

The Paradise Valley Paw Print

October 2013

Hello Paradise Valley Community!

Since the last newsletter, we have had quite a few wonderful events on campus, such as the 6th Grade Carnival and BBQ, the Book Fair, and Back to School Night. I want to extend a **Thank You** to everyone that joined us at our events and added to our "Panther Pride"! The Carnival was especially fun with students and their families playing various games and enjoying the on-site BBQ. Special thank you to everyone involved, the parent volunteers, and students who helped out with organizing the Carnival and Book Fair.

At the Back to School Night, as I circulated around campus, I saw rooms filled with enthusiastic parents/ families listening to teachers' presentations and asking critical questions. Communication between the school and home is critical for your child having a successful year. Anytime that you have a question, a concern, or hear something from your child that does not correlate with what the teacher shared with you, please contact your child's teacher. He/she will get back to you as soon as they possibly can. Together, we can and we will make this a successful year for your child.

I would like to revisit the recess lining up procedure for our students. Over the past year or so, all 1st – 3rd graders out at recess were asked to freeze and take a knee when the bell rang. Students were then asked to walk to their classroom line when the yard supervisors blew a whistle. Students in grades 4th – 6th simply walked to the line when the bell rang. With the overarching goal of being consistent and reinforcing uniform school practice, we are moving towards having all students (K-6th grade) simply freeze when they hear the bell (not take a knee) and then walk to their classroom line when the yard supervisors blow the whistle.

I had my first Principal-Parent Coffee on September 17th and met with a few parents. I would like to invite many more of you to join me as we enjoy a cup of coffee together and chat about our school. The Principal- Parent Coffee is one of the ways that I would like to encourage parents to provide us with feedback. Like I said before, the more we communicate and share information, the more successful our school will be!



With such a dedicated school staff, wonderful families, and above all, with such hardworking and bright students, there is nothing holding Paradise Valley back. GO PARADISE PANTHERS!!

Sincerely, Swati Dagar, Principal

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

What is Coming Up?

October

- 3 Panther Prowl Assembly
- 8 Unity Day Assembly
- 9 Home & School Assoc. Mtg 6:30 p.m.
- 9 Unity Day, Wear Orange or Spirit Wear!
- 10 School Site Council Meeting 2:15 p.m.
- 11 GATE Club Tech Challenge Info (See pg. 3)
- 11 Panther Den
- 16 Paradise Parents Book Club 6:30 p.m.
Club meets at BookSmart
- 17 6th Grade Field Trip, Rosicrucian Museum
- 18 Panther Prowl Run
- 24 Picture Make Up Day
- 25 Prowl Pledge Money Due by 2:05 p.m.
- 25 Panther Den
- 28 Panther Prowl Prize Winners Announced
- 30 Great Pumpkin Display
- 31 Halloween Parade, 12:45 p.m.

November

- 5 Election Day
- 7 End of First Trimester
- 8 Friday, NO SCHOOL
- 11 Monday, NO SCHOOL
- 12-15 MINIMUM DAYS
- 13 Home & School Assoc. Mtg 7:45 a.m.
- 20 Paradise Parents Book Club 6:30 p.m.
Club meets at BookSmart
- 22 Panther Den
- 28 Thanksgiving
- 25-29 NO SCHOOL

Dec 4 – Last day to order year books. Go to paradisevalleyhsa.org for ordering information. Questions or to help collect photos - Contact gina@girouardfamily.com.

3rd Annual Panther Prowl – Friday, October 18



A school favorite is back again! Our teachers have fun and exciting activities planned for our students this year. Now it is time to provide additional funding to make those plans a reality! Donations your children collect enable the Paradise Valley Home & School Association to provide items, including: Technology Enhancements, Playground Equipment, Fieldtrips & Assemblies, Art & Science Enrichment, and MORE! **Online pledging now available! Go to paradisevalleyhsa.org, click on the running panther icon.**

THIS YEAR'S PRIZES: 16GB iPad2 for top money earners in K-3rd & 4-6th grades

Additionally, each classroom will have its own class fundraising goal. Classes that meet their goals will be given a pizza party! All students who participate in the Panther Prowl will receive a Panther Prowl dog tag. The class with the most pledge money wins a gymnastics party at California Sports Center.

Panther Prowl pledge sheets will go home in Friday Folders, October 4th. Volunteers are needed: please sign up online at <http://vols.pt/hREAT5>. Together we can make a positive difference! Other important dates: by October 25, turn in pledge money to be eligible for prizes, October 28, prize winners announced. Questions? Jill Moyer, jbmoyer1@aol.com, or Amy Oselinsky, aselinsky@yahoo.com.

Unity Day, Wednesday, October 9

Paradise Valley will celebrate Unity Day, a nationwide anti-bullying campaign. Students are encouraged to wear orange or Spirit Wear on October 9 in solidarity, they will take an anti-bullying pledge, and tie orange ribbons to the school's back fence. Additionally, the school will host an assembly for all grade levels on Tuesday, October 8. **Volunteers are still needed.** Please contact Karen Fitch at fitchfamusa@yahoo.com.

Programs at Paradise Valley

October 2013

GATE Club Tech Challenge Information Sessions

Paradise Valley is participating in the [Tech Museum's 2014 Tech Challenge](#): "Harnessing the Wind." It's held April 12-13, 2014, but the fun and preparation starts this October! We are now recruiting multiple teams made up of 5th-6th graders (2-6 kids per team), and volunteer teachers, parents and community members. No experience required - just time and passion! Questions or RSVP? sally@goodpockets.com.

