide. Your child's safety is of utmost importance to each of us.

Late Pick up Your Child's Safety/Our Peace of Mind

Everyday many students are not picked up within 20 minutes of dismissal. When this happens students must sit by the office where there is an adult not too far off. We account for kids by having them write their names down. Parents/drivers are to come down to the office and sign their student out. Why? Because sometimes another parent/driver arrives later asking about the child's whereabouts. If we don't know and they can't reach the driver, panic sets in. Yes, this happens frequently and it's always very difficult for the worried parent and sometimes absorbs huge amounts of time not just for school personnel but also the sheriff's department. Please cooperate with us and take a moment to let us know exactly with whom the student has left. Thanks for your consideration.

Lunch Supervision Needed / Help!

Mar Vista students are frequently under supervised at lunch because too few Mar Vista parents are willing to serve as yard supervisors. This is an undesirable situation but a repairable one with just a few dependable parents willing to work beside the principals and campus supervisor. Please give Mr. Hertz a call to arrange an interview to see if you are the right person for our kids. This position may be volunteer (see Volunteer Handbook guidelines) or a paying position at \$7 an hour. SOS, please call!

Sept. 17 is Constitution Day and Citizen Day

Sept. 17 is Constitution Day and Citizen Day. Talk with your child about the importance of our Constitution as the basis of a free society. Our nation is based on law and order, not on the arbitrary whims of a dictator or tyrant. We live in a great place. Help your child appreciate what we have. Visit the follow web site for cool ideas:

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/hs/im/constdayresources.asp>

Patriotic Observances

Appropriate patriotic exercises are conducted daily at the beginning of the school day in all classrooms as required by law. Also public schools are to provide exercises and instruction for many special days and events. September 3rd is Labor Day. Everyone should take time for age-suitable discussions about the purpose, meaning, and importance of Labor Day.

School Textbooks

Each year students are issued textbooks in each area of study. Please stress with your child the importance of taking pride in, and taking care of these textbooks. Students should not write in or in any way damage their textbooks. **Students also must cover them.** Students and their parents are responsible for any books lost or damaged. Your support and assistance in stressing this matter with your child is greatly appreciated.