

FREE

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

Covering the Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District



Volume 2, Issue 9

October / November 2017

This edition is dedicated to the people.



These are pictures drawn by students in grades 2 and below.

www.SchoolNewsRollCall.com

The Power of Celebrating Others



Donald B. Austin, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Like many others, I have come across videos and news stories about “walk-on” athletes receiving full scholarships in front of their teammates. The term “walk-on” refers to athletes who are on collegiate teams without receiving any financial assistance generated by their participation. The videos have gone viral due to the love and joy expressed by the teammates and coaches and the humility and appreciation expressed by the recipient.

The Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District is similar to a team, with some people who get a great deal of attention and some who are more under the radar. That is true of our staff, students, and volunteers. We have asked our principals to look for opportunities to celebrate our students and staff in ways that resemble the videos inspired by the scholarship videos.

This edition of *School News Roll Call* sheds a little light on people and things worthy of attention. While not everyone will appear in a viral video, we will continue to find ways to help people celebrate others and receive recognition for their unique contributions. I hope you all enjoy the articles this month and use this as an opportunity to speak with your own children about the power of celebrating others.

Board of Education



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President



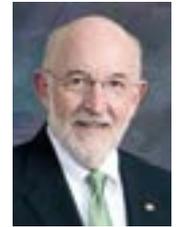
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Peninsula Education Foundation

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



Christine Byrne
Executive Director

A Great End to Summer

Thank you to all of the families who came to the Peninsula Education Foundation's free community event “One Last Summer Blast!” We hope that everyone had as much fun as we did. It was great to see so many children enjoying the arts and crafts.

The student performers were phenomenal! The Peninsula High flags, song, and choreo kicked the evening off with some amazing moves. The crowd was then entertained by three fabulous musical acts while our families relaxed, played, or enjoyed some of the tasty food.

One of the many programs that the Peninsula Education Foundation raises funds for is elementary school music. Maintaining music in our elementary schools provides an exposure to the art for these youth musicians, and creates a basis for their love of music.



Cover songs performed by the current and alumni students from Ridgcrest who form the band SNAK kicked off the live music. The crowd was also inspired by the vocal and guitar talents of Peninsula High seniors Ishaan Jaffer and Johnathan Louie.

The evening was in full swing when our musical headliners Alinea took the stage. These PV High seniors rocked the crowd with an amazing set of music! To end the evening we all settled in for the movie *Willy Wonka* and the *Chocolate Factory*. What an amazing night!

Now it's time to start gearing up for the annual Pier-to-Pier Skechers Walk taking place on Sunday, October 29. Last year the Peninsula Education Foundation received \$240,000 thanks to everyone who came out to the Manhattan Beach Pier and walked. The funds we receive from this event go directly towards our pledge to support the teaching positions and programs in the district which are essential components of our children's academic success. This wouldn't be possible without all of you!

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Covering the
**PALOS VERDES PENINSULA
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



I think this is my favorite issue for PVPUSD. Superintendent Dr. Austin's message on the preceding page is so important. Acknowledging others is vital to any environment and it is contagious! While I am on the subject, I'd like to mention Dr. Austin's executive assistant, Rita Moyers. She is delightful to work with and has a positive, professional work ethic.

Often I have the pleasure of enjoying my grandchildren's sporting events (they do not attend PVPUSD). Without exception, the parents, players and coaches from PVPUSD have always displayed good sportsmanship on and off the field. I am sure they aren't even thinking about being observed, which makes it even nicer.

Our next issue is December 6. In the meantime, have a Happy Halloween and Happy Thanksgiving!



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PVP Council of PTAs

From Capitol to Costume Closet

By Selina Lai, Council President

Months of planning have gone into the PVP Council of PTAs signature civic education event, "Capitol Comes to Campus," which focuses on the role of government, issues impacting our students and our community, and the importance of civic participation. On October 19 at a local golf club, representatives from federal, state and local levels of government will meet with PVPUSD middle and high school students, faculty and parents to discuss these topics, highlighting importance of civic engagement and advocacy. Special recognition is due to Beth Meyerhoff, our legislative officer, and "Capitol Comes to Campus" chairpersons Susie Campbell and Betty Peterson for providing this unique educational forum. Visit

www.pvpcouncil.com for more information.

