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School News

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Covering the Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District



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People Matter!



Donald B. Austin, Ed.D.
Superintendent

In the case of our District, we are blessed to have amazing people in every position. It is commonly accepted that we may not always remember what we learn, but we will likely remember the way someone made us feel. Along these lines, we are proud to have people who contribute daily to helping our kids realize their full potential, while also caring about them as individuals. To the best of our ability, we also try to treat each member of our organization with respect and strive to honor their collective contributions.

One of the major goals of PVPUSD is to recruit, hire, develop, and retain the best in class talent for each respective position. Along those lines, we are also creating succession plans to anticipate openings due to retirement,

promotion, and other things that require us to manage change. This approach requires consistent evaluation of our people and programs to plan for the future. In some cases, this means finding the future lead teacher, department chair, instructional coach, or grade-level facilitator. Sometimes, this requires identifying future assistant principals, principals, and district-level leaders. It can also mean developing and retaining our best classified staff members, including finding ways to promote, reclassify, and retain the people who keep our schools running smoothly.

While our students are our focus, their success is in the hands of the adults we employ for several hours per day. We don't take that fact lightly and will continue to do our part to put the best possible people with our kids!

Peninsula Education Foundation

P.O. Box 2632, Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274 • www.pvpef.org

How Well Do You Know PEF?



Christine Byrne
Executive Director

During February and March, all of our school campuses take a week to give families an opportunity to learn more about the Peninsula Education Foundation and find out how your support impacts your child's education throughout their academic career in the PVPUSD schools.

In the spirit of PEF awareness, I wanted to share some facts about PEF:

- The Peninsula Education Foundation was formed in 1979 to maintain, provide, and enhance vital education programs throughout our school district. Our goal is to fund programs that benefit every student at every school.
 - Even though we live in an amazing community, our district receives one of the lowest amounts of funding from the state for our schools.
 - It is the efforts of PEF, PTA, and Booster clubs that work together to help subsidize what the district receives to match the actual cost of providing a world class education for our children.
 - It is important to support programs that benefit your child at the school he/she is currently attending, but it is equally important to support PEF to ensure not only that these programs continue while your child is at that school, but to ensure that the programs we currently fund at the next school level are still there when your child is ready for them!
- PVPUSD is ranked the 5th BEST school district in the state of California!
 - The Peninsula Education Foundation has pledged to raise \$3.5 million this year for our schools. These funds support vital teaching positions and programs throughout the school district. All of these positions and programs are essential to our children's academic success and would not be possible without your support.
 - Through your donations to PEF, you help support STEM for 4th through 12th grade, elementary PE, library, music, district-wide increased technology support, safe school counselors, Parent University speaker series, college & career center, additional academic counselors, and MORE.
 - \$1.3 million of PEF funds go toward teaching positions throughout the district!
 - The STEM Symposium held on April 12th is sponsored by PEF to highlight the amazing STEM programs PEF supports throughout our district
 - Thanks to so many participants in the Skecher's Friendship Walk, PEF received \$240,000 that helps us reach our district pledge of \$3.5 million!
 - Our annual fundraising gala, The Main Event has been happening for over 34 years!! This year's Main Event will take place on Saturday, May 13th. Go to www.pvpef.org for more information.



Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Neta Madison
Netragrednik

About the People

Superintendent Dr. Austin's message on page 3 highlights the importance of recognizing the contributions of people. In this issue, you will read about people who make a difference in the lives and education of students.

Everyone in the school district contributes in a positive way. Consider the maintenance workers, who make sure students have a clean environment to study. Students show their appreciation and respect by doing their part to dispose of their trash in their proper receptacles, etc.

Providing a positive school environment is a common thread in

each school. Addressing adults and peers with kindness and respect contribute to the learning environment — Actions speak louder than words.

Parents and community involvement demonstrate to students they matter. A collaborative effort gets positive results and it starts with the leadership of Dr. Austin. The PVPUSD students, faculty and community are fortunate.

Our next issue is May 31 just in time for congratulating the graduates.

School News

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Covering the
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PVP Council of PTAs

Students Recognized in PTA Reflections Program



By Beth Meyerhoff, President,
and Lori Siembieda, Publicity Chair

The PTA Reflections program is a national program encouraging participation in the arts both at home and in the classroom. The theme for this year was “What is Your Story?” Entries were encouraged from students of all grades and abilities in any of the following categories: dance choreography, literature, visual arts, photography, film production, and music composition. Student entries are submitted at each school level and can progress through the PVP Council of PTAs, 33rd District, and State levels of competition. This year, there were 1,068 entries submitted by Palos Verdes students and approximately 5,300 entries at the 33rd District level overall, meaning that almost 20% of the entries at the District level came from Palos Verdes. Twenty-seven entries from Palos Verdes were part of the 33rd District level competition, and of those entries, 12 earned 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place. Three entries moved on to the California State Competition to compete against 539 entries.

The PVP Council of PTAs is very proud to recognize Kinzah Babar from Palos Verdes High School, whose literature submission earned an Award of Merit – 2nd Place at the state level. Congratulations to all the Reflections participants this year!

