

FREE

School News

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Covering the Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District



Volume 2, Issue 7

June 2017

It was a Great Year!



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Have a fun summer!



Congratulations Class of 2017!

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Not having a paycheck during the summer had been cataclysmic. Having a Summer Saver helps me save throughout the year so I don't have to borrow for the summer."

ARRONDA H.
Intermediate School Teacher
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Another Step in Our Journey Together



Donald B. Austin, Ed.D.
Superintendent

This is the season of banquets, celebrations, retirements, promotions, and graduations. It is part of the natural cycle of a school system tied to a predictable calendar. It is also a time of the year full of excitement, anxiety, and reflection.

By most accounts, we should consider this a wildly successful year for the Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District. The most important victories are quietly tucked away in the subtle growth and maturation of our students. Sometimes, these important steps along the way to adulthood are easy to miss in the middle of a school system with so much public attention. Test scores, college admissions, awards, banners, and proclamations are visible reminders of relative greatness.

While this is true, I have always been more interested in the day a student learns the importance of giving thanks, developing manners, advocating for a cause, showing kindness, doing the right thing when nobody is looking, and treating others with respect. Those things happen here daily. It's easier to see if we focus our eyes on the most important things.

This is an amazing place for our kids to live and learn. Reflecting upon the conclusion of this year, I think the little unseen things are the best part of our community. Thank you for trusting us with your kids. They are truly amazing and we are proud to have a part in helping them to become future leaders and citizens. Congratulations to everyone for taking another step in our journey together!

Peninsula Education Foundation

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



Christine Byrne
Executive Director

Congratulations to All Our Students for Another Year of Excellence!!

It has been an exciting school year, watching the personal, academic and physical growth of our children. I am so proud of the role that the Peninsula Education Foundation plays in supporting the students of the Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District towards their growth and success.

I was able to watch first-hand how the programs that PEF supports in elementary school had a direct impact on shaping students as they continue their educational careers in intermediate and high school. Elementary music introduces students to singing, playing instruments, keeping time and reading music. Not only are there academic benefits from early exposure to music, but it also creates in some a passion to pursue music further. Our intermediate and high school music programs are amazing, and some of those students that are involved would not have even known they loved playing a particular instrument if it weren't for elementary music. The high school music programs are not only award winning, but we love them so much, they are our musicians for Main Event!

Elementary STEM is another stepping stone for our children to explore math and the sciences in a way that makes it fun and our students get to see real world applications to the academic things they are learning. Just like music, this early exposure will often ignite a passion in our students that they may not otherwise have realized was there without this opportunity. As a result, we have amazing STEM programs as well as competitive teams in intermediate and high school. The enthusiasm I have seen in the students as they describe their projects, their accomplishments, and the teamwork is contagious! Our teams compete and excel in competitions at the local, state, national and international levels. Truly amazing!!

This is also the time to congratulate our seniors who are getting ready to embark on the next stage in their academic careers. It is with the support and guidance of the Academic Counselors and the College and Career Center that assisted our students in exploring their options and making decisions on what their next path will be.

The Peninsula Education Foundation could not provide this support without the help of all of the amazing parents in our school district and our entire community.

Congratulations on a great year and may everyone have an amazing summer.



Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Netragrednik

As we say goodbye to another school year, I want to thank you for continuing to include *School News* among your reading choices. Congratulations to the Class of 2017 and to their parents and loved ones who supported, encouraged and often sacrificed to make sure they succeeded. Thank you to the dedicated educators who care deeply

about our future generations and continue to educate themselves to be better educators. Thank you to the volunteers and community as a whole.

This is our second year publishing the excellence from the PVPUSD. Our next issue is August 30 just in time to start a new school year. In the meantime, have a wonderful summer!



School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

www.schoolnewsrollcall.com
Covering the
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UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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PVP Council of PTAs

Capital Convoy

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

The annual Capital Convoy, organized by the Palos Verdes Peninsula Council of PTAs, took place on April 18-19. The trip allows high school students, as well as teachers, administrators, and parents from throughout the district, to travel to Sacramento to advocate regarding issues pertinent to the Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District (PVPUSD). The high school students who represent the district are chosen through an application process, answering questions on topics such as the most important issues facing California education and what constituents can do to influence legislation. Trip expenses, including airfare, hotels, bus transportation, and most meals, are paid for by each school site's PTA with supplementary funds from the Palos Verdes Peninsula Council of PTAs.

This year's group, totaling 70, was the biggest yet and afforded participants the opportunity to meet with Attorney General Xavier Becerra, have dinner with Senator

Ben Allen, and meet with other speakers, including Assembly Member Al Muratsuchi. The lobbying points on behalf of the district focused on: developing an alternative testing protocol that would allow districts to use established standardized college entrance exams (either the SAT or ACT) for assessment of 11th-graders; funding block grants for all K-12 districts to develop mental health and wellness programs; increasing base grant funding levels for all school districts in the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF); and supporting two state laws that would help address the growing teacher shortage and support the creation of a grant program for districts to establish teacher residency programs in areas of high need, including Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM), Special Education, and bilingual education.

All attendees, especially students, have praised the Capital Convoy program as an amazing learning opportunity. Our Council PTA proudly encourages parent, student, and teacher advocacy by providing this unique opportunity.