Falling leaves and a cool breeze will accompany the many PTA events happening in the month of October. Fun fall festivals at the elementary schools are coordinated by our fearless PTA volunteers, giving students a chance to come out and be their very best goblin, superhero or princess. Our PV Council of PTAs' Costume Closet gives community members a place to rent



the perfect costume, historical or fantasy, while giving back to our PTAs. Located at 300 D Paseo del Mar, PVE, by the district administrative offices, the Costume Closet will have extended hours in October. We welcome you to stop by to volunteer or explore. Additional Costume Closet information can be found at www.costumeclosetpv.com.



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Michele Marcus
Principal

Welcome Back!

The technology aide and custodian are two critical positions on a school campus. And so our Cornerstone staff and community felt like we had won the lottery when Mr. Proudfoot and Mr. Manuel joined our school last year to fill these positions.

As our technology aide, Mr. Proudfoot is a person who everyone at the school relies upon. Don't think though that Mr. Proudfoot only spends his time in our computer lab assisting the teachers and students with their lessons and activities. I like to think of Mr. Proudfoot as our emergency technology doctor!

Whether it is a teacher calling him in the middle of a lesson because something suddenly stopped working, or a parent looking for help to run one of our special programs, or me calling him to the office to help with a technology emergency, he always responds as soon as possible and with a smile on his face. Mr. Proudfoot in fact spent the summer making sure that every piece of technology on campus was up and running so that when our teachers returned to school they were ready to go!

Just as important to Cornerstone is our amazing

custodian, Mr. Manuel. Mr. Manuel cares for our school as if it were his home. He worked tirelessly this summer to make sure that our classrooms and campus would shine for the first day of school. It is hard for Mr. Manuel to even walk down the hallway without being stopped by several different people asking him for help in one way or another!

But no matter how many people stop him, he is always there to help. He also walks our campus each morning making sure that there is nothing which needs immediate attention before he begins his day.

Cornerstone is excited to welcome back both Mr. Proudfoot and Mr. Manuel this year!



Tech Aide, Mr. Proudfoot and custodian, Mr. Manuel are an invaluable part of the Cornerstone school community.

Dapplegray *Elementary School*

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



Nancy Parsons
Principal

Creating a Positive Outlook

Who makes a difference at Dapplegray? Everybody!

The minute you walk into the office you are in a happy, positive place. The office staff, under the direction of Sue Kolb, office manager, is friendly, organized, and helpful. A question about lunch menus? Here's the answer. Need a Band-aid? Here you go, and a hug to make it better!

Dapplegray also has the happiest and most exceptional head custodian there could possibly be. David Chau loves this facility and the people here in an extraordinary way. He cleans, repairs, carries boxes, and is on the spot for any need a student, parent, or staff member could possibly have, and with a kindness of spirit that is unsurpassed. We dare you to see Mr. David without a smile on his face!

Our dedicated team of support staff is always moving to be in the best place to help others. Mrs. Hur is in multiple classrooms every day assisting our students with limited English. Mrs. Chiang can be found in any room problem-solving a technology issue so that our teachers and students can be back online as quickly as possible. Mrs. Mermelstein has transformed our library into a haven that welcomes children into the magical world of books

and reading. Yard supervisors monitor snack, lunch, and playground activities; teaching lessons in responsibility, kindness, and conflict resolution all day and every day. Mrs. Grgas and Mrs. Coronado make sure every child receives a balanced, nutritious lunch.

Dapplegray teachers are the hardest working and most dedicated individuals that could be assembled in one school. Their dedication is surpassed only by their skill at juggling curriculum and connecting with each individual student. Every teacher begins the day at their door making a personal contact with each child before he or she enters the room.

Dapplegray teachers also know that children learn best in emotionally secure environments with an appropriate amount of support and challenge. This foundation underlies all academic decisions, and garners superior results when students become citizens of a larger community and society. Dr. Checca, our school psychologist, works closely with Mrs. Ward, our intervention teacher, and the entire special education team to connect with our students and teachers to assist those who benefit from extra support.

And of course, nothing makes a difference more than the positive outlook of the students on our campus. You are the reason we are here, and your joy and enthusiasm fuels your teachers and makes the biggest difference of all!

Lunada Bay *Elementary School*

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



Julie Tarango
Principal

A Team Approach

There is nothing like the beginning of a new school year, when the happy sounds of children learning and playing can be heard echoing across the campus! I smile as I see teachers welcoming students while launching new themes and projects.

This is an exciting time for learning! Teachers are diligently acquainting themselves with every little learner in their classrooms. What will their individual needs be? How should they be challenged? What motivates them to persevere through difficult content? This discovery phase is exciting for teachers and students alike. On a larger scale, this process is also done school-wide when we review student records to ensure that no child gets lost in the shuffle.