The winners at the 33rd District level are as follows.

First place winners:

Maya Whitcomb, Miraleste Intermediate, Literature;
Kinzah Babar, Palos Verdes High, Literature;
and Calista Yeh, Soledad Elementary, Music Composition.

Second place winners:

Sofia Mendoza, Cornerstone Elementary, Film Production;
Grant Libeu, Montemalaga Elementary, Photography;
Irene Suh, Palos Verdes High, Visual Arts;
Marcus Chang, Palos Verdes High, Music Composition;
and Deya Ahluwalia, Ridgecrest Intermediate, Photography.

Third place winners:

James Lai, Montemalaga Elementary, Visual Arts;
Zach Mermelstein, Palos Verdes High, Photography;
Katarina Stoa, Point Vicente Elementary, Dance Choreography;
and Kenton Chao, Ridgecrest Intermediate, Dance Choreography.

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Cornerstone @ Pedregal *Elementary School*

6069 Groveoak Pl., Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275-2261 • 310/378-0324



Michele Marcus
Interim Principal

Teaching Kindness

Cornerstone School at Pedregal is a special place where students come to learn each and every day. But what makes our school a place where students look forward to coming each day are the people who fill it.

We have an amazing teaching staff. They work tirelessly to provide students with the most engaging lessons to prepare them for success throughout their years in school. But

don't think that all learning happens in a classroom with a teacher.

Students are also learning life lessons throughout the school day from the many adults on campus. The classified and support staff found all around our campus are pivotal in a child's learning. Our yard supervisors teach students how to be good citizens, follow the playground rules, and help a friend when he or she is hurt or alone.

The library and technology aides support students during their time in the lab each week. The music teachers work hard to provide students with the gift of music, often developing a love of an instrument that a student never knew that he or she had. Students learn from our physical education teachers how to play various sports and, more importantly, how to be a team player.

Our custodian models for students how to respect their learning environment by keeping our campus beautiful. And our office staff members, the "first faces" of our school, teach the students through their interactions how to be kind, caring, and respectful. The amazing parent volunteers support all of these teachable moments throughout the school day, wherever they are needed.

The one unifying lesson that all adults on campus hope to instill in our students is to choose kindness in their interactions with others.



Dapplegray *Elementary School*

3011 Palos Verdes Dr. North, Rolling Hills Estates, CA 90274-7303 • 310/541-3706



Nancy Parsons
Principal

Remarkable People!

Dapplegray Elementary opens every day and runs smoothly, thanks to our office staff and custodian. They are truly the power behind the throne.

Sue Kolb is the office manager at Dapplegray Elementary. She is the voice answering the phone, the one who relays messages about forgotten instruments, who knows the families in attendance, and who has her finger on the pulse of the school. Ms. Kolb began working at Dapplegray as the technology assistant, added office clerk to her responsibilities, and became office manager, combining the skills of both jobs. She is still our technology guru, craft specialist and solid foundation.

Our custodian, David Chau, is one of the most remarkable people you could ever meet! He cares for our school and all of us every single day. You never see “Mr. David” that he is not helping another person or making our school a better place. He does this and more, always with a smile on his face.

Susie Fenton’s title is health clerk, although she is also an X-ray technician. Mrs. Fenton began working at Dapplegray as the library aide because she is an avid reader. For several years, she held both jobs and directed traffic after school. Just this year, she has become our full-time health clerk,



Here Mrs. Parsons is surrounded by the busy bees who keep Dapplegray up and running!

taking care of stomachaches, scrapes, bruises and other health problems with skill and a calm demeanor.

Just last year, Renee Torres joined the Dapplegray office staff as the office clerk. Ms. Torres handles absences and tardies, ordering of supplies and lunch counts, and provides support for everyone in the office with efficiency and a smile.

These people and many more make Dapplegray the safe, effective, efficient school that it is. We thank you for all you do to make Dapplegray great!

Lunada Bay *Elementary School*

520 Paseo Lunado, Palos Verdes Estates, CA 90274-4377 • 310/377-3005



Julie Tarango
Principal

One Outstanding Person!

How many times have you asked your child after school, “How was your day?” While responses vary, it is likely that their day was impacted by an adult at school. People working at our schools make the relationships with our children matter. Day-to-day encounters are enriched by the guidance and encouragement they receive from staff at Lunada Bay.

Teachers often stand out when children recall an average day at school. They love their teachers and enjoy sharing moments that resonated with them personally. They also interact with adults who guide them outside the classroom. Custodians, office workers, cafeteria staff, yard supervisors, library aides and so many more know each child by name—something we pride ourselves on because it matters greatly. Whether in a classroom or walking to lunch, children know that our adults are invested in them at every moment.

One example of this is our library-aide, Mrs. Pearce. Tina Pearce is the kind of employee whose value extends beyond the hours worked. The programs she creates for children and her lasting relationships with our little ones make all the difference.

