

The Paradise Valley Paw Print

March 2014

Dear Paradise Valley Family,

March is traditionally known for many things. Yes, springing forward of clocks, St. Patrick's Day, start of Spring, and last but not the least – March Madness! Keeping up with the spirit of March Madness and our passion for promoting outdoor activities, we at Paradise Valley, are organizing a 5-on-5 co-ed basketball tournament on Saturday, March 22nd, 2014. This tournament is open for 2nd – 6th graders. Our One Yard Coach will be facilitating this event. We had a fantastic turnout for our Dodge ball tournament held on Saturday, February 8th, 2014. Students and families have been asking for more so here we are. We have more information on the flyers posted across campus and with Coach Mike, if you are interested in March Madness for your child. It is such a great feeling to see students giving in their best as they play the games and display their sportsmanship spirit...Paradise Panther Spirit!

With March also comes change in weather and increase in various infections. In order to prevent the spread of infections, our staff continues to remind students to wash their hands often. We are also promoting students not to share their food (lunches and/or snack) with others. We have many students who have various food allergies and we want to prevent any allergic reaction from food sharing. I am asking you to please take a few minutes and reinforce the same expectation with your child about not sharing their food with other students at school.

We are implementing a new Rainy Day procedure for before school (before 7:40 am) to prevent students from standing out in the rain by their class doors. On a rainy day, 4th – 6th Grade students are to wait in the library. 1st – 3rd grade students are to wait in the primary pod multipurpose room/ cafeteria. The Kindergarten teachers will open up their classrooms for our Kindergarten students at 7:25 am. Only students are allowed inside the buildings before school during rainy days. We are asking parents to please drop off their child and have them walk to the respective areas as mentioned above.

I want to take a minute to appreciate all the parent volunteers that help my staff, me, and most importantly, help our students. I appreciate you way more than you can imagine! I also want to extend a personal invitation to parents that are not volunteering yet. You are our assets and I want to encourage more and more parent involvement. Research has shown that if parents are involved (and visible) at their child's school/ education, that child's performance shows remarkable increase and boosts up the child's confidence as well.

Together we build a strong Paradise Community and I thank you for being such wonderful partners! If I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me. Upward and beyond!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Dagar
Principal



Produced by PV Home & School Association, Inc. (HSA)
paradisevalleyhsa.org/Home

For questions about the Home and School Association, programs it supports,
or to volunteer please contact pvhsa@yahoo.com.

What is Coming Up Soon?

March

4	Dr. Seuss Day!
5	End of Second Trimester
7	Family Bingo Night, 5:30-7:30pm
10	Spell-A-Thon Pledge Sheets Due
11	HSA Mtg 2:15pm Cafeteria
12	Spell-A-Thon Test
13	School Site Council, 2:15 Lib.
14	Panther Den
14	Spell-A-Thon Corrected Tests Returned to Students
14	Spring Pictures
14	Report Cards Go Home
19	ELAC, 8am, Library
19	PV Parents Book Club 6:30pm Club meets at BookSmart
20	Assembly – "The Ned Show"
24	Spell-A-Thon Pledge Money Due
24-27	Spring Book Fair, Library
28	Panther Den
31	First day of Spring Break (March 31 – April 4)

April

1-4	Spring Break NO SCHOOL
8	HSA Mtg 2:15pm Cafeteria
10	School Site Council, 2:15 Lib.
11	Panther Den
16	PV Parents Book Club 6:30pm Club meets at BookSmart
18	NO SCHOOL
21	NO SCHOOL
25	Panther Den



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

If It Is March, Then It Is Spell-A-Thon!

Each class will be participating in our annual Spell-A-Thon fundraiser. Check your child's Feb 28 Friday folder for a grade-specific spelling list. Students will be given time to study for the test and get pledges for each word their child spells correctly. **ALL MONEY collected will go directly back to the teachers for use in stocking their classrooms.** This fundraiser is a great way to support the teachers at Paradise while your child learns to spell a few more words. The schedule is:

- March 10th – pledge sheets due
- March 12th – spelling test is given
(To volunteer to correct tests on Wed. 3/12, go to Volunteer Spot <http://vols.pt/jXpsW6>)
- March 14th – corrected test sent home ...
- March 24th – pledge sheets and money due

The lower and upper class with the most pledges will receive a pizza party! Any questions, contact Spell-A-Thon Coordinator Tracey Nguyen at (510) 825-8649. Good luck!

Paradise Valley SPRING Book Fair

Join the school staff and students at our Spring Book Fair, Monday, March 24, through Thursday, March 27, in the school's library. Support your kids' classrooms, the library, and their own reading habits with affordable choices for every reading level and age. To volunteer contact: Lori Edwards at ninalori@hotmail.com.

Activities at Paradise Valley

March 2014

The Project Cornerstone Team Has Been Busy

"I've missed more than 9000 shots in my career. I've lost almost 300 games. 26 times, I've been trusted to take the game winning shot and missed. I've failed over and over and over again in my life. And that is why I succeed." – **Michael Jordan, Basketball Legend**

This quote summarizes well the goal of the lessons for February's Project Cornerstone books: "Salt in His Shoes: Michael Jordan in Pursuit of a Dream" by Deloris Jordan and "Long Shot—Never Too Small to Dream Big" by Chris Paul. Through hard work, determination, and the support of their families, both players are able to realize their dreams. During this lesson, students discussed their own goals and talked about the goal champions in their lives who could help them achieve their dreams. For more information or to find out how you can help, please contact Diana Gill at dlding@yahoo.com.