At Lunada Bay, teachers embrace every student as “our student.” When students need extra academic support, teachers implement a focused team-approach to provide the best education for each individual learner. Everyone contributes so that students will thrive.



Ms. Disalvo leads students with a smile to help them discover the adventure and fun of learning in Reading Club!

Our Reading Club program is a prime example of this ongoing effort. Ms. Angela Disalvo, our resource specialist, is a highly skilled educator who knows what the stakes are for every child learning to read. Understanding that early intervention has a tremendous impact on long-term student achievement, she takes on her role of facilitating a dynamic learning support center with fervor.

The Reading Club at Lunada Bay is a fun, engaging place where students get extra support with critical reading skills that provide lifelong benefits. Young readers leave their time in Reading Club

feeling confident and prepared. They love working with “Ms. D.” because they know how she believes in them. She utilizes her positive relationship with each child to promote their learning trajectories.

Ms. Disalvo’s ability to provide staff direction, leadership, and educational expertise with a thorough and effective responsive approach to data provides our Lunada Bay students with an exemplary reading program!

Mira Catalina *Elementary School*

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



Brett Egan
Principal

Starting Another Fantastic Year

Mira Catalina Elementary School is a fantastic school and a wonderful and welcoming community. One of the attributes that makes Mira Catalina so special is the community feel and the general happiness of the students, parents, and staff. Mira Catalina is a fantastic place to come to work

each day for staff and a fabulous place to come to drop children off at school each day. Establishing a sense of community, where students, teachers, and parents feel connected to and supported by one another, is vital and a goal that we feel very strongly about each and every day. Come and be a part of it by getting involved. A few ways to get involved are by coming to PTA meetings, volunteering at school, and partaking in any of our PTA-sponsored activities that occur beyond the school day. Mira Catalina

is a place where everyone pitches in, creating the feeling that this is “our” school.

Mira Catalina has a strong academic program, which develops the social, emotional, and academic skills of students in a positive, nurturing, and safe environment. We aim to impact the “whole child” and develop him or

her in all aspects. We also strive to provide pathways for students to pursue their passions. We will continue to implement our tiered reading instruction model, which served the students very well last year. We saw tremendous growth in reading scores last year and are refining our practice to be even more effective. Tiered reading instruction prepares students by giving them targeted lessons at their reading levels. Placing students in flexible, leveled groups for a part of the instructional day is a best practice that allows every student to maximize his or her potential.

It is going to be a fantastic year at Mira Cat!



Miraleste *Intermediate School*

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



Frank Califano
Principal

A Great Start

As we start the new year, I thought it would be nice to introduce the teachers who are new to the Miraleste staff. A couple have returned to us after numerous years teaching elsewhere, raising their families and trying other business pursuits.

Donna Hargis was originally hired in 1997 to teach seventh-grade science. She left teaching in 2007

to help establish a family business. Her leaving was an enormous loss for our campus at the time. She is an incredible science teacher whose greatest gift is in how she treats children. By being so positive and nurturing, her ability to reach even those students who haven't been successful in science is amazing. We are so glad to have her back!!

Rebecca Kieft was hired in 2000, and is one of the best teachers I have been around. My daughter who now teachers in Manhattan Beach

uses techniques with her students that she learned in Mrs. Kieft's class as a sixth-grader. She never forgot! That is what teaching is all about. Mrs. Kieft left Miraleste in 2014, and reduced her assignment to raise her own children. As fate would have it, I was in need of a part-time English teacher. She was looking to come back to Miraleste. We are so glad to have her back!!

I met Ryan Taylor when he coached my youngest daughter's soccer team at Palos Verdes High School.

After a few observations of his interaction with children and his ability to communicate in a positive manner, I knew he would be a great teacher. When a PE opening arose at my previous school, I jumped at the chance to hire him. When he communicated to me that he would like to come with me to Miraleste, and knowing how I needed a PE teacher, the fit was perfect.

We are off to a great start, and I know that the Miraleste students and community will love the new faces on our staff.



Palos Verdes *Intermediate School*

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



Trista Ramirez
Principal

The Backbone of PVIS

When I arrived on the PVIS campus in July, I was struck by how quiet an intermediate school is during this time of the year. It was far different than the constant hustle of the high school.

