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Covering the Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District

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Reflections of 2017-2018



Donald B. Austin, Ed.D.
Superintendent

It has been an honor to serve as the Superintendent of Schools for the Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District for the last four years. We forged an approach to our work that developed leadership from every seat. Investments in people led to the creation of a high-functioning organization with a team realizing their interdependence on behalf of our students.

Focused efforts in the area of mental health and well-being better supported students across the District. This included counseling services at the elementary school level for the first time in history. Wellness Centers were created at our high schools

and staff members received targeted training to identify issues earlier and guide students to the proper services.

Our Board of Education recently approved an English and Language Arts textbook and curriculum adoption for grades Transitional Kindergarten through five. Combined with an earlier adoption in math, the investment was the largest in materials, curriculum, and professional development in over a decade. As a result, all students now receive the same consistent and rigorous academic program with a complete compliment of assessments, print materials, and online supplements.

The District is in a fantastic position for the future and is squarely built on a foundation of strength. I look forward to following the progress and wish everyone the best.

Peninsula Education Foundation

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



Christine Byrne
Executive Director

Summer's upon Us!

It's hard to believe that this school year is coming to an end! Whether this is the end of your first child's first year of elementary school or your youngest child's last year of high school, there is much

to reflect on, celebrate, and prepare for what lies ahead. As parents, we support our children and try to prepare them for the future, every step of the way!

The Peninsula Education Foundation is there with you and your children from the beginning to the end of this journey, supporting teaching positions and programs that impact students from elementary through high school in our district. The staff and trustees of the Peninsula Education Foundation would also like to take this time to thank you for your support this year through



your donations, participation in fund-raising events such as the Skechers Walk and Main Event, and attending our sponsored events such as One Last Summer Blast, STEM Symposium and the Parent University speaker series. None of this would be possible without your commitment and support, and for that, we thank you.

As the summer approaches, we all look toward the time to celebrate our children's accomplishments and take a moment to breathe before the

next academic path emerges. Whether your travels take you down to the beach or to the other side of the world, it's a time to enjoy one another. To those of you who have children graduating high school this year, we want to wish you and them all the best as they embark on their next phase of their journey through life, and hope that they take this next step feeling prepared with what they have learned.



Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Netragrednik

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Covering the
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UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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Michele Marcus
Principal

Educating the Heart

As we approach the end of the school year, I can't help but reflect on what an amazing year this has been. Our goal as educators isn't just to send students off to their summer break academically prepared for the next grade, but to also send them off knowing what it means to be a person of character.

This year our students head to their summer break with an understanding that it's okay to make mistakes, because mistakes are opportunities to learn. With a new focus on John Wooden's Pyramid of Success, our Cornerstone students have a better understanding that success isn't being the best at everything, but is rather the, "Happiness in your heart because you made the effort, 100 percent, to do your best!" Rolling out the ABCs of Cornerstone this year helped our students understand that when we Act Safely, Be Responsible, and Care for Others, a safe learning environment is available for all.

I am so proud of our Cornerstone community's commitment to helping others. With the help of Community's Child, we recently held a food drive to

support food insecurity in the South Bay. We also participated in the Jump Rope for Heart event to help raise money for the American Heart Association. We collected toiletry items for children in need and donated clothing to the homeless. Participating in these philanthropic activities gave our students the opportunity to help others less fortunate than themselves.

Each year our Cornerstone students participate in an amazing "Year Of" program where they are immersed in the culture of another country for the entire school year. This year the focus of our parent-led program was on Japan. Our students are ending with a "Year of Japan" culminating celebration and a much deeper understanding of the Japanese culture.

Doing our part to help students understand the importance of being a kind and caring person is just as important to our Cornerstone staff as the academic instruction we offer. To quote Aristotle, "Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all." Although it is always hard to say goodbye to students at the end of the year, it makes our staff proud to know that we are sending them off to both summer and the next grade with a kind heart and a desire to keep learning.