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AbcdStudy.org

Cornerstone @ Pedregal Elementary School

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



Michele Marcus
Principal

An Amazing Year

As I stroll around Cornerstone School at Pedregal, I am reminded that there is nothing better than being on a school campus in the spring. No matter where I look, exciting things are happening: in every classroom, on the playground, and even in the workroom.

From kindergarteners learning how to observe, record observations, and properly treat animals while conducting scientific studies during their annual Snail Circus to fourth-graders participating in their weekly Genius Hour Project, where they are given the opportunity to discover and investigate their passions, experiential learning opportunities abound! Second-graders are getting ready for their hip-hop performance after months of hard work—a performance I certainly wouldn't want to miss. Our fifth-graders are learning ballroom dancing for their annual Mother's Day performance (also great preparation for sixth-grade cotillion)! First-graders are finalizing their



stories for the First-Grade Publishing Party, where they share their stories with family and friends and celebrate being "published" authors. And third-graders continue to grow their classroom garden, tasting some of their crops along the way.

Music fills the hallways as all students are preparing for their end-of-year music performances. The workroom is abuzz with our parent volunteers, who continuously work to prepare exciting end-of-year activities for our students. Children on the playground, who started the school year with a nervous excitement, run around with strength and confidence, fueled by the success of another school year. And

the teachers, while working hard to ensure their students are ready to move on to the next grade, are continuously collaborating with each other about how to make next year even better.

This has been a wonderful first year for me as the principal of Cornerstone. I look forward to continuing my work with the Cornerstone community in the 2017-2018 school year and enjoying another amazing year!

Dapplegray Elementary School

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



Nancy Parsons
Principal

Some Special Culminating Activities

As we look ahead to next year, it is helpful to reflect on the hard work of our teachers and students during this past year, and the end-of-year culminating activities that reinforce and celebrate learning at Dapplegray Elementary.

Our kindergarten students were the proud docents at their recent annual Art Show, where each child displayed a variety of their own art work reflective of the styles of famous artists. The first-graders performed their annual Rain Forest Play, based on *The Great Kapok Tree*, by Lynne Cherry.

Once the students have read, practiced, sung, danced, and performed this story for an audience, the learning is complete. They may not remember how they know so much about the importance of the rain forest, but they will never forget the role it plays in protecting our planet.

Throughout the second-grade year, students research their family heritage, including the countries of their ancestors. Using interviews, field trips, and this research, they culminate the year with their ancestor books and dolls, as well as an assembly and picnic with families. The third-graders wrap up the year with a "Coffee House-Poetry Slam," and sharing with friends and guests.

The fourth graders have studied California history for the entire year. In one activity, they bury layers of artifacts from the various groups who contributed to the settlement and growth of California. They then plot and bury them based upon the story of how the artifacts came to be there, and then dig them up later for another lesson in history. This archaeological dig brings history and discovery to life with an impact that cannot be obtained from a textbook.

To complete their final year of elementary school, and enact the study of early American history, two full casts of students also present *Freedom Bound*, a musical history of successful immigration to America in the late 1800's.



Dapplegray fourth graders study California history through an archaeologist's lens.

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Lunada Bay Elementary School

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Remembering Our Year

Do you remember the vibrant feeling of anticipating summer vacation as a child? We feel this energy across our

campus in these closing weeks of school. The buzz of summer days permeates children's play, conversation and feelings. At Lunada Bay, I love watching how our teachers capture this energy and channel it toward the celebratory events that occur at the end of every school year. These events showcase how the culmination of the school year creates the independent thinkers developed over the course of building a classroom community



for nine months. Classrooms become families. This is no small feat! Children know every inch of their classroom and relish in the security of the classroom procedures. This is a magical time for celebrating the successes of students as they became older and wiser over the course of the school year.

From Writer's Workshop celebrations in our classrooms to music performances for the whole school, there are many opportunities for our children to shine and demonstrate their learning. One such occasion was our International Day Festival. Parent volunteers ran booths representing 25 different countries, each reflecting our student-body population. Our MPR is transformed into a global constitution of the world, where children are guided by our fifth-graders who lead them through the festival. They talk with parent docents about the culture of each country represented. So many hours were lovingly given by volunteers, and the end result was a fun, dynamic day of learning that unified and celebrated countries from around the world. One second-grader described the event to me as a "field trip across the world—and we didn't even leave the school!"

Bringing the school together to celebrate our students and their progress in a unified way is what an elementary school is all about!

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Mira Catalina Elementary School

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



Exciting Accomplishments

As the school year at Mira Catalina Elementary School comes to an end, we celebrate our many exciting achievements. I am very proud of what we accomplished this year academically and also how we connected as a community and continued to support the "whole child" here at Mira Cat.

One of Mira Catalina's greatest strengths is the supportive and enthusiastic involvement of its students, teachers, and parents. I thank each of you so much for giving me the opportunity to serve as your principal this year; I have learned so much from each one of you and cannot express the happiness I feel each day at Mira Cat. We truly are a family here—one that continues to support, cherish and respect one another each and every day.

The end of the school brings many exciting events for all of us, and it can be bittersweet as well. Every day is an opportunity, and I commend all of you for seizing the moment and making the best of those opportunities. We have had such a fun year, filled with incredible activities for all grade levels and ages: Family Movie Night, Harvest Festival, Red Ribbon Week, lunchtime intramural tournaments, Music Night at the Norris,

spirit assemblies, the Reflections contest, the book fair, the science fair, lunchtime barbecues, and Elektrikids assemblies.

