



Paradise Valley School Paw Print

Produced for Paradise Valley Elementary School by the
Paradise Valley Home and School Association, Inc.
www.paradise.mhu.k12.ca.gov

Principal's Report

It is hard to believe that we are already at the last two and a half months of school, but that also means that standardized testing is upon us. Our **STAR testing** window will begin April 17th. Our fifth grade classes and students receiving integrated services will begin their testing on this date. All other grades will begin testing the following week of April 23. The testing period will end on May 10th. It is important that your children be in school for all of these days. Please do not schedule dental or doctor appointments during the mornings. That will ensure that we make our required percentage of attendance for that time.

With so much emphasis placed upon test scores in the news, it is hard to keep perspective but there are some simple things that you can do to support your student(s) during this time.

Make sure that they get 8-10 hours of sleep every night. Well-rested students have an easier time focusing on the task at hand.

Provide enough time before school to eat breakfast and arrive to school in an unhurried fashion. This can be difficult with all family members going different directions in the morning, but it makes a huge impact on your child's day when they arrive at school calm and ready to begin their day.

Encourage them to continue to read for 20 minutes every night. Homework loads will be reduced during testing, so focusing on keeping their reading skills "tuned up" will keep them at their best academic level.

Pack healthy snacks and lunches. Research shows that students perform better if they have something nutritious before a test. The *Home & School Club* will be providing snacks for grades 2-6 during the testing as an additional treat.

Encourage your child to use good test taking skills. Remind them to:

- look for and read directions carefully
- read the title of the passage
- scan the questions before reading the passage and prove your answers in the text
- eliminate answers that you know to be incorrect
- watch out for "signal words" – then, but, however, before, next, finally.

Most of all encourage your child to do his/her best and celebrate the accomplishments of each day. We will be testing on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays during the testing window. With your help, we will ensure positive results on STAR 2012.

Phil Duncan
Principal



G.A.T.E.

GATE has been a huge success with almost every GATE student participating. We have just finished our Pi Day Project and **thanks to Mrs. Kathy Picchi** we have all learned the concepts behind the mathematical wonder called Pi. We also got to enjoy some real pie!

I hope all parents have had a chance to peek at the cool and innovative activities we have been doing with **Schmahl Science**. They has provided great stimulating projects in the "Myth Buster" series and will be offering their last on April 5th. GATE students will be reminded IF they have reserved the date. If you are interested in bringing more science to our school for all students via The **Schmahl Science Workshop**, check out their website: <http://prod.schmahlsience.org> and let your Home & School Association know!

Upcoming Events



April 2012



May 2012

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

- 5 GATE- Schmah! Science/ after school
- 6-13 NO SCHOOL- SPRING BREAK
- 17 STAR Testing, April 17 through May 10
- 17 Home & School Mtg./ 2:10pm/ Cafeteria
- 19 School Site Council Mtg./ 2:15pm/ Staff rm
- 20 Hawaiian Day
- 20 Panther Den
- 20 Chess Club
- 27 CRAZY Clothes Day

- 4 Panther Den
- 7-11 Staff Appreciation Week
- 8 Home & School Mtg./ 7:50 am/ Cafeteria
- 10 Spring Open House/ 6:30 -8:00 pm.
- 14-16 6th Grade Science Camp
- 18 Panther Den
- 22 Volunteer Tea
- 24 School Site Council Mtg./ 2:15 p.m./Staff rm.
- 28 NO SCHOOL, Memorial Day



Box Tops and Labels for Education

Happy Spring! **Box Tops and Campbell Labels for Education** is going great! In February alone we collected over \$200 in Box Tops, one family turning in over 300 Box Tops! The current contest will run to April 27th, and the student with the MOST BoxTops/Labels will win an iTunes gift card. PLEASE make sure that **Box Tops** and **Labels for Education** are to be submitted separately. I often receive Box Tops glued to a Labels sheets and have to separated them in order to submit them to the two different programs. Your attention to this will help me greatly!! Please make sure to have your **students first, last and teacher name** printed clearly on the sheet or bag containing the box tops/labels. Submissions without student information will not be counted towards your students total.

As this is my last year as a Paradise parent, the coordinator position will be open for next year. Please consider taking on this very worthwhile position next fall!!

