



# *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](http://www.paradise.mhu.k12.ca.gov)



## Principal's Message

Paradise Valley Families:

The month of **December** is full of celebrations of all kinds; Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa or perhaps one unique to your own family or culture. Regardless, a common theme that brings us all together is the act of giving. We can give in a material nature, and we can give in ways that cost no money at all. By taking an extra few minutes to hear how your child's day went, or by reading an extra book at night, or perhaps by simply sharing aloud what you treasure in them...you bestow a gift.

Our **Home and School Association** continues to bless our school with its abundant generosity. All students will have access to three online learning resources; **Brainpop**, **Accelerated Reader** and **IXL**. The first is an award-winning site that provides online videos that teach specific content. The media is engaging, age appropriate and speaks to our youth in a medium that is second nature to their generation. **Accelerated Reader** motivates readers by allowing students to take comprehension quizzes on particular books they've read. We will be tracking and sharing classroom participation to encourage excitement. I can't wait to discover which class reads the most books. Finally, **IXL** invites children to solve math problems of all kinds. The questions are standards-based and provide immediate feedback. The best news of all is that these websites will not only be accessible to your children at school, but also at home, **24/7** (although I would not encourage use after midnight ;-)). We will have the usernames and passwords distributed no later than the first week of December. **Thank you Home and School Association.** We are grateful for this gift!

From an academic standpoint, we administered our first **"progressive" benchmark for grades 2 – 6** in the area of language arts and math during the week of parent conferences. The first assessment administered at the start of the school year was a "mirror." This means it covered a large number of CST assessed standards. Its purpose was to set a baseline and to provide insight for teachers regarding a student's potential prior knowledge. The recent "progressive" measured a smaller number of standards and served as a follow-up on instruction to

determine a student's areas of strength and need. The administration went very well! Each assessment was broken into two parts and administered over two days. All second through sixth graders began the assessment at 8 am each day and students who benefited from additional time beyond the 45 minutes allotted finished their tests in the library. The results are in. I will be preparing a letter explaining the results and you will receive an update regarding your child's progress during the second week of December.

Finally, I ask for your support in two areas; **traffic and volunteer sign-in.** We've all settled into the year (which is great), but we mustn't forget that student safety is paramount. Morning and afternoon traffic are an unfortunate reality, even in Paradise. Our school was built for about 500 students, but we now have 700. No matter how we reroute the traffic, we can't change that there are more cars. Please try to arrive early, find a spot in the neighborhood and walk your child in or out, if you can make such an arrangement. If you cannot, please know that **we have student supervision starting at 7:25 am** and you're welcome to drop off at that time. When driving through, there is only one lane of traffic. Please do not pull around a car that is stopped to let out or pick up a student. Doing so could risk a student being hit and injured. **Please do not park in the drive through (FIRE LANE) at any point!** You may not leave your vehicle unattended in this area. Lastly, please ensure that you **sign in** when you arrive to volunteer. This is an expectation for all parents, even those of you who volunteer on a daily basis. It is critical that we are able to account for all non-staff adults on campus to ensure the safety of Paradise Valley students. I thank you in advance for your graciousness when I kindly ask where your name tag is if it is not visible when I see you. My only goal is to make certain that each and every child under my watch is returned safely to their guardian at the end of each day.

**Enjoy the weeks ahead!** May the season of giving, merriment and wonder sweep you up and rekindle in you a sense of child-like joy to carry you through to the New Year.

Warmest regards,

*Erika Benadom- Principal*



**Upcoming Events....**



**December**

- 6 1st Trimester HONOR ROLL ASSEMBLY**  
Grades 4-6 /8:15 am/ Cafeteria
- 7 Cookies with Santa /2:15 pm /Cafeteria**
- 7 Chess Club**
- 8 PV Blacktop Beautification Day**
- 14 Panther Den, during 1st recess**
- 14 Chess Club**
- 18 Home & School Mtg., 2:15 pm./Cafeteria**
- 19 Holiday Colors Day, Spirit Day!**
- 20 6th Gr. Field trip, SJ Tech Museum/ 7:40-1:40**
- 20 School Site Mtg., 2:15 pm /Library**

**January 2013**



- 7 School Resumes, Welcome back!**
- 15 Home & School Mtg., 7:50 a.m. /Cafeteria**
- 18 Panther Den, during 1st recess**
- 21 NO SCHOOL, Martin Luther King's B-day**
- 24 School Site Council Mtg., 2:15 pm/Library**

**Dec. 24 - Jan. 4 Holiday Break, NO SCHOOL**



**PV Home & School Association**

Hello Panther Families,

Hope that you have enjoyed your recent time off with your children! We are in now in full swing for the Christmas Season. Please look for the **Adopt-A-Family** information coming out soon. Its great to donate to our own PV community!

