

# The Paradise Valley Paw Print

September 2013

Hello Paradise Valley Community,

Welcome to the 2013-14 school year! We are looking forward to another successful and fulfilling year. We strive daily to reach all students to help them become innovative, critical thinkers that collaborate effectively, contribute meaningfully and be successful in the global community. Our school is consistently focused on providing students with rigorous educational experiences that are structured, sequential, and based on the current California State Standards.

I am sure all of you have heard about the new Common Core State Standards that are being adopted state-wide. We are working diligently to incorporate these standards into our daily routines even though these do not come into full effect till the following 2014-15 school year. We want to ease our students into the new standards and ensure that the transition is smooth. Our teaching staff is undertaking intensive training on how to implement these new standards into everyday instruction. Since the new standards are more technology oriented, we are focusing on incorporating technology across the school. At Paradise, we are actively embracing the new educational technology that will support our students to be critical thinkers of the 21st century. Please see page 3's "Technology Improvements" to see the latest upgrades we implemented this summer.

The CST test results for the 2012-13 school year have shown that we have made progress. You should have received your child's individual test report. Please take time to review these results with your child. Our goal is to have all students be Proficient or above. As you go over the results and celebrate successes, please do take note of your child's focus areas and know that we, at school, are working with your child on those areas as well. Our teachers go over each student's scores and plan instruction to make sure your child's needs are addressed best. I encourage you to contact your child's teacher for an update on your child's progress. This shows our students that their education is important to everyone involved. I also need your support in reinforcing the school-wide behavioral expectations of 3B's – Be Safe, Be Respectful, Be Responsible. Following school rules and displaying the virtues of safety, respectfulness, and responsibility is important to all of us for maintaining a safe, positive environment for maximized learning.

At Paradise Valley, the staff, parents, and students are committed to working together to meet student needs and building a school that is like no other! As with any situation, we will face some challenges on this journey; but, with our eyes on the goal of improved student achievement, with our continued team work and problem solving attitude, we will overcome those challenges with ease. It is with great enthusiasm and anticipation that I look forward to traveling this exciting road with you: the students; the staff; and the community of Paradise Valley...Upward and Beyond!

Sincerely, Swati Dagar, Principal, Paradise Valley Elementary School

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



# What's Coming Up

## September

2	Labor Day No School
6	Back to School BBQ 4:30 pm
11	Home & School Assoc. Mtg 7:45 a.m.
12	Author Visit Assembly: <i>Simon's Hook</i>
12	School Site Council Meeting 2:15 p.m.
13	Panther Prowl Sponsorships Due
16-20	Book Fair, Library
18	Paradise Parents Book Club 6:30 p.m. Club meets at BookSmart
19	Back to School Night 6:30-8 p.m.
24	Fall Pictures

## October (National Bullying Prevention Month)

3	Panther Prowl Assembly
9	Home & School Assoc. Mtg 6:30 p.m.
9	National Bullying Prevention Unity Day Wear Orange to Show Support!
10	School Site Council Meeting 2:15 p.m.
16	Paradise Parents Book Club 6:30 p.m. Club meets at BookSmart
18	Panther Prowl Run
24	Picture Make Up Day
30	Great Pumpkin Display
31	Halloween Parade

## Third Annual Panther Prowl

Paradise Valley hosts the school's walk-a-thon on Friday, October 18th. This kid-favorite event has earned the school approximately \$70,000 in the last two years and is on track to do just as well this year!

Parent and corporate sponsors are needed. There are multiple, tax-deductible sponsorship levels! In return for sponsorships of \$50 or more, the company name/ logo or family name will appear on the walk-a-thon pledge forms distributed to approximately 700 students. Sponsorships of \$250 or more earn the name/logo on the pledge sheet and on a banner hung during the month of October in front of our school. To become a sponsor contact: Jill Moyer, [jbmoyer1@aol.com](mailto:jbmoyer1@aol.com), or Amy Oselinsky, [aoselinsky@yahoo.com](mailto:aoselinsky@yahoo.com). Sponsors are due Friday, September 13.



## Back-to-School BBQ & Carnival, Sept 6<sup>th</sup> (Not the 7<sup>th</sup>!)

Don't miss it! Friday, September 6, 4:30-7:30 p.m. Join your teachers, family and friends for a fantastic evening of carnival games, crazy hair, cotton candy, snow cones and much more! Barbeque dinners will be available for purchase; choices are a hamburger or hot dog with a drink and chips for only \$5.00! Delicious Chicken Caesar salads will also be available for \$8.00.

## Paradise Valley Book Fair

Join the school staff and students at this year's annual Book Fair, Monday, September 16, through Friday, September 20, 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](mailto:ninalori@hotmail.com).

**Yearbook Ordering:** Order yearbooks online by December 2 for \$20 each at [paradisevalleyhsa.org](http://paradisevalleyhsa.org). Order forms will also appear in Friday folders in September. Questions or to help with photos, contact Gina Girouard at [gina@girouardfamily.com](mailto:gina@girouardfamily.com).