I also wondered how the campus would be ready for children on the first day of school if there was only my custodial staff and me here to prepare. Yet, it quickly became clear that I need not have been concerned, because the backbone of PVIS is here year round!

Our head custodian, Gairon Mayen, has been a mainstay of the PVIS community for over 18 years. Each day Gairon is the go-to on campus who solves a myriad of problems. His response is always one



of going the extra mile, getting on top of what ever pops up, and ensuring that every student and staff member has what they need to enjoy a successful day at school.

Gairon takes tremendous pride in his work for our Sea King community, and it is clear that without him our days do not run as smoothly. Yet, it is the way that Gairon goes above and beyond to contribute to the needs of our school that reminds me every day of how lucky we are to have him on our team. Not only does he keep the school looking tidy, he also engages with the children to make sure that they feel supported and valued. He even works as a PVIS athletic coach after school.

It's staff members like Gairon who make this school such a special place to be each and every day. The next time you are at PVIS, please thank Gairon for all that he does for our school and students. He is the true definition of what we value in our Sea King family!

Montemalaga *Elementary School*

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



Jody Pastell
Principal

Whole-Child-Development Programs

Social-emotional learning (SEL) is an important part of our daily activities at Montemalaga Elementary. SEL is the process through which children and adults acquire and apply the knowledge, attitudes and skills needed to understand emotions, set and achieve positive goals, show empathy for others, maintain positive relationships, and make good decisions. By developing such competence, we'll better prepare all of our students for life. Everyone will be ready for postsecondary education, career success, positive family and work relationships, better mental health and community involvement.

Every Monday at Montemalaga begins with a schoolwide announcement reinforcing the expectations of being responsible, being respectful, listening, using self-talk, giving empathy, identifying feelings, managing challenges, using calming-down strategies and problem-solving, to name a few. Teachers and staff are discussing the same topics during grade-level meetings and faculty meetings. Students receive Gold Cards when they are observed making good decisions when participating in activities throughout the school. The office staff and school psychologist have created a supportive emotional environment for positive conversations with students. Such

an environment helps students to reflect on their behaviors with adults in a collaborative manner. Students also discuss and decide how to move forward in peer relationships—to make amends and how to conduct themselves a similar situation occur in the future. Understanding how the other person feels and learning to listen to other points of view will help develop great problem solvers.

Beginning each day focused and ready to learn is a schoolwide expectation. Teachers are using calming strategies before starting instruction. We are all mindful of the importance of having focus at key times during the day—at the start of school, after recess or after lunch. Being quiet for the duration of a chime vibration, practicing deep-breathing skills, and thinking of things that make you smile are examples of achieving focus. Calming-down strategies are also being taught on the playground or when peers experience a misunderstanding. Children are told to stop and identify how they are feeling when they are mad, sad or upset. They learn to calm down by taking deep breaths, counting, or using positive self-talk. After a child becomes calm, an adult will help problem-solve the situation. It is through understanding, listening and problem solving to make things better that students become empowered and feel supported at our school.

Montemalaga's goal is to have a school of confident and successful learners.

Point Vincente *Elementary School*

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



Beth Hadley
Principal

A Good Friend

Every adult on a school campus has the opportunity to model what it looks like to be a responsible adult. We take this task seriously, and always do our best to set good examples for our students.

I don't know any person on a school campus who is more important than the school custodian. He (or she) is the first person called for any problem. The custodians are challenged to solve plumbing problems, furniture arrangement, accidents of all sorts, and an assortment of "whatever comes along" kinds of situations. Grown-ups and children alike count on the custodian to figure out the solutions. It is a consuming, critical, and challenging role.



Luckily for us, Mr. Cotton has found a home at Point Vicente! He shows us all what it means to be a helpful, positive, and hard-working person. Mr. Cotton is dependable. He is on time and follows through when he says he will help.

Mr. Cotton is also approachable. He is easy to talk to! Mr. Cotton is a good friend to students and adults alike, and this helps make our school warm and welcoming!

We also welcome some new faces to Point Vincente. Mr. Barro is a great addition to our fourth-grade team. He substituted at our school last year, and when we had the opportunity to hire a new teacher we knew he'd fit right in. Ms. Worthge and Ms. Cristobal have been part of our staff in recent years, but both are stepping into new roles in our Learning Center.

Palos Verdes *High School*

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



Charles Park, Ed.D.
Principal

A Special Employee

When you walk onto our beautiful campus of Palos Verdes High School, you will be greeted with a smile by Mrs. Jeanne DeLorenzo, our head secretary. I have the pleasure of seeing Jeanne work her magic every day with the many parents, students, and staff members who interact with her, and she always fills the office with laughter and joy.

