



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

Dear Paradise Valley Families:

As September comes to a close, I'd like to extend my gratitude to our community for the support it has shown through the **Back to School BBQ**, the **Book Fair** and a **phenomenal** turn out at **Back to School Night**. At the principal presentation at Back to School Night, you heard me speak of **PARTNERSHIP** and its foundations; trust in each other's best intentions, open listening, respectful communication and a focus on solutions. With these tenets as our guides, I have no doubt that together we will support each and every child in reaching "**Proficient or Beyond!**"

During October and November, our education staff we will be completing the planning phase of our **What-I-Need (W-I-N)** time initiative. During W-I-N time, students will be regrouped for 30 minutes to receive instruction targeted at a specific need. Our English Learners will receive Systematic ELD instruction, English Only students who have not yet reached proficiency in either language arts or math will receive explicit instruction to support growth in their area of need and students who have already reached the "Proficient or Beyond" target will participate in learning crafted at their level. In the National Implementation Research Network of 2007, Fixsen and Blase note that, "Implementation is the art and science of moving research-based innovations into practice in order to achieve the promised benefits to students, schools, and communities." **This process includes three general phases: 1) planning, 2) launching, and 3) sustaining.** It is critical that adequate time and thoughtfulness be dedicated to the first phase to ensure ongoing success. We are working diligently to determine optimal grouping while also specifically addressing the instruction that will take place during this block of time. This process is quite complex and it requires out of the box thinking with fluid, creative solutions. We will continue to communicate our progress with you and appreciate your support as we set our students and teachers up for success during W-I-N time.

As educators, our primary goal is to ensure each and every child reaches "Proficient or Beyond!" This requires every moment of instruction to be focused and purposeful. This includes time spent in the **computer**

lab. Therefore, we need to allow sufficient planning to support this endeavor. As previously mentioned, the research on implementation is overwhelming. By cutting the planning phase short, a new initiative can suffer dire consequences. Our education staff is committed to maximizing the parent investment of our computer lab and we will continue making strides in reinforcing standards-based learning with technology. We ask for your patience as we work through these intricacies toward sustained incorporation of technology into our culture of teaching and learning.

In October, thanks to the planning efforts of our parent community, **Project Cornerstone** will launch at Paradise Valley. Each class will have an **ABC Reader** that reads a book emphasizing one or more developmental assets. These assets are values that have been identified as ones that support students in relationship and life, so they may thrive. We look forward to the common language that will result as we all participate in this valuable program.

Finally, on the operational front, I look forward to working with our education staff and parent community in the coming month to plan the active participation of **volunteers during recess and lunch**. We have approximately 350 students out on the play yard at any given time and we need to work together to provide our children with a safe space to get their wiggles out. It is critical that this effort be a collaboration and that we dedicate adequate time to the specifics. A first step is to **clarify our play ground rules** and communicate them effectively to our students. Then we must **define the role of student or parent "fun-visors"** and delineate **how to encourage positive behavior** while also outlining who is responsible for addressing behavior that is not aligned with the play ground rules. Upon launching this initiative, we will carefully monitor any challenges that arise and make adjustments as needed. All along the way, we commit to keeping you informed and involved in the process.

Thank you for your partnership as we walk arm-in-arm in support of Paradise Valley students.

In partnership,

Erika Benadom - Principal



Upcoming Events

October

- 8 **NO SCHOOL**, Furlough day
- 12 **Panther Den**, during 1st recess
- 16 **Home & School Mtg.**, 7:50 pm./Cafeteria
- 18 **School Site Mtg.**, 2:15 pm /Staff Rm
- 19 **Panther Prowl Run**
- 26 **Picture Make-Up Day**
- 26 **Panther Den**, during 1st recess
- 30 **Great Pumpkin Display**, Library
- 31 **Halloween Parade**



November

- 6 **Election Day**
- 8 **End of First Trimester**
- 9 **NO SCHOOL**, In Service Day
- 12 **NO SCHOOL**, Veteran's Day
- 12-16 **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/Staff Rm.
- 30 **Panther Den**, during 1st recess



🐾 Home & School Association

Hello Panther Families,

Wow, I can't believe that we have been in school almost 7 weeks already! The time has flown with all the fun events we have been having. I hope you agree that we are off to a great start this school year!

Many of our PV families were able to enjoy some time with their family and friends at the **Back to School BBQ**. We owe a big **thank you** to our 6th grade team and parents for making this such a wonderful event!

We were happy to see so many students and their families stop by the **Scholastic Book Fair** and enjoy shopping for books for themselves and their classrooms!

We have recently begun our organized activities at lunch time through the **YMCA**. We were excited to bring this program back to our school again this year!

Recently we had our parent **Project Cornerstone** training, which was a huge success! The program will be launching school-wide in **October**. Please look for more information to be coming home with your child!

