



Happy 2015— Welcome back Panthers!



We want your child to be successful in school and not fall behind and miss out on all the fun learning. Please ensure that your child attends school every day and arrives on time. Below are some practical tips to help support regular attendance:

- Ensure your children go to school every day unless they are truly sick.
- Avoid scheduling vacations or doctor's appointments when school is in session.
- Make sure your children keep a regular bedtime and establish a morning routine.
- Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
- Develop back up plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, neighbor, or another parent to take your child to school.

Dear Paradise Valley Families,

Welcome to a wonderful New Year. Happy 2015 to you! I hope you had a relaxing time with family and experienced some warm memories.

I believe in the power of positivity and appreciation. I want to appreciate the hard work and efforts of our students this past semester. Our Paradise Panthers are truly 'rockstars' and I am proud of them. We are headed in the right direction - upward and beyond!

As we start the new year, I want to take a moment to review the student drop off and pick up procedures. In the morning, as you enter our parking lot, stay in the curb lane and fill any gaps in front of on you. Wait in the line of cars and continue to move forward until you have reached the loading zone (ahead of inside loop crosswalk in front of school building). 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 and 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 in the loading zone, you may drive forward in the loading zone lane only. Please do not drive in the adjoining lane and race to an open space in the loading zone, cutting in front of the other cars. I have witnessed many near misses between one car racing to cut into an open space and another car moving forward to fill that gap. Please keep student safety at the forefront of your attention at all times. 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 (ahead of inside loop crosswalk in front of school building). 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 and student safety patrol that will guide you to move forward, slow down, or stop to ensure safe student drop-off/pick-up. Finally, parents who are walking their children to the school or to their cars, please have your children walk with you. Do not allow them to run ahead of you or straggle behind along the busy street. Also, please cross the street from the crosswalk only. Do not walk through the staff parking lot. We have staff cars coming in the parking lot, and it is unsafe to walk through it. 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.

It is exciting to have a new year full of possibilities before us. We look forward to using each day to the fullest and reaching to achieve our potential. We have a lot of fascinating ground to cover this year and are ready to get to it!

Together in education.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Swati Dagar

Upcoming Events

January

9	Talent Show Tryouts / 2:15 p.m.
13	School Site Meeting / 2:15 p.m. (Library)
14	Pajama & Stuffed Animal Day
16	Panther Den / 9:00 a.m.
19	NO SCHOOL - Martin Luther King Day
23	Family Bingo Night / 5:30 p.m. (Cafeteria)
28	ELAC / 8:00 a.m. (Library)
29	HSA Meeting / 7:50 a.m.

February

4	Crazy Hat Day
5	6 th Grade Panorama Picture / 9:15 a.m.
16-20	NO SCHOOL - Winter Break
24	ELAC / 8:00 a.m. (Library)
26	HSA Meeting / 7:50 a.m.



The 2015 Parents Night Out event, "Get Down and Derby" will be held **Friday, April 24th** at Clos La Chance Winery. Live and Silent Auction. Dinner and Dancing!! Join the fun!



Expect Respect!

An extension of Project Cornerstone, the Expect Respect project is a group of 38 students, led by two parents at Paradise Valley school, Laura Freeman and Kelley Pedrick-Chimienti. The group of half 5th graders and half 6th graders aim to improve the campus climate through various acts, projects, and plans. "We have a bunch of exciting ideas planned for the new year," says Pedrick-Chimienti. One project that we are planning is a kindness "tagging" challenge that the whole school will participate in. A classroom will be chosen to take the kindness "tagging" challenge for a day, and as a token of this challenge, a balloon with a smiley face on it will be placed in their classroom. One student from that class begins by doing a random act of kindness for anyone at school. Afterward, that person then tags someone else in the same class, who then does a random act of kindness and tags someone else in the class. Along with the balloon will be a form to report how many acts of kindness were made. Every class will be rewarded in some way for participating, not to mention just feeling good and seeing all of the positive acts being done around them. The Expect Respect kids hope that this is something we can do randomly throughout the year, and everyone will know that when a balloon with a smiley face shows up in their classroom, it's kindness tagging day!



Shout Out for our 4th Graders!

Our 4th graders were the wonderful Safety Patrol for December. Wind, rain, cold or sun, those little faces were there early morning and late afternoon to assist our students in and out of vehicles. A BIG thank you to our wonderful Safety Patrol!



Teachers Wish List

We are about half way through the school year, and school supplies are beginning to be depleted. Now is a good time to check in with your child's teacher to find out if he or she needs additional supplies for the classroom. Additional pencils, paper, and hand-sanitizer are always welcome!

Lost and Found

Welcome, Tony Maquinalez and thank you for gathering belongings left on campus every day. Tony, who is new to Paradise Valley this year, is our Lead Custodian. He works very hard, alongside our long-time Custodian, Manny Medeiros, to keep our school beautiful. If you get a chance, give him a warm welcome! Say hello to Manny too!



Panther Den is held during the first recess on the following Fridays...

- January 16 and 30
- February 13 and 27
- March 13 and 27
- April 17
- May 1 and 15
- June 1

Panther's Riddles

Q: What did the cow say to the other cow?

A: Moove over!

Q: What's the best way to catch a squirrel?

A: Act like a nut!

Q: What animal never tells the truth?

A: A lion.