The biggest compliment I saw was in our staff survey, where the highest marks went to Jeanne for her professionalism, positivity, and candor. This is a testament of who she is and how she symbolizes what PVHS strives to be every day. Having worked in marketing and the private sector, Jeanne understands the importance of customer service. She is the point-person for all things because everyone comes to the office for their many needs, and she always treats each person with care and attention.

One day I even saw her helping with traffic as she was waving cars this way and that. She was jumping in to help a security officer with further support. That's Jeanne for you! On another day she would be helping to fix the copy machine, and then would be seen greeting community guests onto our campus.

We all appreciate Jeanne for what she does for our Sea Kings. At the same time we also recognize our classified staff, who are the base and foundation of our work in keeping the school moving right along every day.

So here's to you, Jeanne: a mom, a colleague, and a friend to all. Most importantly, you are a guardian angel for all of our students in their daily lives. Thank you!



Palos Verdes Peninsula *High School*

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



Brent Kuykendall
Principal

They Make Us Look Good!

When you walk on the Palos Verdes Peninsula High School campus and see our lush trees and clean facilities or participate in an event, you're seeing the hard work and dedication of our custodial and grounds crew. This team works tirelessly each summer and throughout the school year to keep our campus looking its best. I've had the privilege of serving this community for almost 20 years as both a teacher and an administrator, and I learned early on about the importance of having a dedicated custodial and grounds crew.

Support crews are sometimes overlooked, but their work is critical to daily operations and the long-term success of our school. Our Palos Verdes Peninsula High School team comprises some of the hardest-working, committed individuals I've met. They show up daily, ready to do whatever is needed. Nothing on this campus happens without their support and involvement: setting up for a conference, striping the fields, helping with a jammed locker—they do it all. They're the ones who keep the campus looking good and our students and staff safe, all with smiles on their faces.

When anyone takes pride in their work and treats the school more like their home than their place of employment, you know you have something special. The crew that works at Palos Verdes Peninsula High School lives by this ethic and are driven to do whatever it takes to support our needs.

Thank you Al, Sobin, Quentin, Khanh, Martin, Frankie, Keith, Julio and Tom for all that you do to support our Panther family. Your efforts are recognized and appreciated every day.

The next time you see one of our fantastic custodial or grounds-crew members on campus, please stop and thank them! They'll continue working hard anyway, but your gesture will let them know how much we appreciate their efforts!



Our amazing custodial and grounds crew

Rancho del Mar *High School*

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



Right Where We Need To Be

Rancho del Mar has been serving our community for over thirty years-redefining success, and supporting students no matter what path they take to achieve their goals. I asked a recent graduate of Rancho del Mar to write a letter about her “path” below...

Micah Farrell
Principal

To Rancho Del Mar,

I never imagined attending a high school other than Palos Verdes Peninsula. It was my home. I had been battling an unknown illness for four years and one week into my senior year, I was diagnosed with Chronic Lyme Disease. In a matter of a few days, my whole life was turned upside down. I was transferred from Peninsula to Rancho Del Mar under the Independent Study program. I remember the first day I stepped onto RDM's campus. It was a completely different world, but within the first five minutes, I felt at home. I was welcomed with open arms and an immense amount of personal support from the administration. The staff and students taught me so much. Each student had a story and everyone was completely different from one another. You see, when you suddenly get sick and

start missing school, it gets hard to keep up. It starts to feel as if everyone is working against you and you tend to lose faith. RDM reminded me how much the staff members care for each and every one of their students, regardless of their circumstances. I was so determined to graduate high school and attend college that even while battling an illness and being sick day in and day out, I pushed through and ended up graduating along my fellow classmates in June of 2017. I wouldn't have been able to do it without all the support from everyone at RDM. I learned more this past year than I had in seventeen years prior to that. One of the biggest things RDM taught me is that it is okay to ask for help. Sometimes you can't do it all by yourself, but there will always be people who are there to catch you when you fall. I was able graduate high school and will start school at UC Santa Barbara in the fall, all while battling a debilitating disease. I believe anyone who puts their mind to a goal can always accomplish it.

Jessica Pazirandeh, Class of 2017

It is my hope that this students inspiring story will help another student as we all learn to understand that we are all, “Right where we need to be”.