Michawn Giovannoni
michawng@hotmail.com



Black Knights Chess Club News

This year, our chess club has over 80 students participating! It is our **biggest club ever!** Over the past few months, parent volunteers gave both beginner and intermediate lessons so that students could pass our "Chess Challenge" test. It has been very motivating for the students to earn a t-shirt when they pass the "Chess Challenge." Parents & teachers are encouraged to come to a meeting to see how much the kids have learned. We are really proud of the kids' efforts this year!

Laura Hernandez



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 **Home & School Association**

Hello Panther Families, hope you have had a great month. The school year is flying by...can you believe that we only have 43 school days before school is out! WOW, this year has flown by!

This has been a busy month around school with it being the end of the second trimester. It's amazing when you reflect back how much the children have learned and grown over the school year thus far.

Spring Photo proofs and order forms have been sent home! Make sure to get your orders in promptly. If you did not receive an order form that was sent home with your student, you can go online to purchase picture packets. The site is: www.lcsp.net. Our online access code is "paravalspg12". They accept Mastercard and Visa. If you need to contact them their phone number is (408) 364-2750.

We had a very successful **Kinder Registration**. We had families line up beginning at 2:30 in the morning! We began right at 8:00 am and successfully registered approximately 50 new students within a couple hours. It was a really busy morning for our hardworking office staff. **Thanks** to all that helped out!

Our next **Home & School Association** meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 17, 2012. The meeting will be right after school in the cafeteria at 2:15. This is an important meeting because we will be nominating our officers for the 2012-2013 school year. We hope you can join us.

Sue Stapleton
Home & School Association President
PVHSApresident@yahoo.com



 **Yearbook**

Placing orders for yearbook has now closed. Yearbook Cover contest winner will announce the day of yearbook distribution. **Thank You** to all the parents and teachers that have provided pictures. The yearbook can only be as good as the pictures I receive so please remember to take LOTS next year.

Gina Girouard





Please send comments and articles to
 Newsletter Editor: **Tricia Ojeda** at
triciaojeda@gmail.com

 **Spell-A-Thon**

All classes participated in our annual **Spell-A-thon** fundraiser. **Thank you** to all our PV families and friends for making pledges, both big and small. **Congratulation to Mrs. Pecsok's and Mrs. Wagner's** classes, which collected the most pledges, for K-3 and 4-6. These two classes earned a pizza party for their efforts!!

Maria Sjolund



 **Panther Den**

As we are coming to the close of this school year, we have only three **Panther Dens** left to do. They will be on the following dates: April 20th, May 4th and May 18th. To date, we have collected 10,232 Panther Den tickets!

We have just lost one of our co-chairs. Farisa Van Der Velde is moving back to the Netherlands in April. We wish Farisa and her family good luck in their new move. Since she is gone, we could use more volunteers for the **Panther Den**. If you would like to help out, just email me to let me know. Thank you! The Panther Den runs from 8:50 AM to 10:00 AM.

We sent home a letter on Friday asking for donations of new items such as pencils, erasers, new unwanted toys (small or medium size). If you have any donations that you would like to make, you can give them to your child's teacher or drop them off on the **Home and School Club** box or you can email me. I can arrange to get them from you. Thank you! I would like to thank all the parents who have already donated items. Your donations are greatly appreciated thank you!

Remind your PV student about earning tickets at school for their **safe, responsible, and respectful behavior!**

Joan Daniels jydc@charter.net.
Panther Committee



 **5th Grade Field Trip**

Fifth Grade Students are gearing up for their **Civil War Reenactment Camp** field trip coming up on May 24th. Parents please look out for more information regarding volunteers and a possible parent meeting coming home in your 5th grader's Friday Folder. Want to see what it's all about??

Check out their website: <http://www.roaringcamp.com/school>



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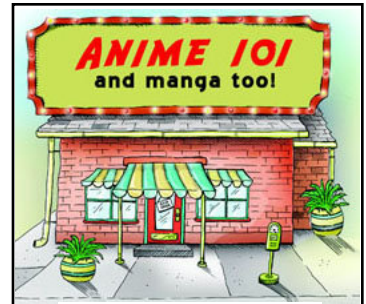
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