Mrs. Pearce has many roots at Lunada Bay. She began as



a parent in 2001, became more involved as PTA president, and volunteered to lead many cherished events like the International Festival before becoming our beloved library-aide nine years ago. Our library has become a treasured, safe place for social gatherings during playtime in addition to the weekly visits. Library doors are open during recess and lunchtime for researching, drawing, or playing card games with Mrs. Pearce. It’s a vibrant place where children are laughing and the energy is magnetic—it’s safe, happy and fun!

Our staff is devoted to creating special moments and memories here at school, so remember to ask your child often, “How was your day?”

Mira Catalina *Elementary School*

30511 Lucania Dr., Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275-6272 • 310/377-6731



Brett Egan
Principal

Learning through Technology

Walk into any classroom at Mira Catalina Elementary School, and you will see technology in use. Students stand at SMART Boards manipulating the

screen in lessons on science, language arts, math, and social studies.

During centers, students use the classroom computers to complete research and access programs to extend learning and remediate skills. Students learn basic word processing and keyboarding skills on computers and laptops. In the classrooms and in the library/media center, students participate in technology assignments across all subject matters.

Technology is infused across all grade-level curriculum. This is not by accident. The tremendous work that is done each and every day by Chris Engeln, our technology media aide, and Cathy Michalak, our librarian aide, prepares students for success in the 21st century. Our library/media



center instructors work closely with teachers to develop project based lessons to extend learning beyond the textbook. Students use what they have learned at school to extend their learning at home and beyond.

When you visit the computer lab, you see students completing higher-level tasks and using technology to enhance learning. This is an important distinction. While learning technology skills is important, these lessons allow

students to acquire and apply technology skills as they learn content. We have seen significant growth in oral presentation skills when technology has been the conduit. Our goal for students to articulate in verbal and written forms has been accelerated through the great planning and work of Chris and Cathy.

These two positions are funded by the Peninsula Education Foundation (PEF). We greatly appreciate the support of PEF, and we are grateful to have Chris and Cathy, both of whom are tremendous assets to our school community and integral parts of the faculty at Mira Catalina.

Miraleste *Intermediate School*

29232 Palos Verdes Dr. East, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275-6470 • 310/732-0900



Brent Kuykendall
Principal

A Strong Community Connection

Schools are built for students, but made successful by the people who serve them every day. As the principal of Miraleste Intermediate, I am constantly reminded as to why this school

is such a special place. This feat is accomplished by our amazing students, but they are supported by an equally impressive team made up of faculty, staff, and countless parent volunteers.

Danny Green is an integral member of this team, and his efforts are part of what makes Miraleste such a great school. He is one of our noon-duty supervisors who helps to create a safe and fun lunchtime atmosphere. His infectious smile and positive attitude make him a perfect person for the job.



Mr. Green always looks forward to coming to work each day. He is excited to be serving the students and staff of Miraleste. He sees the school as his own, and takes great pride in his work. This ownership and commitment is not limited to Mr. Green though, but is seen over and over again here at our school.

I want to thank everyone who gives of their time, energy, and efforts to our school. The connection that Miraleste has with the community, and sense of pride that I see in the eyes of our past and present Marauders, is unique.

Miraleste has a long history, and we are fortunate to have so many people who care about its well-being and success. Thank you again to the parents, staff, and Danny Green's of the world. Our students have benefited from each of you. Go, Marauders!

Palos Verdes *Intermediate School*

2161 Via Olivera, Palos Verdes Estates, CA 90274-1983 • 310/544-4816



Frank Califano
Principal

Our Go-To Person!

In 1999, when PVIS was located at what is now Palos Verdes High School, Diane Diekman was hired to be the registrar. Two years later, when the school moved to the site where it now exists, Ms. Diekman was named office manager and continues in that role today. If you would like some information about the history of PVIS, speak with Ms. Diekman. If you need help in any

way, speak with Ms. Diekman. When the teachers of PVIS need something to get done, they go to Ms. Diekman. More than any teacher or administrator, Diane Diekman is synonymous with Palos Verdes Intermediate School.

Her love for this school and community is boundless. She and I have worked closely together for the past nine years. We haven't always agreed, and most of the time when we had a difference of opinion, she was right. I have trusted her judgement, and her loyalty to me is a huge reason why I leave PVIS feeling very proud of what has been accomplished.

PVIS is a great school. There are many reasons as to why this is so. Ms. Diekman is one of the big pieces of that success story.



Montemalaga *Elementary School*

1121 Via Nogales, Palos Verdes Estates, CA 90274-1671 • 310/378-5228



Jody Pastell
Principal

A World-Class School

Without a doubt, the people at Montemalaga make our school great! Just picture the links in a chain. Link after link creates a strong connection. Without these interlocking links the strength of the chain is weak.

The "chain" at Montemalaga is comprised of some of the strongest links found in any school setting. It begins with the office, where our office manager, office clerk, and health clerk provide band aids, listening ears, and effective solutions to all kinds of problems, as well as overall kindness towards every student.

The school custodian also provides an additional link in the chain. The custodian keeps our school very clean and safe. He also takes the time to help a kindergarten student tie their shoes, or assists a parent with hanging banners to advertise an upcoming PTA event. Both our office staff and head custodian truly make our school run smoothly!