Rancho Vista *Elementary School*

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



Everyone Coming Together

Rancho Vista has a dedicated community of families and staff members. Our Rancho Vista family, or what we like to call our “Rancho Vista Village,” teaches children the importance of giving back, helping one another, offering unsolicited assistance, and learning to go above and beyond when the opportunity arises.

This was especially apparent during the months of June, July, and August, when our teachers were thought to be “taking time off.” Instead, most of them spent their days planning curriculum and organizing their classrooms for the next group of students. Also witnessed on many occasions were current and past Rancho Vista students who came to the school to visit their teachers. While here, these students then offered assistance in helping to set up classrooms, organize materials, and even carry things across campus.

On another occasion over the summer, the school had planned to beautify the campus by planting native plants. A group of Rancho Vista families of all ages came in early one Saturday morning with their shovels and in less than a few



hours had planted more than 50 plants!

At the same time, towards the front of the school, an Eagle Scout project was being led by a former Rancho Vista student. This project was intended to beautify the campus before school began. The Eagle Scout group was also made up of many former Rancho Vista students. The results of both projects, over just one weekend, transformed the look of the school.

It is heartwarming to see that our entire Rancho Vista community, from parents to siblings to grandparents, have taken pride in maintaining the culture of giving back to the school and helping others. Through various planned activities scheduled throughout the year, Rancho Vista will continue to bring the community together to continue the tradition of “Once a Road Runner, always a Roadrunner” at our Rancho Vista village.

Ridgecrest *Intermediate School*

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



Jaime Mancilla
Principal

Yet Another Great Opening!

Having just experienced my 27th “first week of school,” the energy and excitement never cease to amaze me! The main office had children and parents coming and going from the moment the doors opened until the last bell at the end of the school day. And with all of this

activity, I finally got to see firsthand what everyone had been telling me about our front-office team—they are fantastic! They made the opening of the 2017-18 school year seem like poetry in motion.

I do not take for granted in any way what the rest of the Ridgecrest team did to start school! In fact, I couldn't wait for that first-period bell to ring, when the classroom doors close and our great teachers immediately jump into gear doing what they do best—teach our wonderful Raiders. The anticipation lived up to all of my expectations. Despite the normal first week of school hustle and bustle, the Ridgecrest team enthusiastically welcomed our new and returning students and then jumped into the curriculum.



Finally during our first week, to ensure a sense of community and a common set of expectations for the school year, the entire faculty and staff worked together to present our schoolwide and classroom expectations as part of our Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS). This explicit teaching of everything from how to stand in line for lunch to appropriate

behavior while visiting the restrooms helps our students know what our expectations are of them. As a staff, we believe that these presentations are worthwhile for our students to be successful both academically and in social/emotional ways.

I could not be more proud of the RIS community! Teachers, staff, students and parents, thank you for another wonderful kickoff to the school year. We are poised for another great year!

Silver Spur *Elementary School*

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



Marta Jevenois-Richardson
Principal

A Signature Practice

Silver Spur's extensive Response to Intervention (RTI) program is a signature practice, and an example of our team approach to the education of all students. This program went into effect over 11 years ago in response to the number of students who were performing below grade level and/or were being referred for psycho-educational assessments. The RTI program at Silver Spur targets students in the lowest performance band at each grade level and provides intervention in reading, writing, math, science, and social studies.

The goal of the RTI model is to provide intervention, screenings, and progress monitoring to measure academic growth and provide students with instruction appropriate to their needs.

Our Learning Center staff is led by two highly qualified special education teachers: Mrs. Lindsay Lipschutz and Mrs. Carina Tinker. Together with their team they work extremely hard to design lessons that match student needs with targeted intervention. These educators align



their interventions with 21st-century skills and Common Core Standards. Our speech pathologist, Lisa Kline, provides Speech RTI services to selected students, and our adapted physical education teacher (APE), Corinne Villcock, and our occupational therapist (OT), Carolyn Hardesty, round out assisting with the additional needs of our students.

At our Learning Center we utilize a Four-Tier Approach. Tier 1 Intervention provides core-reading instruction to all students. This classroom intervention takes place in the students' classroom under the direction of the classroom teacher. Tier 2 Intervention targets low-performing students, primarily inside the general educational classroom, and the students are monitored monthly. Tier 3 Intervention takes place in the Learning Center where students are progress-monitored weekly. Students who do not respond to Tier 3 are then referred for special education testing and further intensive support. This is our Tier 4 intervention.