A school is great not because of where it is located or the scores it earns on standardized assessments. The greatness of a school is measured by the students it produces. The students at Mira Catalina are a product of their hard work, the support of their parents, and the guidance of one amazing staff.

I look forward to seeing you all in the fall. Thank you and have a great summer!



Miraleste Intermediate School

29323 Palos Verdes Dr. East, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275-6470 • 310/732-0900



The Moments that Count

As summer approaches and the end of another school year nears, it is important to take a few moments to reflect upon where we have been. It can be easy to focus only on the high and low points, but it is truly the moments in-between that make us who we are.

For our students, those moments are the countless peer interactions that contribute to the friendships they have built during their time at Miraleste. It is also the small efforts that were made each day in the classroom to try their best and not give up after getting it wrong the first time.

For our teachers, it's the extra time before or after school that is given to help their students with a challenging question, or one more practice problem. It is also that gesture or wink which reminds a student that, "Everything will be OK, and I am here for you."

For our parents, it may be nights at the kitchen table working on a project for your children, or reviewing for an upcoming test; always showing that you care, and are

helping them continue to grow.

As principal, I think of all of the one-on-one conversations I had with students, parents, and staff. These conversations helped to build relationships, better understand one another, and connect on a personal level. It is this connection that creates trust, and allows us to focus on doing what is best for our students.

All of these moments can sometimes be overlooked, but they should not be forgotten. These moments are more influential than we give them credit for though, because they create a pattern of behavior, and demonstrate who we really are. Keep this in mind the next time you think it was "just another day," because it is those other days that help us grow into the individuals we aspire to be.

I want to end by thanking the entire Miraleste family that took me in and trusted me with our most prized possessions, the students of this community. They are an amazing group of smart, hard working, and compassionate young adults. Their future is bright, and I look forward to witnessing all that they will accomplish. Go, Marauders!

Palos Verdes *Intermediate School*

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



Frank Califano
Principal

Beaming with Pride

Normally around this time of the year we educators are counting the days to summer. I usually can count myself among those looking forward to a break before gearing up for the next school year. The last month is always extremely busy, but I have been extremely lucky to have worked in a community that has supported me and our school without hesitation.

Nine great years. Nine great outstanding eighth-grade classes. Groups of children who I have thoroughly enjoyed watching grow up, prodding to do the right thing, goading to work hard. I beam with pride when members of those past classes come to visit and tell me that not only were they academically prepared for high school, but they also had a great time here. I love those visits.

But this year is a bit different. I truly do not want this year to end. I get tears in my eyes when I even think about my last PVIS promotion. My last dance, last play day; my last group of PVIS eighth-graders. Another incredible group of young men and women.

To the PVIS community, thank you! To my teaching colleagues, thank you! To my Assistant Principals Becky Egan, Salvatrice Kuykendall, and Danny Barbara, thank you! To my right-hand man Mariano Sanz, thank you! To Karen Mills, Darlene Anthony, Diane Diekman, Lynn Nuber, and Hali Hertzman, thank you!

To all of my PVIS children, I loved being a part of your life. You are the ones that make my job special. My best to all of you!



Have a FUN Summer!

Montemalaga *Elementary School*

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



Jody Pastell
Principal

What We've Accomplished

The 2016–17 school year has been packed with accomplishments and successes. Every student has been able to build on prior knowledge and experiences. Student data has led instruction at all grade levels. Our three regularly scheduled RtI Universal Screenings for the entire school have resulted

in program monitoring and continued student support. Students and teachers know the skills they are improving and have prescriptive plans for creating academic growth. The faculty attended professional development to learn additional writing strategies and skills. All teachers also received training in CPR and first aid. The PVPUSD provided staff development in the areas of new-generation science and Cognitively Guided Instruction (CGI). We are truly lifelong learners!

Montemalaga school days are filled with well organized activities. Students have conducted research projects and have taken part in our Science Invention/Convention Night. Families worked together during the Writers Night in the spring. The community was supported by Student Council projects that included a sock drive for homeless families, a ball drive for the police department, Halloween



candy donations to soldiers, Valentines for children in the hospital, and a spare-change drive for a local animal shelter. The students at Montemalaga have developed outstanding leadership skills.

Character development has been an important area of growth for Montemalaga this year. Students have had the opportunity to earn Spirit Sticks for their individual Montemalaga key rings. SPIRIT assemblies were scheduled at regular times during the year. Students think before they act and have an understanding to do their personal best—the choice is theirs.

Looking ahead, Montemalaga will continue to be innovative, creative and focused on the learning environment. The staff and I look forward to a very exciting 2017–18 school year!

Point Vicente *Elementary School*

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



Beth Hadley
Principal

A Year in the Life

How do you measure a year in the life of a school? At Point Vicente Elementary School, we measure in seasons of growth, community, and challenge.

This year, we established an instructional approach that increased small-group support in math, which increased confidence, participation and proficiency. We have been able to build on the strong framework of Math in Focus and fully utilize the strong curricular elements to meet student needs at every level. We continue to provide a strong reading intervention program that focuses on early identification, proactive support, and strong remediation.

Our PTA sponsored two Family Fun Nights to provide low-key, social opportunities for families to get together with friends and build relationships. We orchestrated informational meetings for new families and will expand our efforts to support them in their transition to our



wonderful neighborhood. Our PTA supports enrichment activities throughout the year and acts in full partnership with the school administration.