Dapplegray *Elementary School*

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



Nancy Parsons
Principal

Have a Great Summer

As another school year comes to an end, I want to reflect on what was accomplished as well as the targets that were missed.

We accomplished great things. We started the year with five-year-old students who couldn't write their names or identify letters and sounds, and dedicated teachers who taught them how to read. Some of them couldn't count, but they left for summer with

a good sense of numbers and place values.

Boys and girls who have been with us for a while became better readers, writers, mathematicians, and critical thinkers. We are sending children off for summer vacation with the satisfied sense that they are closer to being confident and productive members of society with the academic skills they need to succeed.

My hope is to send you off with more than that. Whenever I make an announcement at Dapplegray, it ends with "Work hard, be nice, and remember, kindness matters." I'd like to send you into summer with these thoughts:

Work hard! This summer you may be playing sports, or going to drama camp, or traveling with family. Whatever

you are doing, do it with all your effort. That's what it means to work hard. There is great reward in knowing that you are giving a project all of the determination you can. Your final product will be a testament to your hard work.

Be nice! Smile at people. Carry groceries for someone with their arms full. Hold doors for people. Say, "Please" and "Thank you." Answer back and ask questions about others in conversation. Be patient in traffic, whether you are driving a car or waiting in a long line. Remember, words in texts hurt too!

Kindness matters! It is never a mistake to be kind to others. You can do this through words or actions. Help someone if they are hurt in body or spirit. Let people know how you care with a card or a hug. Never hesitate to put in a kind word.

Elementary school is a microcosm of society. The lessons learned here and the skills gained will prepare you as you move on to higher grades, larger playgrounds, more difficult choices, and your life as a productive citizen. So, boys, girls, moms, dads, and friends, please let me send you into the summer with my mantra. Work hard, be nice, and remember, kindness matters! It covers everything.

Thank you, Dapplegray Elementary, for a wonderful year. Have a fantastic summer.

Lunada Bay *Elementary School*

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



Julie Tarango
Principal

Confidence Within and Without

The anticipation of summer is abundant this time of year! 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.

Students and teachers have worked hard and formed unique bonds as a classroom community where they trust and believe in one another. Sending them into summer excited about learning is what we strive for all year long. As a staff, we talk a lot about the importance of sending students to the next grade level feeling confident about learning. It is equally as valuable as academics! As the year draws to a close, I smile as I walk around campus knowing that our students feel safe and happy in the classrooms. They are ready.

Our school comes together once a week on Monday mornings to reflect on the week ahead. We sit quietly as a whole school on the blacktop for Mindful Monday to check

in with our thoughts. When is the last time you allowed yourself two minutes to sit quietly and breathe deeply, contemplating your state of mind? While hard to do in the midst of busy schedules, there is great reward in giving yourself permission to pause once in a while. This is a strong life skill that hopefully stays with our students long after they leave campus, whether it is for the summer break or beyond. They are equipped with the knowledge they need to advance to the next level but also the perseverance tools our young students need.

May serves as a great time to reflect on our school year and embrace the new opportunities that await them in their next chapter. As our fifth-graders move to middle school, our younger students move into the next grade level and little ones join us for the first time as they take their first steps into elementary school. There is much excitement and joy in feeling prepared! Nourishing the way students think about not only the world but also how they feel is priority at Lunada Bay. Knowing these confident young minds are ready for the next chapter brings me to pause—they are ready!

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Mira Catalina *Elementary School*

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



Brett Egan
Principal

Producing Great Students

As a staff at Mira Catalina Elementary School, we often speak about the profile for our students as they matriculate through our school. As outgoing fifth-graders, we want them to have the baseline skills to articulate in the written and verbal form, to comprehend and synthesize what they read, to develop a keen number sense, to mathematically reason, and to display strong interpersonal skills. With this goal in mind, we examine our current practices and back map our curriculum and instruction all the way to the kindergarten year to ensure our students achieve these goals. Students learn much in the classroom and in the opportunities provided beyond the classroom, some of which I have detailed below.

