



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 Message

Paradise Valley Families:

The fall season is beginning to take hold and bringing with it cooler temperatures, falling leaves and the great day of Thanksgiving. During this *month of gratitude*, my appreciation is overflowing! **Our Project Cornerstone ABC Readers** have and continue to dedicate precious time to not only read in classrooms, but also to plan thoughtful, integrated classroom activities. The **Panther Prowl** was a tremendous success and could not have taken place without the volunteer efforts of our parent community. My thanks go out to the amazing parent crew that coordinated the kick-off assembly, the event itself and to all the parents and teachers who lent their support by marking lap cards, handing out popsicles and cheering on students.

In mid-October, the California Department of Education released the **Accountability Performance Index (API)** scores across the state. This three digit score ranges from 0 to 1000 and is calculated by allocating points for the number of students performing at each performance level on the **STAR Tests (CST, CMA or CAPA)** in the areas of English language arts, mathematics and science. Per **No Child Left Behind (NCLB)**, the 2014 target for all schools in California is 800. In the year 2000, when the first score was calculated, Paradise Valley Elementary scored 737. Our 2012 score was 851. The good news is that we have exceeded the 800-point target and over the past 12 years, our net growth has been a total of 114 points. At the same time, our score has decreased for the past two years (-9 points in 2011 and -21 points in 2012) and we want to stop this decline in its tracks. To this effort, we are taking the following three initial steps. **Step 1:** Thoroughly analyzing assessment results from both state standardized tests and district benchmark tests. We are turning the information from the assessments into knowledge about what students know and do not know so that we can take action during instruction. **Step 2:** Along with the initial benchmark that set a baseline for a student's progress towards end of the year standards, two additional "progressive" assessments will be administered in grades 2 through 6. These will specifically measure

a student's progress towards standards during a specific span of instruction. The 2nd benchmark will be administered the week of November 13 – 16. Research has demonstrated that effective instruction is designed in conjunction with assessment results. More frequent assessment intervals ensure that instruction is tailored to what students need. **Step 3:** Implementing What-I-Need Time beginning on November 26th. Students will be regrouped for 30 minutes a day based on a combination of assessment results and will receive targeted, focused instruction in their area of need.

As our Paradise Valley staff focuses on providing rigorous and rich learning opportunities for all students, we also continue forward in our efforts to bring consistent non-academic practices to our schools. Wet weather will certainly become more frequent in these coming months and we want to keep our students as dry as possible. If it is raining during AM drop off, we will open the cafeteria and those teachers covering outside duty will relocate into the cafeteria. Please let your children know that on rainy days, upon arriving at school, they may stay dry by waiting in the cafeteria until school begins. Also, although colder days are ahead, Mother Nature may still bless us with some warmer ones during which students may want to wear cooler clothing. We have discussed inconsistencies with our dress code and offer two clarifications. To ensure that clothing is not too revealing, the width of sleeveless shirts must measure 2 inches (not fingers). Also, skirts and shorts must be lower than a student's fingertip when their arms are at their sides.

As this incredible month of thanks unfolds, I extend my personal gratitude to each member of our education staff, parent community and our students. As author Melanie Beattie eloquently wrote, *"Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend. Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow."*

With humble appreciation,
Erika Benadom - Principal





Upcoming Events . . .



November

- 6 Election Day**
- 8 End of First Trimester**
- 9 NO SCHOOL, In Service Day**
- 12 NO SCHOOL, Veteran's Day**
- 13-16 Minimum Days, 12:50 dismissal**
- 13 Home & School Mtg., 7:50 am/ Cafeteria**
- 19-23 Thanksgiving Holiday, NO SCHOOL**
- 29 School Site Council Mtg., 2:15 pm/Library**
- 30 Panther Den, during 1st recess**



December

- 7 Chess Club**
- 14 Panther Den, during 1st recess**
- 14 Chess Club**
- 18 Home & School Mtg., 7:50 pm./Cafeteria**
- 20 School Site Mtg., 2:15 pm /Library**
- 26 Panther Den, during 1st recess**
- Dec 24 - Jan 4 Holiday Break, NO SCHOOL**

Thanksgiving Word Search



- ALGONQUIN
- AMERICA
- CANOE
- COLONY
- COOK
- CORN
- ENGLAND
- FALL
- FAMILY
- FEAST
- FREEDOM
- GRAVY
- HARVEST
- INDIANS
- JOHN CARVER
- LONGHOUSE
- MAIZE
- MASSASOIT
- MAYFLOWER
- MILES STANDISH
- NEW WORLD
- PATUXET
- PIE
- PILGRIMS
- PLYMOUTH
- PUMPKIN
- PURITANS
- SAIL
- SAMOSET
- SETTLERS
- SICKNESS
- SQUANTO
- SQUASH
- STUFFING
- THANKSGIVING
- TREATY
- TURKEY
- VOYAGE
- YAMS

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G O L S S X J M D D L C Q Z I S
A N U P Q B H F S O Z O B A X R
S M I X F U S N L S K L G D U M
T E E Q A J A G E Q E O N A C H
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Ways To Support PV.....