We have our next **Home & School meeting on October 16th at 7:50 am**. We hope you can join us! Don't forget to mark your calendar for our **2nd annual Panther Prowl on October 19th!!!**

Sue Stapleton
Home & School Association President

Paradise Valley Elementary official website: www.paradise.mhu.k12.ca.us

YAHOO! Group
www.groups.yahoo.com/group/PVHSA

Paradise Valley phone number:
(408)201-6460

Press: #2 for attendance
#4 for the principal

🐾 YEARBOOK

LAST CHANCE TO ORDER YEARBOOKS FOR \$20. Price goes up to \$30 on October 2nd!!!

Take great photos?? Submit them on CD, into the H & S Association mail slot, located in the office hallway. Please be sure to write the teacher's name on the CD!!!

If it is just a few photos, you may email them to yearbook@girouardfamily.com.

Gina Girouard
Yearbook Coordinator

🐾 PV Assembly

Paradise Valley Home & School Association has booked **Kathryn Otoshi**, author and illustrator, for an assembly visit on **Thursday November 8th**. Kathryn's book "**One**" delivers a powerful message about accepting each other's differences and how it sometimes just takes ONE to make everyone count. Her book "**Zero**" focuses on self esteem, character and finding value in your self and in others. Kathryn will be autographing **pre-ordered** copies of her book the day of the assembly. Book orders will be due **Friday October 19th**. A flier with more information and order form will be coming home with your student soon. For more information on Kathryn Otoshi, please visit her website at www.kokidsbooks.com.

Nicole Chaisson
Assembly Coordinator

Home & School Association Executive Board

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2nd Annual Panther Prowl Coming October 19th!!!

Our teachers have fun & exciting activities planned for our students this year. Now it is time to fund them through our walk-a-thon, the **Panther Prowl!** With school budgets pinched tighter and tighter each year, the efforts we put into raising funds for this event are key to allowing the extras that our children so richly deserve. Your family and friend donations will enable the Paradise Valley Home & School Association to provide our children with the money needed for:

Technology Enhancements
Playground Equipment
Field trips & Assemblies
Art & Science Enrichment
Safety Programs
Chess Club
And **MUCH MORE!**



In fact, the tremendous fundraising efforts put forth by the students for last year's Panther Prowl helped us earn over **\$30,000**. This in turn, helped to fund our newly up & running computer lab!

Times are tough. Every penny counts, especially in our children's classrooms. Not sure if you have the money to donate? Here is an idea - cut out one fast food meal a month and donate that savings towards your child's school. ***Together, we can make a difference!***

This years PRIZES:

- Top money earner **K-3rd grade...16GB iPad 2**
- Top money earner **4th-6th grade..16GB iPad 2**
- In addition, each classroom will have it's own "**class fundraising goal.**" If a classroom meets their goal, they will be given a pizza party.
- All students** who participate in the Panther Prowl will receive a Panther Prowl wristband.

The **Panther Prowl kick-off assembly** will be **Friday, October 5th**. Panther Prowl pledge sheets will go home in Friday Folders, **October 5th**.

Volunteer help is needed to run the event on Friday, October 19th. Volunteers may sign-up online by visiting: <http://www.volunteerspot.com/login/entry/223593140044>

***Please help make our
2nd Panther Prowl a BIG success!***

Questions? Contact co-committee chairs:

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408-221-2647

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408-307-3177



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

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.
- **Apple-A-Day-** Help keep our classrooms well stocked with needed supplies by buying an Apple for only \$5.00. More information to come!
- **PV Spirit Wear** -PV Spirit Wear will be on sale in front of the school office on **Friday, Oct. 5th before and after school**. Parents, this it is a great time to purchase your child's PV clothing to show their school spirit during the Panther Prowl. Don't miss out!! Email mijrigo@gmail.com
- **Scrip-** When you purchase Gift Cards (**Scrip**) through our school, we earn money which goes directly to stocking the student "**Panther Den**" with great prizes for our student to buy with their **Panther Pride** tickets. You can also order scrip online at: www.shopwithscrip.com (school ID: 525B748621813). Questions? Email taramiller@hotmail.ca

Panther Den

Hello parents, we had a great start with our first two **Panther Dens** that were held in September. These were a big hit with the students. The next two Panther Dens will be on **October 12 and October 26th**.

The purpose for earning Panther Den tickets has changed from the three Bs, which were: be safe, be responsible and be respectful to the following **Personal Standards** which are: "**Show respect, Make good choices and Solve problems**". The Panther Den ticket color has changed to blue. We will not be taking any old tickets this year. The students have been told about this as well.

For any new parents, the **Panther Den Store** is held about twice a month. Students can earn tickets for following the Personal Standards. They may receive tickets from PV staff when they are recognized for doing one or all of the Personal Standards. They can then bring their tickets to the Panther Den and exchange them for prizes.

The Panther Den is open Fridays mornings, on scheduled dates, during first recess from **8:50 AM to 10:00 AM**. If you would like to help out and volunteer your time, make donations of party favor type items (new small to medium size toys) or donate money, please contact me at: jdcd@charter.net or **650-279-4932**.

Thank you very much to all the parents/families who have brought in donations for our Panther Den inventory; they are greatly appreciated!

Joan Daniels

Panther Den Coordinator

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