Thanks to our parent community and the support of the district, we will complete our three-year plan to upgrade every classroom to SMART Boards, and the engaging technology is impacting our instruction on a daily basis.

Students use netbooks and One Drive to build technology skills through assignments integrated into their instructional day.

We are very proud of our recognition as a National Blue Ribbon School, which we earned based on overall academic excellence and student performance. We are committed to providing opportunities and identifying strategies that support student learning and personal development.

Point Vicente is a vibrant school community that treasures individual achievement, focuses on academic growth, and fosters interpersonal skills. Great days are ahead!

Palos Verdes *High School*

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



A Bittersweet Farewell

The end of year is exciting for many reasons. For Palos Verdes High School, we have our senior activities and graduation to look forward to. At the same time, the emotions are very mixed for our seniors as they near the finish line. Seniors will go their different paths but will cherish the friendships and memories they have made at PV High.

I share a close tie with this senior class because they are the first class that I am seeing from freshman year to senior year. I have seen them grow in their four years, and it has been a true pleasure to see them from when they were little freshmen, walking around with their Link Crew leaders, to now seeing them ready for graduation and excited about the next chapter in life.



Our seniors have created an amazing school environment of high achievement yet, at the same time, taking time to have a very balanced approach to life. Our Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) banquet set the tone of celebration of our seniors' accomplishments, 100 percent of our AVID seniors have applied to four-year colleges, with a 98-percent acceptance rate.

I applaud our seniors and hope that we will take the time in these last few weeks to enjoy each other's company and to express our appreciation and gratitude for the journey we have taken together. I remember when I was graduating from high school, I had to make a speech for baccalaureate. I recall struggling to find the right words to express my

deep appreciation for my peers and the high school. Many, many years later, I now feel the same way about putting the right words together for graduation to express my sincere appreciation for this graduating class.

Palos Verdes Peninsula *High School*

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



Will They Remember?

It is the late spring of 1979, a hot, sticky Saturday afternoon. Hundreds of us sit together, side-by-side, in rows of wooden folding chairs on the main campus lawn. We wear blue nylon robes. We listen impatiently to long speeches. When the ceremony is over, we throw our caps in the air...

Afterwards, I find Morrie Schwartz, my favorite professor, and introduce him to my parents.... Before we leave, I hand my professor a present...I didn't want to forget him...maybe I didn't want him to forget me....

He asks if I will stay in touch, and without hesitation I say, "Of course." — *Tuesdays with Morrie*, Mitch Albom

The end of a school year is a bittersweet time, particularly on a high school campus such as ours when we gather on the football field and honor our seniors. Before we know it, commencement is over, and the roughly 600 students who walked in just an hour or two earlier now leave as graduates, taking their first steps toward life after Palos Verdes Peninsula High School.

For the faculty and staff members, however, our life is at Palos Verdes Peninsula High School, and we

return again in the fall, reenergized with the promise of impacting a new group of students. Occasionally, we can measure that impact in the short term, sometimes by seeing the light come on for a struggling student or other times by watching athletes, musicians or actors deliver performances that they did not know they had inside them. And sometimes it happens when a college recognizes an adult on our campus for having had a profound influence on one of its students, as has happened for two of our teachers this year.

But other times, we are left to wonder, sometimes for many years, if our efforts have indeed made a difference in the lives of our students. And then, if we have worked at Palos Verdes Peninsula High School long enough, we cross paths with an adult who reminds us that we were once their teacher, counselor, coach or advisor. Or that same adult introduces us to their child and tells us that the child is about to become our student, and they hope that the child will have as formative an experience at Palos Verdes Peninsula High School as they once did.

As another school year closes, we should all ask ourselves if we should be reaching out to people who have impacted our lives. The answer, as it is for Mitch Albom in *Tuesdays with Morrie*, is "Of course!"

Rancho del Mar *High School*

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



A Great Recognition

The Model Continuation High School Recognition Program (MCHS) recognizes those continuation high schools that offer exemplary educational opportunities for their students. To

apply to the California Department of Education (CDE) for MCHS designation, the school must first be accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC).

Rancho del Mar High School was first accredited by WASC through June 1992, and received subsequent accreditation terms through June 1998, 2004, 2010, 2016, and 2022. RdM was first designated a MCHS in 1993, and has received consecutive terms of designation through March 2017. The maximum term of designation is three years.

In 2016, RdM staff, students, and parents prepared an application to again be designated a MCHS. The application was submitted to CDE in September 2016, passed the Readers Level, and qualified RdM for a MCHS Committee Visit.

On October 24, RdM welcomed a Visiting Committee that had spent several weeks reading the RdM MCHS application, WASC report, and other materials. The Committee members observed classrooms, reviewed



Rancho del Mar High School Model Continuation High School Award
Rosemary Humphrey, Principal and Jacie Ragland, CDE

documents, and met with students, parents, community members, and school/district staff to validate the statements in RdM's application. The Committee submitted its report to CDE.

On February 9, Principal Rosemary Humphrey received a letter from State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson, which read in part: "On behalf of the California Department of Education (CDE, I congratulate you, your staff, and your school for being selected as a Model Continuation High School (MCHS) for 2017 ... The

innovative programs at your school demonstrate an enduring commitment to provide young people with the educational options and support they need to successfully complete high school, transition to higher education, and enter the workforce."