The school psychologist, Learning Center staff, Behavior Support staff, technology support, and library aides all link the instruction to so many fun and exciting activities for our students to learn and grow. Each of these employees also demonstrates a relentless work ethic and a passion

for learning. They make a big difference to so many young minds.

Our classroom teachers also provide links in the chain with the other teachers, parents, and students. Teachers can make very special connections that support the success of the entire student body.

Our team is very talented, too! All stakeholders listen and respect the opinions of the other. Each time a goal is met, a problem is solved, or a success is achieved, another link is added to this outstanding chain of success. The Montemalaga Elementary School parents and PTA board have created strong links in our school chain as well. Programs supporting instruction and student character are planned annually by outstanding parent leaders. They are truly shaping the leaders of the next generation.

We can see that Montemalaga has created a chain of important people to support its day-to-day educational program. This chain consists of one continuous circle with no beginning and no end. Everyone works well together, and each understands the importance of a strong, cohesive team of individuals. When additional links are added, the support grows even greater. But, the chain continues to stay connected at every link.

Our Montemalaga staff and parents have definitely created a world-class school!

Palos Verdes *High School*

600 Cloyden Rd., Palos Verdes, Estates, CA 90274-1869 • 310/378-8471



Charles Park, Ed.D.
Principal

Creative Leaders

Our department leads have a quiet resolve about them. As they work diligently for the school, they always ask first, "How will it help our students and school?" They are the models of what Jim Collins in *Good to Great* would call level 5 leaders: humble and deeply dedicated to long-term results.

I am so lucky to be surrounded by such

leaders, who place our school first and make the work not about themselves or even their departments but about what is best for our school and students on a broader scale. They have intelligence and emotional intelligence. Together we have solved many problems under the radar, and they take no credit for their hard work. We believe our work is not about titles but about building trust and being able to express ideas through healthy conflict. This accelerates our ability to find creative solutions daily.



Point Vicente *Elementary School*

30540 Rue de la Pierre, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275-5364 • 310/377-6972



Beth Hadley
Principal

Together, We Weave the Future

Creating a positive school environment is like weaving a tapestry. First, the anchor threads are established, the warp. For our students, the warp is the support and guidance they get from their parents. The love and early childhood experiences provided by parents form the foundation for the challenges of growing up.

And parental involvement does not stop when children enter school. At Point Vicente Elementary School, parents create a support network for success. International Day is a student and staff favorite. Countries and cultures that are far away come alive for children because of parents! Our Fun Run involves parents as cheerleaders, lap counters, and motivators! Our parents provide support not only on high-profile, major event activities but also in the background. Parents help with materials preparation, grading, and decorating, all behind the scenes, making valuable contributions and building that strong support for children. Parents provide a secure base of support.

After the solid warp is established, the horizontal weft is added. Teachers provide challenging, enriching, structured activities that help students learn new skills and build concepts. Art, music, the beauty of mathematics, and the power of reasoning are woven throughout school experiences. From learning to read to reading to learn, children develop the power of spoken and written language. Children build on prior learning and make connections, and patterns emerge. Teachers at Point Vicente are master weavers. They have talent and experience in creating learning opportunities that support emerging patterns of skill and knowledge.

The beater is used to compact the weaving evenly. Home/school communication is a tool to monitor progress and make adjustments to support the children. Parents and teachers work together to ensure that students are making progress and developing skills.

What a complicated, beautiful energizing process this is! At Point Vicente, our parents and staff work together to weave the future!

Palos Verdes Peninsula *High School*

27118 Silver Spur Rd., Rolling Hills Estates, CA 90274-2300 • 310/377-4888



Mitzi Cress
Principal

Panther Family

My approaching retirement marks the official end of my 22-year relationship with Palos Verdes Peninsula High School as a parent, a counselor, an associate principal and, most recently, as a principal. Not surprisingly, Palos Verdes Peninsula High School has truly been my second family, and for many of the adults who work on our campus, Palos Verdes Peninsula High School

clearly holds a special place in their hearts as well.

Did you know, for instance, that 18 of our current teachers are graduates of either Palos Verdes Peninsula High School or its predecessor, Rolling Hills High School? For each of them, coming back to teach at their alma mater represents a chance to give back to the school that gave so much to them.

Or did you know that 32 additional staff members either graduated from Palos Verdes Peninsula High School or sent

their children here? We are honored that in each case, they have chosen to spend their working lives with us.

Over the years, I have filled out countless surveys and applications from education agencies, colleges and members of the media, all of which ask for standardized test scores, league championships or any number of other measurements that are easily quantified. Don't get me wrong—those things have unquestionably served us well. But in the spirit of the idea that not everything that counts can be counted, I have always believed that nothing at Palos Verdes Peninsula High School counts more than its people.

In September, Palos Verdes Peninsula High School will welcome its new principal, Brent Kuykendall, who also happens to be returning to the school where he was once a student. He knows that Palos Verdes Peninsula High School is a special place and looks forward to reuniting with his second family.



