

# The Paradise Valley Paw Print

## February 2014

Dear Paradise Valley Family,

Reenergized from all the great times with friends and family, fantastic food, and a wonderful holiday, the staff at Paradise Valley is off to a fantastic start of a busy new year ahead! We hope you had a relaxing time with family and experienced some warm memories with your children. I want to take this opportunity to thank you for the wonderful New Year wishes and gifts.

We have a new school banner that has been put up on the driveway entrance fence for all our school community to cherish and our Paradise Panthers to feel the school spirit as they enter the school premises. The whole community will continue to cheer for our Paradise Panthers as they "Watch Us Roar!"

With so many new families enrolled here at Paradise Valley since December, I want to take a moment to review the student drop off and pick up procedures in our parking lot. In the morning, as you enter our parking lot, stay in the curb lane and fill in any gaps in front of you. Wait in the line of cars and continue to move forward until you have reached the loading zone (front of school building) and have filled the gap. Please have your child ready to get out before you reach the loading zone. We recommend keeping the backpacks and lunch boxes in the car next to your child. Please do not stop your car and drop off your child on the street adjoining the Kindergarten playground. This creates a backup of cars behind you. Once you have dropped your child off, you may drive forward in the loading zone lane. Please do not drive in the adjoining lane and race to an open space in the student loading zone cutting in front of other cars. I have witnessed many near misses between one car racing to cut into an open space and the other car moving forward to fill that gap. When picking your child up after school, we ask that you follow the same procedures. Get in line and fill the gaps, wait until you have reached the student loading zone (front of school). Once you have reached the loading zone and have moved as far forward as possible, your child will come and get into the car. Please, do not drive in the adjoining lane and signal for your child to come out between parked cars to meet you. We have school personnel that will guide you to move forward, slow, or stop to ensure safe student pick-up. Finally, parents who are walking their children to the school or to the cars, please have your children walk with you. Do not allow them to run ahead of you or straggle behind. We want to make sure all our students are safe at all times at school and we request your support and cooperation to ensure safe student drop-off and pick up.

I am a firm believer in the power of positivity and appreciation to bring out the best in people. At Paradise Valley, we will be starting Student of the Month Assemblies to appreciate two students from each class at every grade level who will get Student of the Month recognition. The criteria for this award is not just academics but citizenship, hard work and efforts made by the student, leadership demonstrated, and being a proud Paradise Panther!

In closing, on behalf of all of us Paradise Panthers, I echo three words, "Watch Us Roar!"

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Swati Dagar  
Principal

Produced by PV Home & School Association, Inc. (HSA)  
[paradisevalleyhsa.org/Home](http://paradisevalleyhsa.org/Home) & [www.paradise.mhu.k12.ca.us/](http://www.paradise.mhu.k12.ca.us/)

For questions about the Home and School Association, programs it supports,  
or to volunteer please contact [pvhsa@yahoo.com](mailto:pvhsa@yahoo.com).

# What is Coming Up Soon?

## February

4	Talent Show Rehearsals 2:15pm Café	4-5
4	Kinder Registration Packets Available	5
6	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Panorama Picture	10
6	Parents Night Out Art Committee Mtg 10 am Cafeteria	11
10	Talent Show Rehearsals 2:15pm Café	12
11	Talent Show 6:30pm Café	13
12	Twin Day	14
12	HSA Mtg, 7:50am Cafeteria	14
13	School Site Council, 2:15pm Library	19
14	Panther Den	
17-21	NO SCHOOL Presidents' Week	24
19	PV Parents Book Club 6:30pm Club meets at BookSmart	24-27
25	Kinder Enrollment	28
25	Parents Night Out Art Committee Mtg 1pm Cafeteria	31
27	Coffee with the Principal and Parents Reviewing Smarter Balance	
28	Panther Den	
28	Spell-A-Thon Spelling List & Pledge Sheet Sent Home	

## March

Star Writing/Grade 4 Only
End of Second Trimester
Spell-A-Thon Pledge Sheets Due
HSA Mtg 2:15pm Cafeteria
Spell-A-Thon Test
School Site Council, 2:15 Lib.
Panther Den
Spell-A-Thon Corrected Tests Returned to Students
PV Parents Book Club 6:30pm Club meets at BookSmart
Spell-A-Thon Pledge Money Due
Spring Book Fair
Panther Den
First day of Spring Break (March 31 - April 4)



**Chess Club meets every Wed, cafeteria, after school. Join if you can!**

## Paradise Valley Talent Show

**Tuesday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 p.m., Cafeteria, Tickets: \$2 per person**



Come watch your fellow students perform! Due to fire safety regulations, we will be selling tickets to attend to ensure we do not exceed capacity. Every person attending must have a ticket and all children must be accompanied by an adult. To purchase tickets in advance see order forms in Friday folders, at the HSA area in the office lobby, or on the PV website. Remaining tickets will be sold at the event. We look forward to seeing you there! - Talent Show Committee

## Parents' Night Out Committee Needs Your Help

The annual Parents Night Out (PNO) event is one of our largest fund raisers. The planning team needs immediate help with soliciting donations from local businesses. A list of local businesses already exists; we need volunteers to speak with those organizations and follow up with donation collections. Contact PNO Committee Chair Denise David at [PVHSA@yahoo.com](mailto:PVHSA@yahoo.com) or (760) 799-5801. The event date and location are pending.