On April 28, Principal Humphrey was thrilled to accept the award designating Rancho del Mar High School a Model Continuation High School through March 2020.

Contest!!

These students are in a picture in this publication.
When you find them, email the **page number** to:

Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com
Please put PVPUSD in the subject line

Your entry must be received by July 15, 2017..
From the correct entries, we will draw a winner to receive a
GAZUMP card/dice game - fun for all ages!



Rancho Vista *Elementary School*

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



Salvatrice Kuykendall
Principal

End of the Year

As we wrap up the year, we are able to reflect on all of the wonderful opportunities that Rancho Vista Elementary School families and volunteers have provided our children this school year. The school year began with an ice-cream social to reunite our families after summer vacation. From that moment on, the activities have been meaningful and exciting.

Our students have participated in Red Ribbon Week activities, explored in our learning garden, engaged their brains with Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) activities, taken part in music and art lessons, gone on field trips, enjoyed the carnival and the fun run, and the list goes on and on. Most recently, our school received an award for our top-notch Special Day Class program.

What does this all mean for our children? It means we are overcoming the lack of funding from the state and still educating our children as a whole. Our children are learning to be kind, accepting, and compassionate toward others. They are learning to enjoy healthy lifestyles and engaging in hands-on exploration of the life cycles of

plants by participating in our learning garden program. STEM is teaching our children how to be critical thinkers and how to persevere when they don't succeed the first, or tenth, time. Our music and art lessons teach children to be creative and use a different part of their brains. Many of us, as parents, were not exposed to all that our children have been. The education that Rancho Vista has given our children is unmatched.

I look forward to seeing all of the Rancho Vista children as they grow and continue on their journey of learning. I look forward to seeing who they become and where their lives will take them.



From the Rancho Vista family to yours, we wish you a wonderful summer filled with joy, laughter, and growth. We can't wait to hear all about the adventures when school begins in August.

Silver Spur *Elementary School*

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



Marta Jevenois-Richardson
Principal

End-of-the-Year Activities

The end of the school year is a busy time at Silver Spur Elementary School. State testing is over, and we are planning end-of-year activities. Our parent volunteers are integral to the coordination and teamwork necessary to provide these memorable experiences for our children.

We are in the process of planning our spelling bee for third through fifth grades, our History Fair for fifth-graders, and International Week, which will take place the week of May 30. During International Week, some of our international parents share presentations about countries around the globe, transporting students to faraway lands. Students will learn about foreign cultures and traditions and gain a lifelong appreciation of history, geography, culture, and language.

The end of the year would not be complete without Silver Spur's Talent Show, which takes place on June 5. It is open to all third- through fifth-grade students who wish to showcase their talents for students, parents, and staff. Our fifth-graders are counting the days until their elementary school culmination, anticipating their graduation

ceremonies and the eagerly awaited Fifth-Grade Fun Day, which takes place on June 7.

Silver Spur's Scoot Back Ceremony is a school tradition on our last instructional day. Mrs. Jevenois addresses each grade level and shares words of wisdom for them to move to the next grade level. The students then "scoot back" to occupy the place of the grade they will take in the fall. During the ceremony, our PTA shows a beautifully produced video of memories from the entire school year, from the first day of school to the last, depicting pictures from the Halloween parade, Friday assemblies, Art at Your Fingertips, our garden, Growing Great, and everyday memories! The video brings happy tears to parents, teachers and staff alike.

Throughout the year, but especially as the school year is coming to an end, a huge thank you is extended to all Silver Spur teachers and staff for their care and dedication and for making such a difference in the life of all students. Thank you, parents, for all your support and for working year-round volunteering to make this school so special for your children.

We wish everyone a great summer full of adventures. See you in August, if not before! Always remember that a Silver Spur student is a Bronco for life, and we expect great things from all of you.

Ridgecrest *Intermediate School*

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



Kelli Keller
Principal

Ridgecrest is Feeling Gold!

Ridgecrest is proud to report that our school is being recognized for the California Gold Ribbon Award! Our strong focus on culture and climate to improve student performance was singled out by the state as a model for initial implementation of their Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) framework.

This is the beginning of our journey for Ridgecrest Intermediate, with the implementation of Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS), and the refinement of the programmatic offerings under the Response to Intervention (RTI) model. The combination of these two structures provides the foundation for how our school responds to the academic, social, emotional, and behavioral needs of individual students. The academic and school climate data provides us with information to guide our revisions and refinements for each year of implementation, ideally improving how we serve each student everyday.



This constant cycle of improvement is the reason why RIS was recognized, and why our Raider Team — students, staff, parents, and families — are so inspirational. We welcome you on our journey to be the very best place to come to school each day, for each child.



Soleado *Elementary School*

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



Gina Stutzel
Principal

A Great Year!

As the school year at Soleado comes to a close, our minds and hearts are filled to the brim. It's been a great year! This year has been one of excellence in the quality of the educational experiences offered to our students. We have all worked together to build pride in our school and its accomplishments.

As I look forward to the new school year, I know that we will continue our commitment to offer quality teaching, learning, and positive social and emotional growth. We will also ensure that our learning environment is responsive to all learners, and that our students are given every opportunity to utilize information, communication, and new learning technologies.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our teachers and support staff for the terrific job they have done in developing meaningful learning activities, and the support they have provided to our outstanding students.