In our Learning Center, students in general education work alongside students in special education without any stigma or stereotype. Inclusiveness and acceptance of our differences keeps with our best practice model to serve all students.

Soleado *Elementary School*

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



Gina Stutzel
Principal

Commitment to Wellness

What a great start to the school year! Getting a school up and running takes a lot of work and collaboration. Working alongside the staff, PTA Board members and Booster parents, we are well out of the starting gate. What a great team we have here at Soleado!

This year as a staff we are committed to wellness. Wellness is of utmost importance to us here at Soleado. The teachers have enthusiastically agreed that together we can provide wellness support to ourselves, our students, and our families.

Part of our commitment to the pledge of wellness will be continuing our “No Homework” day program this year. We have designated 6 evenings where the kids can put away their homework so families can spend special time together as a family. Our Growth Mindset philosophy has been adopted by our teachers, and they will be implementing that philosophy into their classroom culture. As a school, we are focusing on Respect, Responsibility, Resilience, and Kindness and will be “catching” the students doing kind things around campus. With the support of our Booster Club, we will be integrating a Fine Arts program into our curriculum this year. Bringing Arts Education into the school gives the students a chance to explore their imaginations and creativity. Our district is supporting us by providing a licensed counselor at each elementary site



to support ongoing student wellness. Our Soleado Booster Club is onboard as well by continuing “family socials” where we can gather as Soleado families and build lasting relationships. These are a few of the wonderful examples of how we will be developing balance in the hustle and bustle of our school year.

I shared Soleado’s wellness pledge with our parent community at our annual Welcome Tea. I discussed the importance of self and family wellness and how it will contribute to a happy home. I challenged the parents to explore ways to create harmony and calm in their lives while the whirlwind of activities spin around us during the school year.

I look forward to getting to know our new families, strengthen the relationships with our returning families and continue to build a safe place where students can learn and grow.

Vista Grande *Elementary School*

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



Jeri Delatorre
Principal

Wellness

This year Palos Verdes Peninsula is directing its focus towards student wellness.

We are excited that two elementary counselors have been hired to help serve our schools. Educators have long advocated for the emotional support of young students, and so at Vista Grande we will now have an on-campus school psychologist for two days a week and an elementary counselor for one. It

will be exciting to see how this new program evolves as the year progresses.

Vista Grande is also participating in a focus on student wellness by piloting a new curriculum. During the first half of the year our teachers will begin a “mindfulness” program called MindUp. This program will teach children how their brains work, especially during emotional and stressful times. With it they can learn a variety of strategies to engage the parts of their brains that will help them deal with emotions and stress.



During the second half of the year we will be piloting a program called Second Step, which has a similar focus. Research has shown that social-emotional issues often interfere with learning. It is important then to teach children how to remove these barriers with the kind of skills that will carry them through the stressful days of high school.

First-grade teacher Lisa Mack used MindUp when she taught in Hermosa Beach. During our recent Professional Development Day prior to the start of school she presented a sample lesson to the staff members of both Vista Grande and Montemalaga. The teachers discovered the power of short, simple strategies that help students focus and engage.

It is our hope that creating a school-wide system of calming strategies and a common vocabulary will benefit our children for a lifetime.

The Saga of the Soroban



Heisei Year 29 (2017): All-Japan Soroban Championships at the Kyoto International Conference Center in Kyoto, Japan

There is a tension in the air, taut as a bowstring. Then, a burst of rapid clicking sounds ensues, thousands together, bead against bead, filling the chamber.

The prestigious, annual All-Japan Soroban Championships, a gathering of the finest soroban practitioners in all of Japan, had begun. But: what is soroban? To the onlooker, it may seem old-fashioned and irrelevant in today's digitalized society; however, soroban, the time-honored Japanese abacus, is the very embodiment of unfading skill passing from generation to generation. Used from historic times, soroban has remained in the Japanese culture for many a century, retaining its speed, accuracy, and magnificence whilst defying the attrition of time. It was my privilege and honor to partake in such grand a contest, though my eight years of experience with the abacus was dwarfed by the decades other contestants were armed with. With nimble fingers that, through nudging wooden beads, manage to calculate massive numbers and mental calculations as swift as lightning, we shall plunge into the Soroban's labyrinth.