# Programs at Paradise Valley

February 2014

## More About Parents' Night Out ...

Want to MAKE ART? The PNO Class Art Committee needs parents from each class to help make an art piece for each classroom. These art pieces will be auctioned during the May event. The first committee meeting is Wednesday, Feb 6, at 10am in the cafeteria. Contact committee chair Karen Fitch: (408) 710-3774 or [fitchfamusa@yahoo.com](mailto:fitchfamusa@yahoo.com).



Not an artist, but still want to help? Don't fret! Contact Karen to take a look at a binder full of art project ideas. Can't make the meeting on Wednesday, February 6? Come to the second meeting on Tuesday, February 25, at 1pm.

## PV Earns Multiple Grants

Thank you Rotary Club of Morgan Hill, which recently awarded Paradise Valley two grants. We won \$1,000 for a typing program and \$385 for a reading incentive program that is specific to the Accelerated Reader software program.

Another grateful thank you to the Morgan Hill Mushroom Mardi Gras, which awarded PV \$700 for science kits. Let's show our Panther Appreciation!

## The Flowers Are In Bloom

Don't forget about "Apple a Day" donations! Apple blossoms are \$5 each, feel free to purchase as many as you like. Your name will appear on the Apple Tree, on display in the main lobby area. All money collected goes to purchase a portion of classrooms' needed materials. Forms are available in electronic and paper in Friday folders and on the HSA website.

## Mark Your Calendars!! ~ Wed. March 12th ~ Spell-A-Thon



Get ready for everyone's favorite test! The schedule is:

- **Fri, Feb 28th:** Spelling list and pledge sheets sent home.
- **Mon, Mar 10th:** Completed pledge sheets due back to teacher.
- **Wed, Mar 12th:** Students take spelling test.
- **Fri, Mar 14th:** Corrected spelling tests, pledge sheet, collection envelopes sent home.
- **Mon, Mar 24th:** All pledge sheets and money are due back to teachers

**Lastly ...** If you would like to help the HSA, contribute to the Parents' Night Out planning, or join one of the existing committees, please consider attending an upcoming meeting:

**Mornings: Wednesdays 7:50 – Feb 12, May 14**

**Afternoons: Tuesday 2:15 – March 11**

**Evenings: Wednesdays at 6:30 – April 9**



# People at Paradise Valley

February 2014

## Things Can Change in Third Grade!

Whether it is the entire grade level embracing the new Common Core standards or kids transitioning to daily homework instead of weekly packets, third grade at Paradise Valley is about some important changes. Additionally, it means a larger emphasis on responsibility for one's learning, specifics like already knowing addition and subtraction facts when entering third grade, learning multiplication facts during the year, getting "outside the box" a bit more, and becoming independent thinkers. Mrs. Carney characterizes this great age and grade as the "Goldilocks" stage, "Not too small, not too grown up ... they are just right!"



The third grade staff is:

- Mrs. Doting – teaching for 14 years with three years full-time at Paradise Valley, also a past Paradise Valley parent with all three of her daughters having attended PV,
- Mrs. Mason – teaching for nine years with seven of them at Paradise Valley,
- Mrs. Bonino – teaching for 18 years with the past three at Paradise Valley,
- Mrs. Carney – the newest member of the third grade team, has been teaching for 20 years with the past two at Paradise Valley,
- Mrs. Rebollar – teaching for 20 years, seven in this district, and has taught students with special needs in grades 1-4 for the past three years at Paradise Valley.

Each teacher cites the right reasons for becoming a teacher, including wanting to be a positive role model, enjoying the variety and flexibility that working with kids affords, and making a positive difference for others.

However, each brings a varied professional and/or personal interest that can only enhance students' experiences. For example, Mrs. Doting worked as a clinical pediatric dietitian prior to teaching and would like to add nutrition and healthy habits as a regular classroom topic. Mrs. Rebollar worked in a hospital's newborn intensive care unit before earning a teaching credential, but would also consider working in a library or as a gardener. In fact, her class has been doing a lot of planting, and is currently watching the Narcissus bloom. Mrs. Carney has a particular interest in California history, the westward movement, and the settling of California. She may even consider joining that interest with the dream to own an historic location and turn it into a Tea House, where she could welcome people, serve tea and dainties, and teach guests about California from 150 years ago.

Mrs. Mason and Mrs. Bonino both point to the third grade team's plans for incorporating computer skills, including typing, to help students succeed in the Common Core lessons, which are lots of innovative lessons for critical thinking throughout the curriculum. What makes Common Core different from past teaching practices includes a focus on fewer standards, requiring deeper understanding, a greater emphasis on problem solving and collaboration, and better continuity as students' progress from grade to grade.

New standards or old, third grade sounds fun and challenging, thanks to Paradise Valley's skilled staff. Our children are in good hands and getting well prepared for fourth grade!

**The next *Paw Print* will feature the second grade team!**