Join our information sessions to learn more (Please RSVP by Oct. 9):

Students: Brown bag lunch, Friday Oct. 11, Mrs. Wagner's Classroom, Room 24

Parents, Teachers & Community Volunteers: Fresh Fruit & Coffee, Friday Oct. 11, 7:45am, Cafeteria

The "One Yard" Youth Development Program

Welcome to our newest program at Paradise Valley! "One Yard" is an on-site coach-guided positive play, game, and activity program designed to welcome and teach interested students about standard favorite games and new activities they can become a part of during recesses, lunch breaks, and even before school. The primary focus of the program is to provide students with positive play opportunities and conflict resolution skills. As a part of the program, 5th and 6th grade teachers nominate about 30 students who will be "Junior Coaches" to help assist as student leaders and help their peers/ younger grade level students with conflict resolution as and when needed. These Junior Coaches will be provided training in conflict resolution and positive play strategies to help out during recess play time. Besides the recess positive play time, all students will have class game time when they will be pulled every other week for 'game time' with the Coach on site. This new, positive play youth development program is an excellent complement to the arts and game themed "Funvisor" program during lunch breaks.

It may be surprising, but conflicts during recesses and lunch are sometimes carried over into the classroom and can disrupt the rest of the day. A program like "One Yard" helps minimize conflicts through coach-guided/ student leader resolution in the moment and reinforces common language and resolution tools introduced in other programs, like Project Cornerstone.

We are looking at starting the program the first week of October. Coach Rance Hodge will be on campus to roll out the program. It is co-funded by the Home and School Association and Paradise Valley Elementary School. If you have any questions or would like to know more about the program, please feel free to contact Principal Dagar, dagars@mhusd.org.



Project Cornerstone

The Project Cornerstone Team will be reading "Stand Tall Molly Lou Melon" in October. For questions about the program or to volunteer, contact Diana Gill, dlding@yahoo.com.

Let's Not Forget the Monumental Efforts for September's Book Fair & Back-to-School BBQ & Carnival

Thanks to our families, staff and many volunteers for another successful Book Fair!! Final tallies: sales over \$18,000, students and parents bought 414 new books for the teachers, while the Home and School Association bought 350 books for teachers. **Mr. Lloyd and Ms. Buckner had the most books purchased for their classrooms and have won pizza parties!!** A very special thank you to Mrs. Dagar for enthusiasm, support and for being an amazing Cleopatra at the Reading Oasis!

Thanks to all the families that made our Back to School BBQ and Carnival a huge success also! It was a great kick off to our sixth grade science camp fundraising. A special thanks to **H2O to Go** for donating their BBQ grill and Kevin Fitzgibbons & Lance Moyer for managing it! Special thanks to everyone who made it possible: Kristi MacMillian, The Ansbro family, The Sjlound family, Cherisses Hair Salon, The Moyer family, The Callison family, The Neves family, Earth grain breads, and all the students, staff and families who donated time and effort. **Jill Moyer and Cheryl Ansbro, BBQ committee.**

People at Paradise Valley

October 2013

Welcome to First Grade!



First grade can be a bit scary for some little ones. Maybe nerve-racking for parents too? No longer in the somewhat insulated comfort of the kindergarten pod, the kids have graduated to the "big kid" playground, classrooms, sharing lunch and recess with multiple grade levels, and weekly homework. But not to worry!

Paradise Valley's four 1st grade teachers have the right mix of experience and energy to help smooth the transition and get our children prepared for every year to follow.

Thank you in advance to our first grade staff: Mrs. Scampini, Room 13; Mrs. Fox, Room 14; Mrs. Balestrieri, Room 15; and, Mrs. Buckner, Room 22.

When talking with any one of the teachers, it is easy to see that each has a strong sense of commitment to and excitement about teaching in general, and first grade especially. For example, Mrs. Balestrieri sums up the shared sentiment with: "No other grade is quite like it. I find six year olds to be outspoken, imaginative and genuine. Best of all, they are still readily able to enter the world of make believe and perceive magic as coexisting in their world. Who better to spend your time with?" Mrs. Scampini also cites the variety from one day to the next as a significant component of her love for teaching. Not many jobs can offer that.

Why is first grade so important? It is the grade when young kids understand that there are expectations to meet and behaviors that are required when working in any type of group setting. While kinder students are learning about those things for the first time and maybe given an extra chance or two, it is in first grade that kids get the chance to be more independent, responsible and accountable. All of that may seem daunting to a little kid, but Mrs. Buckner knows that in addition to teaching academics, the person leading the classroom must also exemplify patience, understanding, and a loving, encouraging spirit. Without those attributes, a teacher will fall flat, and all of the students will too.

With approximately 40 years of combined expertise, our first grade staff has a wide range of teaching history that lends itself to a richer experience for their students. Mrs. Fox transferred her preschool know-how to a lively, challenging classroom environment for the past five years at Paradise. And Mrs. Scampini's previous years teaching in grades two through four give her an insight into what extras will make the right impact for kids' success as they move up.

Each teacher has strengths and personal interests that shine through and will, undoubtedly, influence their students. Mrs. Balestrieri's has a passion for the arts, Mrs. Fox loves marine biology, and Mrs. Buckner enjoys teaching science and social studies lessons. No matter what those interests may be, Paradise Valley's first graders are in good hands and already well on their way!

Next month's Paw Print will feature the 4th grade staff!

Lastly ... The Home & School Association has voted in new officers for the 2013-2014 school year. Please welcome Tara Bevington and Denise David as co-presidents, Amy Whelan as vice president, Angela Myhre as treasurer, and Lori Edwards as secretary. If you are interested in volunteering or have general questions/comments, please reach out to PVHSA@yahoo.com.