Kan Shimada is an eighth-grader and an avid eight-year soroban practitioner who has participated in the All-Japan Soroban Championships, among others and holds, Pre-4 dan level, holding true to his Japanese heritage; however, he aspires for 5 dan in both soroban and mental calculations. One of his chief interests, besides every manner of learning, is the art of the soroban, a mighty coalition of wooden beads and pearls that has granted him great skill over the years. This first issue will be the first amongst three, released in succession, and culminating in the Championships..

Contest!

On our web site www.schoolnewsrollcall.com click on Podcast and October Contest to hear the word to email kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com to be entered in the drawing to win a GAZUMP dice/card game!



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JUNIOR PICK UP NIGHT

Fram Soccer Club is offering 6 weeks of FREE pick up soccer games for boys and girls born in 2009 and 2010. Show up to the field with your cleats and jump in a series of fun pick up games. Although the games will be supervised by qualified Fram Staff, there will be no coaching. Just come and have some fun playing the beautiful game! This is open to players of all levels **NO MATTER WHO** you play for!

Come play soccer with us!
www.framsoccer.com

October 6 5:30pm Miraleste Int. School	October 27 5:30pm Palos Verdes Int. School
October 13 5:30pm Palos Verdes Int. School	November 3 5:30pm Miraleste Int. School
October 20 5:30pm Miraleste Int. School	November 10 5:30pm Palos Verdes Int. School

Palos Verdes Library District

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



Laura Henry
Young Readers
Manager

Information Power Workshops

Due to popular demand, PVLD is bringing back Information Power workshops this fall. In 2016-17, PVLD teamed with PVPUSD's librarians, teachers and parents to create "Information Power! Core Skills for College Success," a workshop to teach high school juniors and seniors the research skills and knowledge they need for mastering college courses. Students who attended an Information Power workshop earlier this year

demonstrated an average improvement of 75 percent in their grasp of basic research skills.

The 90-minute Information Power workshops take place at the Peninsula Center Library. Carefully designed to give high school students the skills they need to use academic article databases such as JSTOR, which are not freely available on the Internet, they also offer opportunities to explore popular information resources like Google. "Learning how to use the Web critically and effectively is vital in our fast-paced world, as well as in academia," says Teen Services Librarian Louise Beebe.

Engaging in fun, competitive, game-based tasks, students will learn to:

- Go "beyond Google"
- Master skills for finding, evaluating, and using reliable information
- Describe what an academic article database is and how to use one effectively

Students wanting to be confident and prepared for college research can sign up for an "Information Power!" workshop. Sessions are free and include a short break for snacks.

Upcoming sessions

PVLD's Peninsula Center Library
Sat. October 14, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Wed. November 8, 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Space is limited, so sign up early!

To sign up, visit www.pvld.org/Calendar and select your preferred date.



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Contest!

PVPUSD *School News* readers are way too smart for me...so I have a new challenge for you. Here are three pictures from this issue. When you find them, write down the page numbers, then add all three pages up to get the sum. **Email me the sum of the three page numbers.**

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



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



2017 Beach Cities 12 Smack
Champions, NCVA Jr Olympic Qualifiers
Championship Division, 2017 National
Championships (Minneapolis, MN)

Girls Ages 14 & Under Tryouts
Grades 4th-5th-6th-7th-8th
Advanced, Intermediate, & Beginning Teams

Saturday, October 7th @ Manhattan Beach Middle School
Ages 12 & Under 9:30-11:30am Ages 13 & 14 11:30am-1:30pm
Sunday, October 8th @ LA Galaxy Soccer Center
All 14 & Under Ages 5:30-7:30pm
Monday, October 9th @ LA Galaxy Soccer Center
All 14 & Under Ages 5:30-7:30pm

High School Girls Club Clinics & Tryouts



Clinics:
Sunday, October 15th 5:00-7:00pm @ LA Galaxy Soccer Center
Sunday, October 22nd 5:00-7:00pm @ LA Galaxy Soccer Center
Tryouts:
Sunday, October 29th 5:00-7:00pm @ LA Galaxy Soccer Center
Sunday, November 5th 5:00-7:00pm @ LA Galaxy Soccer Center

**Spaces still available on our
Boys Club Teams!**

Boys Ages 14 & Under Tryout:
Sunday, October 8th 4:00-5:30pm @
LA Galaxy Soccer Center

High School Boys:
Please call Coach Christian Cammayo
at (310)382-0899



Locations:

LA Galaxy Soccer Center
540 Maple Ave, Torrance, 90503
Manhattan Beach Middle School
1501 N Redondo Ave, Manhattan
Beach, 90266



www.BeachCitiesVBC.com

310-546-9150

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