Rancho del Mar *High School*

38 Crest Road West, Rolling Hills, CA 90274-5058 • 310/377-6691



**Rosemary
Humphrey**
Principal

Some Special Helpers

Our classified staff members are key to a successful program. The following three classified staff members' daily attention to detail ensures the smooth running of Rancho del Mar High School:

Elizabeth Maltese is our office manager. She is a product of the PVPUSD, having attended elementary, intermediate, and high school in the district. She was also a volunteer for many years when her four children attended school in the district. In 2007, Elizabeth was hired as the PVHS health clerk. In 2012, Rancho del Mar was fortunate to be able to hire her as its office manager.

Elizabeth runs multiple office tasks with ease, and she also acts as a health clerk and maintains our website. She is a whiz at the computer, and often works long past her regular day. Thank you, Elizabeth, for all of your hard work and "volunteer" time!



**Elizabeth Maltese, Elmer Campos
and Cindy White**

Elmer Campos is our custodian. Elmer was first employed by the PVPUSD in 1997 as a member of the Weed Crew. He joined the Rancho del Mar staff as a custodian in 2000. Elmer takes great pride in making sure that our campus is kept safe, clean, and attractive. He takes care of our grounds, buildings, and classrooms, and also does the same for the district warehouse/maintenance offices located down the road from our school. Thank you, Elmer, for a great job!

Cindy White is our campus security and attendance clerk. In 2000, Cindy was employed by the PVPUSD as a clerical substitute in the district's Special Education Department. In 2002 we were lucky enough to be able to hire Cindy away to Rancho del Mar into her current job.

Cindy is a constant presence in our parking lot and on campus, always making sure that our students can arrive and leave safely and get to class on time. She also oversees our Tutorial Clinic and attendance recovery programs. Thank you Cindy for all of your assistance in supporting our students!

Rancho Vista *Elementary School*

4323 Palos Verdes Drive North, Rolling Hills Estates, CA 90274-1576 • 310/378-8388



**Salvatrice
Kuykendall**
Principal

Never Cease Learning

Rancho Vista is truly a special place! As I walk through the classrooms, I see students engaged in meaningful discussions and lessons and even taking "brain breaks." This doesn't happen by accident. What is even more fascinating is

walking through the staff lounge and teachers' classrooms before and after school. It is during that time that I see a different kind of spark. I see teachers sharing best practices, learning new ideas, and collaborating about ways they can continue to evolve in their classroom. I hear questions and comments that include "How can I make the lesson better?" and "I want to learn more about a specific program."

The Rancho Vista staff, as a whole, is always seeking to learn new and innovative ways to engage our students. The amazing group of educators is always open to seeking ways to progress in their chosen profession. Most recently, our teachers relayed the desire to expand our STEM



program from including only fourth- and fifth-grade students to including all students, beginning in first grade. As a staff, we researched and led a professional-development day, including colleagues from

another school, to expand our own knowledge and gain ideas from those around us. The staff created and fostered collaborative relationships so they can continue to learn from one another well after the professional development day came to an end.

So, as I walk through the classrooms and see students engaged in their lessons, I know that the students' desire to learn stems from seeing their own teachers' desire to continue to grow. Rancho Vista is that special place that fosters learning and follows the famous quote by John Cotton Dana: "Who dares to teach must never cease to learn."

Ridgecrest *Intermediate School*

28915 Northbay Rd., Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275-4902 • 310/544-2747



Kelli Keller
Principal

The Raiders of Ridgecrest

Walk into Ridgecrest Intermediate School (RIS) any time of day and laughter will undoubtedly be filling the school's central office hub. The team hums about completing the daily tasks of running a school—accounting for students, pushing paperwork, answering phones, planning lessons, and responding to parents—but giggling is always at the top of the daily “to do” list.

The Lady Raiders of the Office—Joan Lewis, Meredith Bloss, Leslie Anderson, Jesse Allen, Heidi Shulman, and Taylor Holloway—help to anchor a positive school-wide climate that is a model for all and is lively, supportive, and loving. This team genuinely cares for one another and the families they serve.

The interconnectedness shared by the Raiders includes dress-up days, family pictures, and sharing of hobbies and interests. This school understands that keeping personal relationships and total health is a critical component of the professional work space that makes all members of the RIS staff better. The team reaches out beyond the walls of the office and the school to make the “big wheels turn” for each student, family, and team member.

We are all better because of the work the RIS team does happily to serve families and students to the best of their abilities. Smiles and laughter are contagious at our workplace, trickling down to the classrooms and beyond. It is here with these Raiders that the reputation of RIS being the “happy school” is truly started and maintained!



Staff Secret Santa Celebration!

Soleado *Elementary School*

27800 Longhill Dr., Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275-3909 • 310/377-6854



Gina Stutzel
Principal

What Binds Us Together

Soleado Elementary School is a special place, and I love to boast about our great students and wonderful staff.

However, a big part of what makes Soleado a special place is the involvement of its parents and even grandparents in our classrooms and school activities. Our families are always welcome, and their ideas and input are greatly appreciated. But our

volunteers also bring a rich and cultural expertise to our diverse population of students.