The end of the school year 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 had such a fun year, filled with incredible activities for all grade levels and ages, including 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, and our Elektrikids assemblies.

A school is great not because of where it is located or the score 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 all of you in the fall! Thank you—and have a great summer!



Palos Verdes *Intermediate School*

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



Trista Ramirez Ed.D.
Principal

A Celebratory Send-Off

A send-off is a celebration as someone begins a new venture, a demarcation of closing one chapter and opening another. As we send off the Class of 2018 to high school, may they remember these words of advice on their new adventure:

At Palos Verdes Intermediate School (PVIS), you have become scholars, artists, athletes, actors, innovators, dancers, scientists, entrepreneurs, and more. We have watched you grow, mature and thrive in our classrooms, on the stage, in our labs, and on the field. We have encouraged you to show up as your best selves every day. When you have made missteps, we reminded you there is

always tomorrow to show your best selves again. With the foundation laid at PVIS, there is no doubt that your future is bright. So, remember, Class of 2018, in the words of Oscar Wilde, “Be yourself. Everyone else is already taken.”

As I close this chapter on my first year as principal, I would like to send off the year by thanking my faculty and staff for their tremendous support. I am lucky to have become a part of your Sea King family. I would like to express my appreciation to our parents, who volunteer tireless hours and give endless support to our school community. Finally, a special thank you to those who have supported me this year, those who were available when needed to offer advice, camaraderie, and encouragement.

Here’s to an amazing year as I close this chapter and start the next. Let’s make it the best ever!

Miraleste *Intermediate School*

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



Hands on Deck!

What a year! I believe that those of us that have been working in schools for any length of time can always make that statement. I like to compare a school year to the ocean. On some days, it is beautiful, with perfect waves, bright sunshine and warm water; on other days, the current is so strong that it makes it difficult to even swim. Coming back to Miraleste, my apprehension was strong.

Would the community embrace me as before? Would the children do the same? Would the connections with parents that I have known since childhood still be a part of MIS—those connections that I so loved my first time here? How would the staff react to a new style and vision? All relevant questions—if I could not come back and make an impact, there would be stormy seas ahead.

The first indication that things could go well was breakfast with my new PTSA partner, Karen Buresh. We found that we agreed on most everything quickly. Her help and support as well as the support of all of our parents and parent groups have made this year an absolute pleasure.

Frank Califano
Principal

The second occurred on registration day, when I saw that those connections that I adored were still here. Now, instead of my friends having children here, I found that a number of my old students were now parents and had children! I guess that happens to all of us old-timers. The problem is, I still don't see myself as one of those.

The third happened when I started to meet some of my budding eighth-grade students. Two of the first to introduce themselves were Noah Wahl and Jamie Robertson. My first reaction was that if these two were indicative of my future eighth-grade class, we were going to have a great year! As I started meeting more and more of this incredible group of young men and women, that feeling only grew.

Lastly, our first faculty meeting—the embrace was immediate and mutual! Thank you, MIS staff—you are all awesome!

To the MIS class of 2017–18, I salute you. I wish you the best of everything. Thank you for making this school year a fantastic one for all of the students of MIS and for me. Your leadership made that happen. Best of luck in high school and in the future!

Montemalaga *Elementary School*

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



A Great Send Off

Students completing elementary school have acquired many skills that are necessary for future academic success. Robert

Fulghum once wrote a little book called *All I Really Need to Know*

I Learned in Kindergarten—and he is correct. Our kindergarteners learned the important skills of playing fairly, sharing, putting things back where they belong, apologizing when we hurt someone, living a balanced life, and being able to wonder and use our imaginations, to name a few of the items on Fulghum's famous list.

Students spend elementary years practicing these and other appropriate social skills as they learn how to make good choices. Their lives will be filled with choices to make. Students in elementary school can stop, think, and articulate if an action is a good choice or not. Thanks for regular practice, they have learned to be responsible for their actions.

Jody Pastell
Principal



Montemalaga Elementary
5th grade promotion ceremony.