We are looking forward to 2013! We have some important upcoming events. We are looking at hosting our **Parent's Night Out** event this year on **Friday, March 22nd**. The event is going to be held at the same venue as last year, Coyote Creek Golf Club. Out theme for this year's event is going to be "**Black Ties and Boots**". We are currently looking for several people to help with the event for a variety of tasks. Please email me if interested.

Beginning in January we will be holding our **Monthly PV Dinner's Out!** They are a great way to meet some other families from school. We are interested in taking suggestions for sites that you think would work. Please email any suggestions you may have. We are looking into Chevy's in Gilroy, Booksmart and Red Robin!

Please enjoy the Holiday season and take time to enjoy your family, friends and traditions!

Regards,  
**Sue Stapleton**  
HSA President



**COOKIES WITH SANTA!!**



**Santa is coming to Paradise Valley on Friday, December 7th from 2:15 pm to 5 pm**

Come and meet Santa and his elves at "**Cookies With Santa.**" Admission is **\$8 per child** which includes 1 photo with Santa, cookies & drink plus a fun holiday craft to make and take home.

**Parents:** This year we are excited to announce that we will have art & crafts made by **local vendors** and special crafts made by our very own **6th grade PV students for sale!!** There will be a little something for everyone!! Don't forget to **pre-order your tickets** soon, as this event is limited and will sell out quickly! Check your student's Friday folders for order forms.

**PV Spiritwear**

**PV Spiritwear** will be on sale, right after school, Friday, Dec 7th, in the cafeteria. Look for us at "Cookies with Santa". We will have the usual item for sale plus **caps, totes, water bottles, and car decals.** Just in time for Christmas gifts.

This holiday make shopping easy by purchasing Scrip for your holiday gift card giving needs!



Also, visit our **Business Sponsors** for other great gift ideas:



## Project Cornerstone

Last month, our volunteer readers went into every classroom to present "**Simon's Hook**" by **Karen Burnett**. This book introduced five specific skills that can be used to respond to teasing - **1) Do little or nothing 2) Agree 3) Distract 4) Laugh 5) Stay away or ignore.**



This month our readers will read "**Say Something!**" by **Peggy Moss** to Grades 1 - 6. The book's message to "say something" is a call to action for all of us to move from the passive role of bystander to the positive, active role of **UP-stander**. This lesson promotes many opportunities bystanders have to safely influence either the target or person with bully behaviors. By moving from a role of passive bystander to active UP-stander, kids feel personal power in their ability to positively contribute to a safe and caring school climate.

The Kindergarten readers will be presenting "**Talk and Work it Out**" by **Cheri J. Meiners**. In this book, peaceful conflict resolution is simplified so children can learn to calm down, state the problem, listen and think of and try solutions.

For more information on the Assets that each book is trying to promote, please go to the **Project Cornerstone** file folder at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/PVHSA/> or view the Project Cornerstone Binder located in the Paradise Valley Library.

For questions or comments on Project Cornerstone, please contact Diana Gill [dlding@yahoo.com](mailto:dlding@yahoo.com)



## One Warm Coat



A big thank you to the Paradise families who donated coats to **Sacred Heart Community Services**. With over 200 coats donated we have made many in the South Valley warmer this winter season.

## Panther Prowl Wrap-Up

The final number for the pledges collected by Paradise Valley students was **\$35,815.25!!!** (We beat last years fundraising goal by over \$3,000.)

The top pledge collector and winner of the iPad 2 for the 4-6th grades was **Canon Moyer** from Mr. Loyd's 5th grade class. The top pledge collector and winner of the iPad 2 for the K-3rd grades was **Ashlee Atkins** from Mrs. Mason's 3rd grade class. And **Mrs. Mason's class** won the after-school California Sports Center Gymnastics field trip for **collecting over \$2,600**. What an amazing group of students we have here at Paradise! It really was a great event that turned out to be more than just a fundraiser. The Panther Prowl was also a great way to encourage school spirit and build unity within the community. The pledges collected from family and community members were very generous and through your contributions you have made an impact in the lives of Paradise Valley Elementary students and their teachers. We truly appreciate your generosity!

Panther Prowl Co-Chairs  
**Jill Moyer and Amy Oselinsky**



## Adopt-A-Family/Canned Food Drive

Each classroom will be "adopting" a family for the holidays. Information detailing the family that your child's class has adopted will be sent home the week of **Dec. 3rd**. Once all **unwrapped** gift donations have been returned to your child's teacher we will then sort, wrap and distribute the items to the Paradise Valley families that were chosen. If you would like to help us sort and wrap gifts the **week of Dec. 17th.**, please contact **Cheryl Ansbro @ (408)778-8559**

In conjunction with our Adopt-A-Family project, PV student council will be gathering **canned/nonparishable food and grocery store gift certificates** for those that need a little help this holiday season. Again, your generous donations will help families right here at Paradise Valley! For your convenience, there will be receptacles located near the front office for any of your nonperishable food donations.



Please send comments and articles to  
Newsletter Editor: **Tricia Ojeda** at  
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