Volunteers go beyond the basics of organizing events and delegating duties. These helpful hands offer spontaneous acts of kindness, such as helping new families navigate our school's routine, watching each others children during PTA meetings, or grabbing a cup of coffee to get to know each other.

Our multicultural population gives rise to some wonderful parent groups as well. The Japanese Parent Association and Korean Parent Association work tirelessly to help assimilate new families into our school and community. Working hand-in-hand with PTA President Jennifer Farrell, they coordinate our efforts to make

Soleado a welcoming home for new families.

Volunteering is helping, not hiring; giving, not taking; contributing, not counting. These large and small acts of kindness, given freely, are what bind our Soleado community together.



Silver Spur *Elementary School*

5500 Ironwood St., Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275-1739 • 310/378-5011



Marta Jevenois-Richardson
Principal

About the People

A school is a village where people come together to support one another, to create traditions and memories. Everyone within that village is important and

looks to their leaders to make their village a safe place where everyone feels welcome and accepted.

Our village is called Silver Spur Elementary. And our leaders are the teachers and staff who dedicate their working and nonworking hours to ensure that every citizen feels included and understood. Our village is always all about the people.

When we say the word *people*, it's usually associated with *grown-up*. But students are people, too. From the youngest T-K-er to the fifth-grader approaching tweendom, our village leaders know that when decisions focus on what's best for our people, great things can happen.

All about the people—those four words help us make the right choices about a myriad of things from how we structure our learning environment and curriculum to activities that our people, big and small, participate in. Our teachers and support staff are a testament to dedication, hard work and leadership.



It's no exaggeration to say that a great educator can change a student's life. As some of the most influential role models for developing students, teachers are responsible for more than just academic enrichment. A great educator must connect with students and reach them on multiple levels, because the best teachers—our Silver Spur teachers—are committed to our students' well-being inside and outside the classroom. By forging strong relationships, our amazing staff will affect virtually every aspect of their students' lives, teaching them the important life lessons that will help them succeed in life.

It takes a special person to be a great teacher. Our teachers are extra-special people! Silver Spur teachers and support staff, thank you for all you do for our students, parents and community! You make a difference every day!

Vista Grande *Elementary School*

7032 Purpleridge Dr., Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275-3059 • 310/377-6066



Jeri Delatorre
Principal

Demonstrating Dedication

Who knows that a specific student orders a grilled cheese sandwich every day for lunch, and then has it warm and ready? Our cafeteria manager!

Who notices the child sitting alone on the playground, and then enlists the help of classmates to include him? Our playground supervisor! Who notices the missing lock or broken tree branch? Why, that's our head custodian!

Who shows up 45 minutes before school three days a week (rain or shine) to exercise with students? Our dedicated Run Club volunteer! Who dries the tears and cleans scratched knees with everlasting tenderness? Our health clerk! Who gives up recess so that students can

complete a homework assignment? Our dedicated teachers!

And who greets everyone that comes through our front door with a cheerful smile? Our office manager, that's who!

The examples are endless. Vista Grande has a dedicated core of volunteer parents who make sure that your child's educational experience is rich with art, music, field trips, and technology. Our teachers and staff members also consistently demonstrate their dedication to the idea that all students should be treated as if they were their own children.

These are people who do not work for applause or recognition, but for their love for children. It isn't easy or convenient. But it is right, and immensely rewarding. I am forever grateful for the people who make Vista Grande feel like home — a home where our students are loved and valued.



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Alana's BookReview

Wonder



Alana F.

By: Raquel J. Palacio
 At first, the Pullman family doesn't seem that different. Two kids, mom, dad, drama, fights, Star Wars infatuations- what could be different? The answer is simple- Auggie. August Pullman is the



younger of the Pullman children. Since he was born, Auggie has been different- to put it simply, his face doesn't look "normal". Auggie knows this- in fact, he's known it from a young age. But when Auggie is sent to school with other kids for the first time, will any innocence he has be shattered? Will he only witness from his peers evil and rejection, or will he receive the acceptance he deserves?

I'd give this book five stars because it really speaks to people nowadays. This book is sure to tug at your heartstrings more than a few times, and can teach anyone a thing or two about loving others no matter what

Alana is a student columnist. When she doesn't have a book in her hands, she enjoys playing video games and writing fiction. She rates books on a scale of 1-5 with 5 being the highest.

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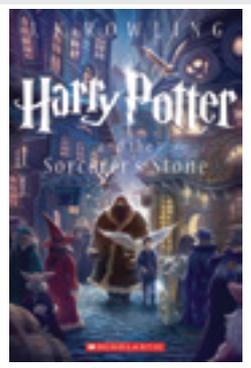
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Andys Book Corner

Always Friends

Harry Potter—the boy who lived, Ron Weasley—the cowardly friend, Hermione Granger—the smartest girl at Hogwarts: These three become best of friends and go through many death-defying adventures, but in the end they all make it together as friends. They have their fights here and there, but then again who doesn't!



One of the main points in this story is friendship because although they have fights they're always a team whether it's to find out what Draco Malfoy is up to or to face Voldemort.

I rate this story 5 out of 5 because it can relate a lot with our daily lives. It relates with us because we can all act like Harry and his friends sometimes, even with our friends and family! I recommend these books to all people who want a magical adventure and a lot of action!