Higher levels of thinking are essential for academic success, and our teachers are helping our students to discover knowledge and information. Students are asked in-depth questions to encourage them to explain their reasoning, and they engage in project-based instruction to prepare children for higher levels of education. Students make meaning from what they are learning and can apply their skills to new concepts. These skills prepare them both socially and academically for the next level of their education.

The elementary school staff may not realize the lasting impact they have on the lives of students—but every single person on the elementary campus is more important than we think. Daily discussions, problem solving, support, friendliness, and caring have made a difference. Children are being sent off to the next level of education ready to succeed and continue to grow.

We look forward to hearing about the students' future accomplishments, goals, and happiness!

Point Vicente *Elementary School*

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



Beth Hadley
Principal

End-of-Year Celebration

The end of the school year is a vital, energy-packed season. We showcase instrumental and choral music performances, class plays, and end-of-year parties, celebrating growth and skill development. We gather close our students

who are moving on with fondness and pride as we prepare them for their next opportunities. We reflect on the projects we have undertaken and consider next steps... all while simultaneously welcoming new kindergarten families, outlining the next year's school calendar, and drafting new goals and projects. The days pass in a blur!

At Point Vicente Elementary School, we rolled out a new summer reading promotion. With the support of our PTA, we are encouraging our students to build their reading skills and their love of reading during the lazy days of summer. This can be done in conjunction with the wonderful summer reading program at the Palos Verdes Library District. We hope to partner with our families to



anchor successful reading habits!

We are going to make the most of our summer months. Our teachers are beginning a professional development focus on written expression, which will begin as this year ends and grow through the next few years. We are growing and

adding a new class to our school family, and we are crafting ideas to engage new students, families, and staff in our community. As a district, and as a school, we are excited about challenges ahead!

Don't let the blur of this exciting season obscure the special moments for your family! Make memories, take pictures, read together, write a summer journal—and get ready for a great new school year just around the corner!

Palos Verdes *High School*

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



Charles Park, Ed.D.
Principal

Happy Trails!

It's our send-off for our seniors! I wanted to take this time to thank our seniors for being steadfast leaders for our school and working hard daily to achieve their best. I believe that it's harder than ever to be a healthy, well-balanced

high school student, and I am proud of our seniors for always striving for what's important: a well-balanced life.

I hope that our seniors will take all that they have learned from PVHS and use their knowledge as a launching pad for even greater success in college, career or military. I, on behalf of our faculty and staff, am very proud of our senior class of 2018. I hope that our seniors will pursue their passions and be lifelong learners. More importantly, I hope that our seniors will go out into this world and be kind, resilient and healthy young adults and make a positive impact in our society.



In May, our school came together for our annual Lip Dub, and our seniors led us in song and dance. It was one of the best days of the school year, and I wanted to share the photo of the Lib Dub with you. You can view the video on our webpage!

Palos Verdes Peninsula *High School*

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



Brent Kuykendall Ed.D.
Principal

Pride in Our Accomplishments

As I look back on my first year as the principal of Palos Verdes Peninsula High School, I reflect on all that has taken place. It has been a big year, filled with plenty of ups and downs—but that is life on a high school campus. Through all of this, our students and staff have continued to shine by working hard, focusing on giving their all, and staying motivated.

The culture of this school is not typical; there is an aura of pride and dedication that resonates throughout the hallways and into the classrooms. Students are driven to not only achieve success, but also contribute to the greater good. This culture starts with a staff that understands the importance and influence of their roles.

Our teachers' motivation comes from a belief in the work they do and the influence they have on every student who walks into their classrooms.

So, as we wind down and transition into summer, I want to send off both our students and staff with a huge pat on the back! They have not just survived another year—they have excelled and lived up to our Panther pride. I want to wish the class of 2018 the best of luck as they go on to new adventures and take on the world with their hands at the ready. I also want to welcome our incoming ninth-grade class. I am confident that they are prepared to step up and join our Panther family.

I hope everyone has a great summer! I personally am already missing the excitement of the school year, and I can't wait for you to return in the fall.