**Go Green! Electronic Friday folders and lots of info at [paradisevalleyhsa.org](http://paradisevalleyhsa.org) on the "First Day Packet" link at the bottom of the left side navigation bar.**

# Programs That Make a Difference

## Fun Visor Program

The Fun Visor Program is a lunch time alternative activity that is available to all students. Parent volunteers help out with games and activities on the playground where kids can paint, color, play with chalk, bubbles, board games, card games, hula hoops or jump ropes. Kids are finding great fun and creative ways to connect with other kids and enjoy their lunch breaks more.

Scheduled to start in mid-September, this year's program will run approximately two days a week.

Without volunteers, Fun Visor cannot exist! The program needs two parents per lunch to help out for a total of 2½ hours. More volunteers mean more fun! To volunteer contact Gino Borgioli at [jborgioli@verizon.net](mailto:jborgioli@verizon.net) or [sue.i.stapleton@gmail.com](mailto:sue.i.stapleton@gmail.com).



## Box Tops and Labels for Education

Support your school through *Box Tops* and *Labels For Education*! Each program has a specific sheet to attach labels. Put completed sheets in a zip lock bag with child's name, grade and teacher; turn in to your teacher or the designated folder in the HSA box located in the school office lobby. For every 25 labels turned in, your child will receive 1 Panther Pride ticket to shop with at the Panther Den. More info available at: [www.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com) and [www.labelsforeducation.com](http://www.labelsforeducation.com).

## Paradise Valley Parent Book Club

Paradise Valley parents formed a book club this summer, a spin-off from the "Take It Personally" (TIP) spring workshop. Open to all parents who can join at any time, the Club reads parenting books that help provide tools for supporting children. The Club is currently reading chapter 4 in "The 5 Love Languages of Children" by Gary Chapman and Ross Campbell. Meetings are held the third Wednesday of every month from 6:30 - 8 p.m. in the backroom of BookSmart in Morgan Hill. Each month we will be reading and discussing one chapter. Join us on September 18 and/or October 16. Contact Diana Gill [dlding@yahoo.com](mailto:dlding@yahoo.com) for questions.

## Project Cornerstone

Last but not least ... look for this year's Project Cornerstone team to kick off the popular program in mid-September with *Have You Filled a Bucket Today?* and *Simon's Hook*. Every month team members will be reading a different book designed to help kids navigate social situations.

# People That Make a Difference

## This Month: The Home & School Association (HSA)

### **Computer Lab and Technology Improvements? New Library Materials? Playground Improvements and P.E. Equipment? Disaster Preparedness Materials? Classroom Workbooks?**

You may be surprised to learn of how much the HSA accomplishes on behalf of every Paradise Valley student. Simply put, without the HSA, we would have a much less varied, fulfilling, and complete academic experience for our children. We need volunteers to continue on!

Through your consistent and generous support of various fund-raising programs – especially large-scale initiatives like Panther Prowl, Parents' Night Out, or the Book Fair – the Paradise Valley HSA earns funds that then get redistributed throughout the school, its varied grade-level needs, and specific opportunities affecting every student. For example:

- Buses for fieldtrips
- Art Cart supplies
- Project Cornerstone materials
- Science Camp
- Panther Den Prizes
- Disaster preparedness
- Teacher workroom supplies
- GATE
- STAR testing snacks
- Assemblies
- Chess Club
- Physical education equipment
- Campus beautification
- Parents' Night Out
- Agendas for students
- Lunch recess YMCA program
- Scholarships
- Adopt-a-Family
- Workbooks for classes
- Author visits
- Back to School BBQ/Carnival
- Book Fair
- Funds and new books for Library
- Monthly Newsletter – *Paw Print*
- PVHSA Website
- School Directory
- Teacher's lounge
- Panther Prowl materials
- Technology Upgrades
- Fun Visor supplies
- Year Book preparation

The HSA's latest accomplishment is its new website, which is easy to navigate, contains information on every aspect of the HSA's work and general activities at school, and gives parents an easy way to stay informed. The types of things available on the website are: the school's calendar, copies of the *Paw Print* newsletter, links to all HSA programs and activities, as well as those not affiliated directly with the HSA, information about the school, including the bell schedule, lunch menu, and Common Core Standards. It also contains links to the variety of software programs the students work on at home and at the computer lab, such as IXL Math, BrainPop, BrainPop Jr., and the Accelerated Reader websites. For questions about the site, please contact Kimberly Leaman-Silva, [kimleamansilva@me.com](mailto:kimleamansilva@me.com).

**To receive your Friday folder info electronically, please sign up at the HSA website under the "First Day Packet" link at the bottom of the left side navigation bar.**

The HSA is actively seeking parents to serve as officers and committee members. If you are interested in direct involvement with the school's progress and success, please contact Amy Whelan at [amywhelan@verizon.net](mailto:amywhelan@verizon.net).

***Next month's Paw Print will feature the first grade staff!***