Andrew C. is a 5th grader and when he's not practicing boxing he enjoys playing video games. He will rate books on a scale of 1 to 5 with 5 being the highest.

2 games in 1!

SumDiceyFun.com
info@sumdiceyfun.com

Katies Review



Katie C.

The Forgotten Sisters

*Princess Academy-
The Forgotten Sisters*
by Shannon Hale is about a girl named Miri Larendaughter of Mount Eskel who goes to teach three abandoned princesses. Miri, although



heartbroken that she must stay with the three girls (Astrid, Felissa, and Sus) and cannot go home, she knows that it is her duty to tutor the girls to act like princesses. This is crucial because it will help save two kingdoms at war stop fighting. The princesses learn as taught. However, as time unravels, Miri learns that they are part of a deep buried secret that they themselves do not know. Then, she is faced with a question that is bigger than her mountain home. Will she risk her own life to save the others? This tale is wrapped in mystery, excitement, suspense, and the heartwarming presence of a reunited family. I strongly recommend this book and give it a five out of five stars.

Katie is a 7th grader that loves to read and write. Fictional books are her favorite. Besides writing and reading, she loves soccer, acting, dancing, and playing the violin. She hopes to publish her own book someday.

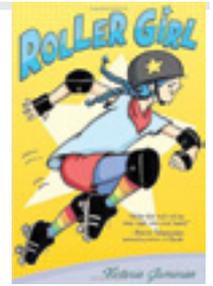
Book Review by Abbas



Abbas D.

Amazing Graphic Novel

Roller Girl is a graphic novel by Victoria Jamieson.



This book is about a girl named Astrid and her best friend Nicole. One day the girls go to a roller derby. Astrid later on begs her mom to go to roller derby camp and her mother agrees by signing her up. Astrid is elated and hopes her best friend will sign up too. Nicole signs up for dance class instead. This turns her summer upside down. Astrid's nemesis Rachel is now friends with Astrid because they're taking the same dance class. Rachel is a mean girl who keeps pressuring Nicole to stop being friends with Astrid. How will Astrid survive the summer without Nicole? This book is an amazing novel because it made me feel like branching out and trying new things can lead to new friendships. This book is great for people who love graphic novels and skating. Will Astrid continue her roller derby fame? I rate this book 5 out of 5 smiley faces.

Abbas D. is a fifth grade student who enjoys cooking in his free time, swimming and loves roasted marshmallows. Abbas will rate the books 1 to 5 smiley faces with 5 being the best.

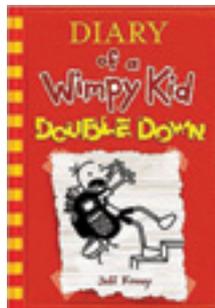
Courtney's Book Review



Courtney M.

An Enjoyable Read

The book I read was *Double Down*, and I enjoyed the book! Greg's class did a balloon experiment where they wrote a letter and tied it to a balloon, and then they released them.



Greg's got the farthest of them all in the class. But it was also close to Halloween, so the reward for the balloon experiment was a huge jar of candy corn, so Greg had to win the jar of candy corn.

Later that night, Greg and Rowley made their costume. It was a two-headed monster. The next night was the big Halloween party that everybody goes to. Continuing on, tonight was the big Halloween party, so Greg and Rowley got ready for the party. His mom loves to embarrass Greg, so she brought some family fun homemade games from a magazine, and everyone ended up loving the party games!

By the way, I rate this book 5!

Courtney likes to play softball, football, and plans to try volleyball. She also draws, sews and sings on the worship team at her church. She will rate the books 1 to 5 with 5 being the highest.

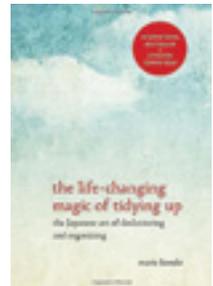
Lucy's Book Review



Lucy Davis

The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up

Author: Marie Kondo
Imagine a life that is simple and uncluttered. In wake of the ever-popular minimalist movement, I read a book that inspired me tremendously. This eye opening book explains



how to purge the unnecessary, and how it can affect your life. She covers every area of thought (and maybe more!) from how to decide what to keep, to understanding what it means to be a minimalist.

In just 224 pages, Marie explains how to take the first few steps in creating that lifestyle.

We live in a world with too much stuff. You only need what makes you happy, like Marie often says. It's time to start living clean, my friends!

I really loved this book, because it explains one of the simplest things in life: how to live simply. With five out of five bookworms, you should really give it a read.

Lucy is a fifth grade student that enjoys theater, playing guitar and singing. She's a Harry Potter fanatic and hopes to one day publish a series of her own. Lucy will rate the books 1 to 5 bookworms with 5 being the best.



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Michael's Book Review



Michael H.

Will the Cave People's Plan Work?

Captain Underpants and the Revolting Revenge of The Radioactive Robo-Boxers
 by Dav Pilkey.