Our office staff's contributions cannot be understated, either. They are the best at what they do, and if it were not for these individuals then so much would not get done.

We offer a special heartfelt thank-you to our beloved Ms. Rhonda, who will be moving on to her next big adventure. And of course, my gratitude goes out to the awesome students and helpful parents at Soleado. We couldn't teach your students to this great a degree without a quality school/home partnership.

I hope this summer break provides you with the opportunity for rest and relaxation. Please continue to work with your children this summer. Read to them, have them count the change in the change jar, work on social skills, and have lots of play dates with friends and family. Our community offers so many learning opportunities, and I encourage you to use them.

I look forward to the next school year and all of the many possibilities that it will provide us. Remember to sparkle, shine, and always be kind!

Vista Grande *Elementary School*

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



Jeri Delatorre
Principal

Where Memories Begin

There is a place where the sidewalk ends
And before the street begins,
And there the grass grows soft and white,
And there the sun burns crimson bright,
And there the moon-bird rests from his flight
To cool the peppermint wind."

—Excerpt from *Where the Sidewalk Ends*
By Shel Silverstein

As school draws to a close, I am excited by the opportunities that come with more time and the slower schedule that is part of summer. When we slow down, we notice where "the grass grows soft and white" and we can feel the "peppermint wind."

In this final month of school, celebrate the growth your child has made. Remain interested. Ask questions. Observe their friendships. Listen, really listen, to their conversations. And then plan some amazing summer experiences!

Childhood experiences apart from the classroom build *schemata*. Schemata are the brain's way of organizing information. Personal experiences provide a context that allows new knowledge to make sense, to connect. Personal experiences allow children to generalize academic knowledge to new situations.

So whether you plan to visit Paris or Torrance Beach, this time is important. Enjoy it with your child! Memorize the smell of freshly cut grass. Give piggyback rides. Catch sand crabs at the shoreline, and feel the tickle of their tiny feet. Time is a commodity more precious than gold. Use this summer time to build schemata...and memories.

See you in September!



Kan's Noveldom



Kan S.

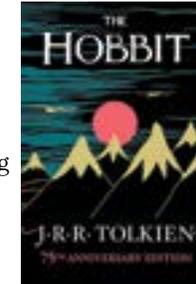
A Classic Tale of Intrigue

The Hobbit: Or There and Back Again, a Hobbit's Tale

By J.R.R. Tolkien

Welcome to Middle-Earth, a fantastical land of graceful elves, hardy dwarves, and peace-loving hobbits in their hobbit-

holes. J.R.R. Tolkien draws readers into a masterful fairy-tale, following the perilous adventure (aided by luck) undertaken by a quiet-desiring hobbit, Bilbo Baggins, snatched from his second breakfast—whose journey, internal and external, is central—as he joins forces with wizard Gandalf and the 13-dwarf company of Thorin, a mighty dwarf determined to reclaim his conquered home of Erebor. Across dangerous Wilderland, friend and foe, therein lies their destination, Erebor; they must liberate it from their archenemy, Smaug, the Fire-Drake. Full of intense force and simple luck, Tolkien sets the foundation for a modern fairy-story. A classic tale of intrigue with a nail-biting Quest, outdoing any expectation, globally successful and immensely entertaining, the novel has rightly earned its full 10 stars, navigating the reader throughout the landscape with both pure bravery and tremendous luck.



Kan is a seventh-grader who enjoys life at its fullest, most prominent, of feeling the thrill of vivacity run through him. With a passion for Tolkien, learning (of all subjects, particularly math and English), activity, politics, and commerce, he presses on through his existence with vigor, as a peacock would displaying its pulchritudinous plumage. Ten is his utmost book-score, and one the lowliest.



Palos Verdes Library District

701 Silver Spur Rd., Rolling Hills Estates, CA 90274 • 310/921-7500 • www.pvld.org



Laura Henry
Young Readers
Manager

Find a World of Wonders at the Library!

Summer is coming, and a world of wonders awaits kids of all ages at the Palos Verdes Library District.

PV Summer Readers: Kids and Teens who join this program can earn cool prizes for summer reading. Members may read any books and also try some reading activities that are fun, exciting, informative and funny. They can track their progress online or use the classic paper reading logs. Our

theme this year, "Find a World of Wonders," reminds kids and parents too that reading opens up the world to us all! Kids going into grades K-5 will earn achievement patches, similar to boy scout badges but unique to PVL. Teens grades 6-12 earn Amazon gift cards, so they can get more of their favorite books. The program runs June 5 through August 20.

1,000 Books Before Kindergarten: PVL is kicking off this new initiative for Pre-readers, a nationwide challenge that encourages parents and caregivers to regularly read aloud to their children. By reading just one book a night, families can reach the 1,000-book goal in three years and

provide their children essential early literacy skills. Parents and caregivers can track their children's progress online or use paper reading logs. The library offers some fun incentives for every 200 books read, and each reading of a book "counts"—so it's awesome if your child wants to hear "Go Dog Go" 10 times! The 1,000 Books program is available to all families with children between the ages of birth and five years. Registration will open June 8.

Weekly Events: Want more summer fun at the library? No problem. In addition to our regular storytimes (14 times a week, year round), the PVL libraries will feature special weekly activities for kids from June 13 through August 10. This year, kids will be amazed by magicians, laugh with puppets, run through a "spy school" obstacle course and play life-sized Candyland!

