

# Mar Vista Elementary School

## PARENT NEWSLETTER

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CHRISTOPHER HERTZ, PRINCIPAL  
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OFFICE HOURS: 7:30 – 4:00  
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**December Character Theme:** Communication

### CALENDAR

Mon	12/24	Winter Break begins (Don't forget to do AR over Winter Break)
Tues	1/15	School Resumes
		Site Council / 4:30 – 5:30, ELAC 5:30 – 6:00, MVP'S 6:00 – 7:30
Mon	1/21	MLK Jr Day / Holiday
Tues	1/22	Lost & Found to Charity
Fri	3/7	End 2 <sup>nd</sup> Trimester
Fri	3/15	Report Cards sent home with students

### Mar Vista Spelling Bee

Congratulations to Teagan Knight, Evan Weiss, Nicole Gorman, Melinda Faulk, Wyatt Stanton, Connan Houser, Cristian Delgado, Kenny Harrah, Tanisha Babic, Tiffany Nguyen, Nathan Frear & Kyara Magua for making it to the Mar Vista Spelling Bee! Each student had to win class competitions to get to the finals. Each student did very well but only two will get to represent Mar Vista at the North Zone Bee and at the County Bee. Congratulations to Kenny Harrah (1<sup>st</sup> place) and Evan Weiss (2<sup>nd</sup> place) for earning their way to both events. Special thanks goes to PE teacher Vonnie Lemke for organizing the event and to 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher Michael Pushnik for being the Spell Master. As contestants were eliminated, they were very respectfully "cheering on" the finalists. It was a very nice way to end the competition!

### Winter Break Academic Ideas

All 1st through 6th grade students are encouraged to participate in AR over the winter break. Students should read within their level and take quizzes on-line. Mr. Hertz will review students' progress towards their individualized goal at the end of the winter break and invite students who demonstrate outstanding effort at each grade level to a special recognition party! Keep up your reading skills over the break!

All 4 - 6th grade students should also consider working on their science fair project over the break. 4th grade teacher, Mrs. Schacher has prepared a packet for each student so that s/he may be able to work on the project over break. This packet went home with 4th - 6th grade students on Thursday, Dec. 13. The Mar Vista

science fair will be on Wed., Feb 13. This means students have two months to complete their project. The time to start is winter break!

### MVP'S Raise Funds for Next School Year

Thank you to Back In Shape Chiropractics and the Gabay family for promoting our Subaru Fundraiser. They donated wood, paint and markers for the thermometer sign; envelopes and paper for the flyers; the time to get envelopes ready; and they paid for the recognition pizza party for 2 classes. All told, Back in Shape donated about \$150 and a whole bunch of time. The results speak for themselves: we more than doubled last year's earnings! Thank you!

The MVP'S next big fundraiser is the walk-a-thon in March! We want Mar Vista families to embrace this 100% profit fundraiser and encourage their children to get pledges. This will be the last major fundraiser by the MVP'S this school year.

### Bully Prevention / "Be an Upstander Not a Bystander"

The major thrust of the Mar Vista Bully Prevention initiative is to encourage students (and families) to speak out against others being physically or emotionally hurt. Speaking out in the defense of other students could mean telling the bully to back off, telling the victim that she or he is welcome to play with you, and/or reporting the incident to a caring adult at school. Parents with information about bully behavior should call the principal. On behalf of the students who are bullied, thanks for making the call.

### Aptos Junior High School Gears Up to Register Mar Vista 6<sup>th</sup> Graders

- Registration Packets: Distributed during the week of May 5th. Richard Determan, AJHS curriculum counselor will pick up the forms on Friday, May 16.
- Sixth Grade Parent Night: Thursday, May 8th 7-9pm. This night is for parents/guardian ONLY.
- Math Placement Test: Thursday, May 8 @ 8:00am
- Counselor visits 6<sup>th</sup> graders: Monday, May 12 @ 8:00am
- Sixth graders visit to Aptos Junior High: Thursday, May 22 @ 8:45-10:15am
- The ONLY math make-up test will be offered on Monday, June 9th at 9:00am.

### **Cookie Dough/Catalog Fundraiser Update**

All products have been distributed! Thank you for your support of our dream to rebuild our aging computer lab. Thank you to office manager, Barbara DiPuma for organizing this fundraiser. She estimates that we earned over \$4,000.00!

### **Computer Lab Remodel Update**

We established a semi permanent lab at the beginning of last school year with laptops purchased several years before. We did this because teachers had concerns about the efficiency of setting up the mobile lab before each use. As the laptops saw more usage, there age began to show. We hired a technician who developed a networked security system allowing students to securely save their work to a server and for our district to accurately know which students may have logged onto inappropriate websites. The laptops continue to age and require huge servicing. It is time to buy new machines. New machines have many advantages including that they crash far less often. They are faster too, maximizing our students' and teachers' time. Currently our students have access to:

- **Apple Works** Word Processor
- **Ultra Key** Typing Program
- **Accelerated Reader** Reading Comprehension Program

- **Math Facts in a Flash** Math Speed Program
- Web Browsers (Safari, ect.)

We may be able to expand our software with newer reliable machines. Plans for a new computer lab are coming together. We have developed plans for a more attractive and functional arrangement that were shared at our last MVP'S meeting. Our Site Council has reviewed a lease offer from Apple Computers. All said, we could have what we need for roughly \$45,000. Our district will be better able to maintain new equipment with their technical support staff thus saving Mar Vista the cost of an onsite tech. Our Site Council and the MVP'S will discuss budgeting this Spring. Hopefully, we can make this dream come true this Summer! The challenge will be money and competing priorities.

### **eScript Safeway Cards Need to be Renewed**

Did you know that at least 1% of every purchase you make or anyone makes at Safeway can come straight back to Mar Vista? Just register your Safeway Card with eScript online via our school web site. It's safe, quick and simple. Did you know that you must renew your membership each October? Again, just click the "renew" link at the escript.com website. Another local school in our area raised \$11,000 through eScript last year. We can too! So far this past 12 months we have raised \$1,866.92. Let's get going!

### **Nob Hill Script Cards Available**

Nob Hill has its own Script Card that does not need to be renewed annually. Ask about the program at our local Nob Hill!

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 7:20 TO 2:05.