Tippy Tinkletrousers had destroyed the world. Tippy made sure that George and Harold had never turned Mr. Krupp into Captain Underpants. But Tippy decided it was a mistake, so he went back in time to fix everything and destroy Captain Underpants. Tippy met up with George, Harold, and Mr. Krupp. He had a time machine, so he took them to the dinosaur age where he detonated a bomb, that had blasted all of them to the middle of the ocean.



Then right before they sunk Tippy set his time machine to go back to the time of the cavemen. Then he figured out Captain Underpants weakness, water! So he trapped Mr. Krupp under a waterfall. Then Tippy found George and Harold. He was about to squeeze them to death, but they came across cavemen. Unfortunately for Tippy, they escaped. Then George and Harold made a comic book on the rock walls to

make the cave people unafraid of Tippy. Then the cave people made a plan to stop Tippy. Will the cave people's plan to stop Tippy work? Will Captain Underpants be destroyed?

I give this book 5 *****. This book was exciting and funny and I think everyone will enjoy reading it

Michael H. is a 4th grade student. Besides his love for reading, he also enjoys Karate, playing guitar and sharing new adventures with his mom. He will rate the books 1 to 5 stars with 5 being the highest.

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Laura Henry
Young Readers
Manager

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

In celebration of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month this May, PVL D has embarked on a special project — “Japanese Americans on the Peninsula: Learning from Our Past to Look to Our Future.” Events will include free programs for all ages, from a bilingual storytime for preschoolers to film screenings and author talks for adults. We hope you all can attend! Notable events for children, teens, and families include:

Community Family Sumi-E Painting — Join us for an all-ages collaborative art project using Sumi-E, or Black Ink Painting, which will hang in the library all month long. Supplies will be provided. (Sunday, 4/30, 12-2pm, Peninsula Center Library Foyer)

Japanese Bilingual Storytime — Enjoy stories and songs in English and Japanese with Yuri Paramore. This program is geared towards children 2-5 and their caregivers but children of all ages are welcome. (Thursday, 5/4, 10:15 - 10:45am, Malaga Cove Library Community Room & Friday, 5/19, 10:15 - 10:45am, Peninsula Center Library Storytime Room)

Celebrate Children’s Day — Children’s Day is a national holiday in Japan to celebrate children’s growth and happiness. Join us as we make koinobori (carp) flags to fly in celebration of the children in your family! This program is best for children in Kindergarten and up but all are welcome. (Friday 5/5, 4-4:45pm, Peninsula Center Library)

Screening Legacy of Heart Mountain with Q&A with David Ono — A screening of The Legacy of Heart Mountain, which details the imprisonment of Japanese Americans in concentration camps and what daily life looked like inside the camps. Join the film’s producer, writer, narrator, and ABC7 anchor David Ono after the film for a Q&A. (Friday, 5/12, 9-10am at Peninsula Center Library)

Celebration Day — Join us for an all-day celebration of Japanese culture including a demonstration of ukiyo-e (Japanese woodblock printing) from 11am-1pm and a performance by the Los Angeles Japanese Music Ensemble at 2pm! Light refreshments will be provided. (Saturday 5/13, 11am - 3pm at Peninsula Center Library)

For a full list of events, visit www.pvld.org. Registration is not necessary for any of the events listed here.

Football Word Search Contest

Rules! One word in the list is NOT in the word search.

When you have completed the word search, one word will be left and that word you email to: Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com (Please put PVPUSD in the subject line)

Entries must be received by April 30, 2017
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a GAZUMP game - fun for all ages!



- | | | |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| Clipping | Kicker | Scrimmage |
| Coach | Linebacker | Special Teams |
| Conversion | Loss of Down | Super Bowl |
| Cornerback | Offsides | Tackle |
| Defense | Personal Foul | Tailback |
| Field Goal | Possession | Touchdown |
| Flanker | Quarterback | Yardage |
| Goal Post | Roughing | |
| Interference | Safety | |



Congratulations Micah Presser
Winner of our February Word Search Contest

BETTOLINO

KITCHEN

Please join us for a

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(With the purchase of an adult entrée,
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Expires 05.15.2017



Bettolino Kitchen Easter Word Search

Bettolino	Flowers
Easter	Parade
Bunny	Candy
Egg	Fun
Chocolate	Sunday
Hunt	Chicks
Basket	Spring

Y L G E L U E J H V P Y N R J A R I
Z R O P J V Z V T B Y M C G O P L J
H B K N O E I E R F U N X M X E J S
F X A T C A K Y P M O R C Z T D A O
D C T Z W S I B H F K A C V G X W V
A Y H X A T P V W Q K Y R B F Y Z D
A C F B G E S R B E T T O L I N O N
S W V B F R E S I B W B M F B N R J
H U N T Z E A J G N F R B F H U U H
N I N E S G R D L O G T Y M F B M P
V L D D H I C W F L Y C J X W G I J
E N T A A W H O Q J B O M B G T W G
Z C B R L Y U C R Q X H N O N I G I
S Z H A O E T A L O C O H C C F T P
F E B P A M X Y Y D N A C N B P L T
M G A H C T G Q A A F A I Y G K Q E
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