All of this in addition to craft programs and the ever-popular Riddle of the Week, which kicks off June 19. Our events are aimed at ages two and up, but all ages can attend. Check our calendar at www.pvld.org/calendar

Thanks to the Peninsula Friends of the Library, PVL offers our community exciting reading fun, cool prizes, funny riddles and special events. So visit us this summer and find a world of wonders!

Victoria's Review



Victoria Lowe

Great Mystery

I would definitely recommend this book to kids like me who enjoy mystery stories. The reader has to recall a lot of detailed information from the earlier part of the book. The plot is very interesting!

The main character is Serafina who lives in the basement of The Biltmore Estates with her Pa. One night she finds a black cloak and soon realizes it has something to do with missing people. After a time, a lot more kids disappear. Serafina wants to figure out what happens to them. She partners up with the estate owner's nephew, Braedon Vanderbilt. They try to find out who is in the black cloak. DON'T WORRY I WON'T TELL YOU ANYMORE!!!! There are a lot of page turners that leave you at a cliffhanger. I definitely hope that whoever decides to read this book will enjoy it as much as I have. This book gets a "Smile."



Victoria Lowe is a 6th grade student at RH Dana Middle School. She loves her school and enjoys spending time with her friends. Victoria's favorite kinds of books have mystery and fantasy plots and will rate them 1-5 with 5 being the highest rating. Victoria has an affinity for singing and loves musical theatre. She studies both voice and piano and is a current member of the South Bay Children's Choir.

Lucy's Book Review



Lucy Davis

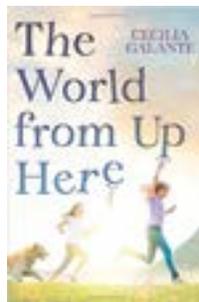
The World from Up Here

Author: Cecilia Galante
Wren Baker has never been brave. She hasn't ever stepped out of her comfort zone, or done something risky and unpredictable.

That all changes when her mother is put in the hospital, and Wren doesn't even know why. Her dad seems to cover everything up, and he sends her to live with her aunt and "perfect" cousin, Sliver. Soon after her move, everything she's doing is dangerous, from riding a spooked horse to trekking up a seemingly haunted mountain. To top it off, what was supposed to be research for a history project turns into one of the most scary experiences of her life. Throughout her adventures, Wren is learning more about her own past than she ever thought she would.

Cecilia Galante's novel is fantastic, and I give it five bookworms out of five for its suspense and thoughtfulness.

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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July 10 – 14: Christ Lutheran School, 28850 S. Western Ave., Rancho Palos Verdes, 90275

July 17 – 21: Manhattan Beach MS, 1501 Redondo Avenue, Manhattan Beach, 90266

July 17 – 21: LA Galaxy Volleyball Courts, 540 Maple Avenue, Torrance, 90503

July 24 – 28: LA Galaxy Volleyball Courts, 540 Maple Avenue, Torrance, 90503

July 31 – August 4: LA Galaxy Volleyball Courts, 540 Maple Avenue, Torrance, 90503

August 7 – August 11: LA Galaxy Volleyball Courts, 540 Maple Avenue, Torrance, 90503

August 14 – August 18: LA Galaxy Volleyball Courts, 540 Maple Avenue, Torrance, 90503

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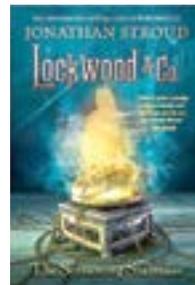
Book Review by Abbas



Abbas D.

A Creepy and Fun Read

Lockwood & Co. by Jonathan Stroud is a novel about teen psychic agents, Lucy Carlyle, George Cubbins and their leader Anthony Lockwood. Together they run the smallest ghost-



fighting agency in London, Lockwood and Co. There is an increased outbreak of ghosts in England known as The Problem which is where *Lockwood & Co.* comes in to help, with each member using their talents such as listening to ghost activity and seeing ghosts in plain sight. After they are offered a ghost hunting job in one of the most haunted places in London, Lockwood and Co. must work together to fight a fearsome ghost. Will they survive the night and work together?

This book was filled with many twists and unexpected sharp endings. I give this creepy tale 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.

Isabella's Book Review



Isabella A.

A Touching Book

Wonder by R.J. Palacio is a very unique story told in the perspective of multiple people. The main character is August Pullman; A deformed boy. He has lived his life stared at and rudely questioned. August has been



homeschooled for many years, but now that he is in fifth grade he goes to Beecher Academy. There, he makes friends but a few kids also bully him. Summer felt bad for him at first, but now is friends with him because she wants to. On an overnight fieldtrip, all of the bullies but one stop being bullies when they get in a fight with meaner bullies. When they go back to school, they don't mind the bully and are friends with August. After all that had happened, August decided he liked school.

I would rate this story 5 stars because it is a very touching story about compassion.

Isabella is a 11 year old who enjoys reading and writing fiction novels based on true events. She has written her first full children's mystery book which she plans to extend into a full series. She is looking forward to the summer, so that she can ride her bike and have no homework. She will rate the books 1 to 5 with 5 being the best.

Book Review By Katrina



Katrina D.