Science Camp Coming in May!

The Sixth grade team is working hard to raise needed funds for students to go to Mission Springs for outdoor education:

Candy sales are in full swing! We will be selling candy through March. If you need more candy – and you know you do – contact Cheryl at 408-656-4344 or chalwi@charter.net.

Family Bingo Night, Fri. March 7

Everyone is welcome to come for some family fun between 5:30-7:30pm: pizza, drinks and a bake sale! Sixth graders are encouraged to bring a baked good or gift card to earn credit for science camp. More information: contact Piper at 408-843-7909 or piper5boys@hotmail.com.

Attention Sixth Grade parents

It's a tradition to have a slideshow at the sixth grade promotion ceremony. Let's make this memorable for all students! Please help by submitting two pictures of your student: a baby picture and a current picture. Send photos, your child's name, and teacher via email to mnerhood@charter.net. To submit hard copies, pictures go to your student's teacher in an envelope marked with their name and teacher. Please write on the back of each photograph your student's first name and last name and teacher.

Questions: contact Melitta (mnerhood@charter.net) or call Jill Moyer at 408-221-2647.

And in the Greater Morgan Hill Community ... Relay For Life Teams Forming Now

Everyone has an opportunity to fight cancer and help save lives at the **Relay For Life event of Morgan Hill on May 17th & 18th**. Teams camp out at Community Park and take turns walking around a path for 24 hours because cancer never sleeps! It is a deeply moving event that remembers lost loved ones, celebrates survivors and caregivers, and is fun for the family with plenty of entertainment, food, and community spirit. **Get your friends and family together to form a team, and send a team member to the kick-off at the Centennial Recreation Center on March 1st from 10-2pm.** Contact: Valerie Renggli at vrenggli@csumb.edu or 831-595-8823 for more information.



Rotary
CLUB
OF **Morgan Hill**

Thank you Rotary Club of Morgan Hill
for awarding Paradise Valley \$1,385
for reading incentive awards and typing programs!

People at Paradise Valley

March 2014

How Lucky Are We to Have Such a Team?

If only one word could be used to describe the second grade staff, it would have to be **TEAM!** The four-person team is in a harmonious lock-step not only in its preparations for common core standards, but also in its commitment to helping students achieve and grow within the rigorous second grade standards.

The team is made up of Rachel Marquardt, Megan Telfer, Stephanie Majors, and Alice Packard. Mrs. Marquardt and Mrs. Telfer are teaching partners who split the week between them.

They are working diligently to weave together a great new common core oriented curriculum into what they already are doing so well. That includes consistent computer lab time to practice typing and tech skills that will help them in assessments next year. But don't think that computer skills instruction is overshadowing time spent on reading workshops, math, and science, which are still fundamental components of each classroom. Here is a snapshot of each:

Mrs. Marquardt has taught for five years total, with two here at Paradise. She has also taught fourth grade and appreciates the value of knowing what kids need to be prepared for down the road. Math and science are favorite subjects because math forces kids to understand that there is one right answer to find, while science invites many unanswered questions and lots of hands on activities. She would love to make time for health, nutrition, and fitness instruction because it is so important to start early with exercise and eating right. Funniest situation Mrs. Marquardt has encountered? She sums up with if it happens at home, we teachers know about it! Kids can be the most honest and sharing people to work with! Good to know ...

Mrs. Telfer has taught for seven years, all at Paradise, with six of those years in second grade and one year teaching first. Her heart is in second grade without a doubt! Like Mrs Marquardt, math is a favorite subject and she would also like to make time for nutrition instruction. She took a nutrition class in college and it changed her life. Imagine if that could happen in elementary school! Congratulations to her and her husband are preparing for another baby girl in June. Mrs. Telfer is especially grateful for her teaching partner, Rachel Marquardt, who is also a great friend. By team teaching, they get the best of both worlds: mom to our little ones at home and teacher to our wonderful students.

Mrs. Packard has been teaching for 11 years, with nine years spent at El Toro elementary. She has taught first and fifth grade, but for her there is no other grade – second grade rules! Her favorite subject is teaching Reader's Workshop. Her students start the day off with a great book that ties in with the current subject. If she could add another subject, it would be exploring things like cooking, sewing, music, or raising a garden, things that many children don't get to explore often enough. She is especially grateful to parents who help her and all the teachers with the wide range of tasks make her feel appreciated and validated that she have chosen the right path as a teacher.

Mrs. Majors has 24 years to her credit, with seven of those years at Paradise. She has also taught in Virginia and Washington DC, as well as teaching in first and third grades, and a variety of grades while teaching special education. But, like all her teammates, feels that second grade is a favorite for sure. She enjoys teaching math and would also like to add consistent extracurricular programs, like art and physical education. She is not only a teacher, but a parent too: her daughter is in 5th grade and her son attended PV before moving on to middle school last year.

Thanks to the great team in place! Paradise students are lucky beneficiaries of such commitment and attentiveness.

Fifth Grade Will Be Next Month's Teacher Profile