Panther's Brain Teasers

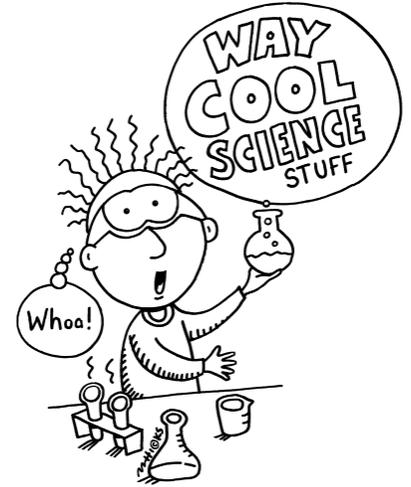
1. I am an odd number. Take away one letter and I become even. What number am I?
2. Using only addition, how do you add eight 8's and get the number 1000?
3. What word looks the same backwards and upside down?

For answers, see box on page 4.

More After School Programs!

Paradise Valley is expanding its after school enrichment programs. In addition to the Black Knights Chess Club and Lego Jedi Star Wars Engineering programs, Paradise Valley will also offer three exciting new science and technology classes and an art enrichment class. Decide which one is right for you! Then go to the Paradise Valley HSA After-School Enrichment page for links to register for these programs:

<http://paradisevalleyhsa.org/Page/HSA/AfterSchool%20Enrichment>



City Builders— Explore the history and physics of the bridges of the Bay Area and build your own bridge. Other projects might include building and exploring catapults, skyscrapers, or cable cars.

Grades 4-6. Mondays.

Digital Photography— Capture your vision with the eye of a camera! Complete a series of digital photography challenges to master the primary functions of an SLR camera and learn the fundamentals of photo editing.

Grades 4-6. Tuesdays.

Black Knights Chess Club— Have fun and learn or improve your chess skills. Students will play chess with each other and learn chess strategies throughout the year. We have a chess tournament in the Spring.

Grades 1-6. Wednesdays, 12:50-1:30 p.m. in the Cafeteria.

Lego Jedi Master Engineering— The Force is strong in this class. Build complex machines and structures based on the best designs from a galaxy far, far away. Projects include LEGO X-Wings, AT-AT walkers, Pod Racers, Star Destroyers, Cloud Cities, settlements, and fortresses. Play-Well's Jedi instructors reinforce key engineering concepts such as gear trains, worm drives, pneumatics, eccentric motion and more as students tap into the powerful forces of imagination and engineering.



Grades 3-6 (and 2nd graders in previous PlayWell Classes at PV). Thursdays, 2:15-3:45 p.m. in the Cafeteria. January 15-April 2, 2015.

Note: No classes on Feb 19th and Mar 5th (due to School Holidays)



Incredible Edibles— Perform experiments using food, including inventing your own soda flavors and discovering the properties of solids, liquids, and gases by making your own ice cream.

Grades K-3. Fridays.

Website Gets Facelift and PV gets Facebook

The Paradise Valley website has a new look and has many new features and enhancements to help you get the information that you need quickly. The website features a convenient menu bar, a live scrolling Latest News bar, links to recent posts, and a link to the Paradise Valley Facebook Page. The website is kept up-to-date so you will always know that you are getting the very latest information. It is at the same URL:

<http://www.paradise.mhu.k12.ca.us/>.

Browse over and take a look!



The New Paradise Valley Elementary School Facebook page already has 67 likes

since its first post in October of last year. This is an ideal place for the Paradise Valley school community to share ideas, news of upcoming events, volunteer opportunities, pictures, and comradery. There is a lovely picture posted of Mrs. Dagar with Santa from the Cookies with Santa event held on December 19, 2014. There is also a picture of two Paradise Valley students working together in one of the classrooms. Now you will really need to go check out the Facebook page!

<https://www.facebook.com/paradisevalleyelementaryschool>

Answers to Brain Teasers on page 3.

1. Seven (take away the 's' and it becomes 'even').
2. $888 + 88 + 8 + 8 + 8 = 1000$
3. SWIMS



Malala Yousafzai said, "ONE child, ONE teacher, ONE book, and ONE pen CAN change the world."

We just need ONE volunteer—YOU—to help make a difference in ONE child's life.

Programs in Need:

After School Enrichment Program. Help needed to plan, lead and oversee after-school enrichment programs throughout the school year.

Assemblies Chair & Co-Chair. Volunteers are responsible for planning enrichment assemblies throughout the year.

Bingo Night. Coordinated by the Chair, volunteers are needed to set up, run the event, and clean up.

Campbell Soup Labels. Volunteer needed to encourage families to collect labels from participating vendors and deposit them in the box in the front lobby.

Campus Beautification. Help needed to maintain our school garden and assists with other campus projects.

Fifth Grade Committee. Help needed to plan and fundraise for a field trip to the State Capital and to help organize the 6th grade promotion ceremony.

Funvisors. Volunteers are needed to supervise students playing games and doing art during their lunch break.

Parents Night Out (PNO). Help needed prior to the event and on the day of the event.

Sixth Grade Science Camp. Volunteers needed to assist with planning and implementation.

Spell-a-Thon. Assistance needed prior to the event and on the day of the event.

Staff Appreciation. Volunteer needed to plan luncheons, encourage student and parent participation during teacher appreciation week, and provide treats to staff during conferences.

Talent Show. Volunteers needed every other Friday to assist with rehearsals and day of event.

Yearbook Committee: Design, Layout & Sales. Volunteers are needed for photo layout (Feb-early April); and another 2-3 volunteers are needed to assist with photo follow-up, sales, and distribution (March-June).

To sign up for any of these volunteer opportunities, visit:

<https://paradisevalleyhsa.ourschoolpages.com/Package/Volunteer/VolunteeringPacketPage/1>