



Mar Vista Elementary

PARENT NEWSLETTER

761-6177

www.marvista.pvusd.net



CHRISTOPHER HERTZ, PRINCIPAL
Thursday, September 10, 2009

OFFICE HOURS: 7:30-4:00
VOLUME 45 Number 3

Calendar

Sat	9/12	Family Fix it Day 1 of 2 / 8-2
Tues	9/22	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
Sat	10/3	Monte Fireworks Show @ Sea Cliff Beach / 10 - 9
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

Farewell Mr. Ertl. Mr. Ertl will be leaving Mar Vista to take of personal matters in Southern California and he will be missed. Mr. Ertl is beloved by the students and staff and he leaves big shoes to fill. I am now screening applications and look forward to introducing a new AP to you in my next newsletter.

Class changes are coming for some students in grades 1 and 2. Parents of students moving rooms will receive a letter from me today. On 9/16 we will be welcoming a new 1st/2nd grade combination teacher from Freedom Elementary. (Freedom had a surplus of teachers whereas MV has had a shortage. Making this determination took much time and effort at both schools.) I am most grateful to our Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent for working with the teachers and me to address overcrowding in our 1st and 2nd grade programs. Without the financial support of our District Leaders we would have had to gone through a much more disruptive process impacting many more students. I am so glad to have this resolved.

BTSN is now firmly set for 9/22. Thank you to parents and teachers for your patience and understanding. Please stay in touch with me if you have questions or comments.

Farewell Mar Vista

Dear Mar Vista Families,

As Mr. Hertz mentioned, tomorrow, Friday, September 11th will be my last day as Assistant Principal at Mar Vista. I will be temporarily relocating to Southern California to take care of some important family obligations. My time spent with you, the staff, and mostly the children means a lot to me. I will miss this school dearly and I appreciate all the support that I have received from this remarkable community. Thank you and best wishes!

Mr. Ertl

Back - to - School Night: Tues., Sept. 22

- 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, Toyota Prius 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.

Subscribe: You sign up for an automatic draw of \$20 per month from your checking account or a credit card. Just log on and your giving is done for the year!

Student Tardiness Defined

For the sake of consistency and clarity the staff at Mar Vista will use the following definition to determine if a student is tardy: A student is tardy and will be recorded as such when the student is not in class after the instruction bell has rung (7:50) and the rest of the class is inside with the door shut. Students need to line up for class promptly at their classroom-meeting place after the warning bell rings (7:48) and the whistle is blown. Students who are tardy need to go directly to the office and complete a "Tardy Slip" and bring a carbon copy to their teacher in order to be admitted to class. This has been our policy for the past four years. Thank you for making punctuality a priority. School is a cooperative endeavor and teachers need all students to be ready to go at 7:50.

Late Lunch Procedures

Parents are asked to drop labeled late lunches of at the office rather than interrupting classrooms. Office staff will place all late lunches on the cafeteria manger's desk so that students may always know where to go when they don't have a lunch. Students may always borrow a lunch from the manager too and parents will be billed later.

Cold Versus Flu (from CDC) What is the difference between a cold and the flu?

The flu and the common cold are both respiratory illnesses but they are caused by different viruses. (The swine flu is one kind of flu.) Because these two types of illnesses have similar flu-like symptoms, it can be difficult to tell the difference between them based on symptoms alone. In general, the flu is worse than the common cold, and symptoms such as fever, body aches, extreme tiredness, and dry cough are more common and intense. Colds are usually milder than the flu.

BTSN Attendance % @ MV				
05-06	06-07	07-08	08-09	09-10
?	65%	74%	83.9%	?

Back-to-School Night Up 9.9% / New Goal 90%

83.9% of students' parents / guardians were able to attend Back-to-School Night last year. That's up 9.9% over the 07-08 school year! Students of parents who attend BTSN do better in school and are far more likely to get their homework done. Your child's success depends on your involvement. Let's set a new record for parental involvement this year!

Monte Fireworks Tickets on Sale

Support Mar Vista by buying your Monte Fireworks Show tickets at the Mar Vista office. \$10 of your \$15 purchase price comes right back to the Parent Club (MVP'S). You'll get 10% off on popular items at the local skate shop and deals at Baskin Robbins Ice Cream all year too! Our school depends on this fundraiser each year. Please support your school and have fun too! Call Barbara Di Puma in the office and she can send the tickets home with your child. Thanks!

Would You Like to Donate to Mar Vista Rather Than Doing All Those Fundraisers?

You can with "Pay Pal" on our website.

Donate: You can give any dollar amount from a checking account or credit card.

People with colds are more likely to have a runny or stuffy nose. Colds generally do not result in serious health problems, such as pneumonia, bacterial infections, or hospitalizations.

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 761-6177 ext. 4975. 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.

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 following 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 7th was 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. Textbooks are expected to last 7 years. 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.