BoxTops & Campbell's Labels For Education: Continue collecting BoxTops and Labels. These are separate programs and should be placed on separate forms to turn in each month.

PV Spirit Wear - Parents, don't forget PV spirit wear make great birthday & Christmas gifts! Email mijrigo@gmail.com to place your order.

Scrip- Let us help you with your gift giving needs! Place your Scrip order this month and avoid the holiday rush!! You can also order scrip online at: www.shopwithscrip.com (school ID: 525B748621813). Questions? Email taramiller@hotmail.ca

Volunteer: There are many opportunities throughout the school year to volunteer both in and out of the classroom such as: Yearbook photographer, Art Cart assistant, Library assistant, Adopt-A-Family and many more!! Check out our school website for more information.

Home & School Association Executive Board

- | | |
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YAHOO! Group
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Press: #2 for attendance
#4 for the principal



2nd Annual Panther Prowl

The **Second Annual Panther Prowl** was a **GREAT** event! The students had a terrific day of fun and exercise. The final amount collected will be posted in the December issue of the Paw Print.

We want to give a special thanks to all our parent volunteers who helped make the event a success. We couldn't have done it without you!

Please don't forget to support our community sponsors:

FES, Inc., Radwan Pediatric Dentistry, Wafelbakker/Anderson Orthodontics, California Sports Center Gymnastics, DirectFix.com & iPhone Repair, Karlene DiNapoli with Intero Real Estate Services, Nob Hill Foods, Lusamerica Foods, Inc., The Hoffman Family.

Lastly, thank you to all the family and friends who supported our students and school, not only by giving pledges, but also by coming out to the Panther Prowl and cheering on our *prowlers*!

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

Fall Book Fair Wrap Up

The **Scholastic Fall Book Fair** was a big success! Thank you to all the students, parents and staff for purchasing so many books – especially those who donated books from the **Teacher's Wish Lists**. A total of **566 books** were donated to our classrooms and the library added 53 books to its shelves. Three classes earned pizza parties for purchasing the most books for their classrooms – **Packard** (30 books) and **Wagner and Loyd** (35 books each).

Our total sales were \$21,697 (a 28% increase from 2011), which translates to \$12,137 Scholastic dollars coming back to Paradise Valley classrooms and the library! Thank you to all of our 6th graders who did such a great job playing **Clifford** and to those who assisted Clifford. Last, but not least, the biggest **THANK YOU** goes to our parent volunteers – none of this would have been possible without you!!

**Lori Edwards
Book Fair Coordinator**



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

Project Cornerstone

We would like to thank all the **Asset Building Champion (ABC) Readers** who got **Project Cornerstone** off to a great start and to all those who donated money towards books for our Project Cornerstone library. Last month, readers went into every classroom to present "**Have You Filled a Bucket Today?**" by **Carol McCloud**. This book reminds students that by expressing and doing acts of kindness and appreciation, they can create *warm fuzzies* that fill their buckets and the buckets of others. The book also addresses bucket dippers who behave in ways that remove warm fuzzies from the buckets of others.

During the month of November, the readers will read "**Simon's Hook**" by **Karen Burnett**. The focus of this book is to help students recognize the choices they have in responding to teasing and demonstrates the third law of bucket filling: **Use your lid when needed**. The powerful message of Simon's Hook is "*Don't focus on the bully behavior; focus on the fact that you have the power to choose how to react!*". For questions or comments on Project Cornerstone, please contact **Diana Gill** ldding@yahoo.com



**Happy
Thanksgiving!**

PV Campus Parking

Our PV parking lot has always been an extremely busy area. We appreciate your caution and cooperation during drop-off and pickup times which keep our staff and students safe. We would also like to remind you that our parking lot has designated spaces for **PV STAFF, Handicap, Visitors** and **PNO auction winners**. Please refrain from parking in spaces designated for **PV STAFF** (which includes- Principal, Secretary, Clerks) and also our **PNO auction winners spaces**. The PNO spaces are clearly marked and read: Freeman Family & Moyer Family. These spaces should not be used by others during regular school hours. Thank you for your cooperation!

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