Captivating Read

Born Wicked by Jessica Spotswood is the first in a series about a trio of sisters named Cate, Maura and Tess. Living in a world where their roles in the world are rigidly controlled by



a group known as the Brotherhood, the Cahill sisters must strive to stay under the radar of these powerful men or risk being shipped off to asylums as witches. However, the fact they actually are witches puts them at a greater risk than anyone else. Eldest sister Cate takes up the role of leader for her motherless sisters, attempting to protect the three of them from being discovered. But when Cate comes of age to either marry or join the Sisterhood, what choices and sacrifices will she make? This book is absolutely captivating with a Salem Witch Trial feel to it and an enchanting plot. With a touch of romance and a dash of magic, this book is a must read for all YA lovers. This book was given 5 crescent moons.

Katrina is a ninth grader who loves reading books as much as writing her own stories and enjoys watching anime. Katrina hopes to be an author one day very soon. Katrina will rate her books from 1 to 5 crescent moons with 5 being the best.

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Note-ables



Kate Karp

Born in the Deep Woods

Red Yarn, alter-ego of performer and songwriter Andy Furgeson, has recorded the third element in his his Deep Woods Trilogy. Deep Woods is



Red's own conception of a charmingly primal place where woodland animals dwell—an earthly, loamy, good place to live. Each song was either written by Red or adapted from traditional folk tunes, all featuring animals and performed by Red and his wife, Jessie Eller Isaacs and a bucolic multi-instrumental band.

Deep Woods doesn't have the vibe of a traditional children's collection. In contrast to lighter songs associated with young music, it sings something deep and rooted. Red's musical background grew from those roots—authentic country, bluegrass, blues and heartland rock 'n' roll are woven with the lyrics and stitch together a warm, tuneful quilt. The title ballad lets the tortoise and the hare of the fable poetically tell their own story as turtle and rabbit. The traditional "Mockingbird" transforms into a Bo Diddley ditty with a toss of Elvis pepper and a pinch of Ray Charles salt. "Old Mother Goose" is given a new pair of dancin' shoes, and "Frog Went A-Courtin'" hops to a different beat. "Little Baby Born Today" is an old-style Bob Dylan tribute to new life and mothers, particularly Eller-Isaacs, who was pregnant with the couple's second child when it was recorded. The CD's lyric booklet bears some of the most beautiful, evocative illustrations seen in a music collection or anywhere else.

If you go into the woods today, you're in for a big surprise.

Kate Karp is an editor for *School News Roll Call* and a freelance writer and editor.

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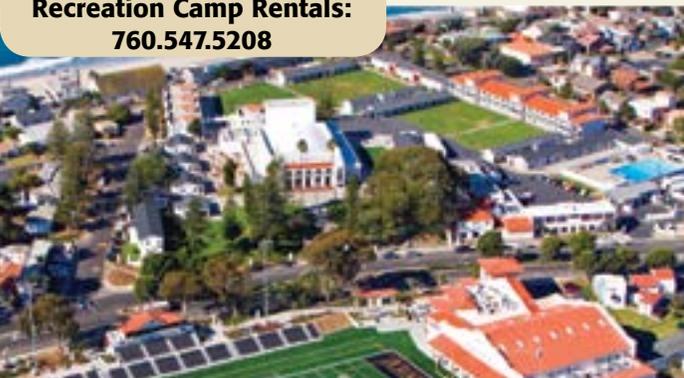
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Katie's Review



Katie C.

Video Games come to life!

Click Here to Start by Denis Markell is an amazing book about a boy named Ted who loves playing video games. When his great uncle dies and leaves him an apartment full of random trinkets, Ted thinks he's



in for a boring summer. I mean, why would sorting some old stuff be fun? With his friends Isabel and Caleb, he starts sorting through the mess. But when he returns home to play a new video game, he finds that the room is exactly like the one in the apartment, and that the things in the room are the same as in the apartment he just sorted through. There is a hidden treasure somewhere! Facing an evil man, talking to Great Uncle's best friend, and creeping into a hospital at night lead to an amazing finding: there is a small golden falcon. This book is wrapped in suspense and excitement. I highly recommend it. I rate this book 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.



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Word Search Contest
Words Associated with School

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 **PVUSD** in the subject line)

Entries must be received by July 15, 2017
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a GAZUMP game — fun for all ages!

Achievers	Focused	Principal
Character	Homework	Recess
Classrooms	Instructors	Reunion
Curiosity	Integrity	Student
Discipline	Learning	Success
Educators	Mentors	Technology
Encourage	Nutrition	Thinkers
Excellence	Parents	Workers

Congratulations to David Calvagna
Winner of Our April Word Search Contest



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To learn more about the California 529 College Savings Plan, its investment objectives, tax benefits, risks, and costs please see the Disclosure Booklet at scholarshare.com. Read it carefully. Check with your home state to learn if it offers tax or other benefits for investing in its own 529 plan. Taxpayers should seek advice from an independent tax advisor based on their own particular circumstances. Investments in the Plan are neither insured nor guaranteed and there is a risk of investment loss. If the money isn't used for qualified higher education expenses, a 10% penalty tax on earnings (as well as federal and state income taxes) may apply. Non qualified withdrawals may also be subject to an additional 2.5% California tax on earnings. TIAA-CREF Individual & Institutional Services, LLC, member FINRA, distributor and underwriter for the California 529 College Savings Plan. 108476