Go, Panthers!

Rancho del Mar *High School*

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



Micah Farrell
Principal

A Major Milestone

I remember talking with a friend of mine recently about my continuation students, specifically about how some of them are in a rush to complete their credit requirements and graduate from high school.

Most adults scoff at this notion, knowing that the high school and college years are some of the best. But we simply nod and pat them on their backs as if not to stifle their momentum or immediate goals.

The cliché sayings regarding this time in our lives are abundant, perhaps because it is a truly milestone moment. One saying that I often refer to when speaking with young adults, and which seems to ring true and resonates with me, is that, “You are an adult a lot longer in life than you are young.”

You can mold this in many ways to fit your conversations with young people, but it mostly means that the things you do in your youth can impact your adult life. And so slow down and think before acting. It also means to enjoy your youth as long as you can, and savor the moments during those moments. They may seem trivial or meaningless, but they are not.



The ebb and flow of student life at a continuation school is somewhat contradictory in terms. Students usually come to us credit deficient and lacking in good work habits. Our staff begins to gently push and pull them along, and so before you know it they are moving through their classes and riding a wave of momentum that can only be stopped by fulfilling their graduation requirements.

This process requires every staff member to be emotionally invested in a young person's life. In what seems like an instant, our students have grown and matured, and they are now graduating from high school at Rancho Del Mar. I am reaffirmed in this bittersweet cycle by knowing that we have truly supported the students who have reached this major milestone accomplishment. Moreover, they leave us knowing that the adults at Rancho Del Mar truly care about them.

Rancho Vista *Elementary School*

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



**Salvatrice
Kuykendall Ed.D.**
Principal

Planning for the Summer

As we wrap up the school year, we look back on where our children began the year and where they are now. We have seen them grow as readers, as writers, as mathematicians, and, most importantly, as individuals. Our children have matured and become more independent people. All of this growth happened not by accident but by your child's hard work and dedication and with your support.

Like many of you, when I thought about summer for my own family, I researched programs in which to enroll my own children. While we all want to keep our children "busy," it is equally important to allow down time so they can recharge and grow in different ways. While children might not love the idea of "quiet time," it does help them to recharge. For example, children benefit from an hour or so of reading quietly, playing with their toys on their own, or even listening to music. This quiet time also helps to foster independence.

Another way to foster independence is to give them additional responsibility at home that continues through the school year. This may include learning to pack their own lunches, empty the dishwasher, or even take on responsibilities for a pet. This growth of independence will also lead to more confidence. We all know that independence and confidence are important life skills we would like for children to have as they grow into adulthood.

Lastly, we all remember the memories that were created during our own summer breaks as children. We remember the spur-of-the-moment adventures and spending time with friends and family. Take a moment to enjoy the beautiful place we live in and take the time to breathe and appreciate our Rancho Vista village as we try to navigate through the trials and triumphs of raising our children together.

From our family to yours, have a wonderful summer!



Ridgecrest *Intermediate School*

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



Jaime Mancilla
Principal

A Lifelong Impact

On June 6, Ridgecrest Intermediate School will celebrate the promotion of over 300 eighth-grade students, who we have prepared to face the next phase in their lives. It's a ritual that we do year after year that gives closure to a chapter in these students' lives. This annual send-off really does highlight and quantify the impact we make on students.

We do this year after year. A single middle school teacher who has been teaching for 20 years will have impacted approximately 3,200 lives. Multiply that by the 40 teachers at Ridgecrest and multiply again by every teacher at Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District (PVPUSD) and the figures are pretty astounding. As educators, we do not tend to give too much thought to this, as this is our job, and we just do the best we can every day. However, we are reminded of our impact when our former students take the time to come back years later to share their accomplishments. Or better yet, they come back to teach in PVPUSD. For example, at Ridgecrest,

almost one third of our faculty and staff went to school in PVPUSD. That's right—Mr. Acres, Ms. Allen, Ms. Gaston, Mrs. Kim, Mrs. LopezLavalle, Mrs. Martin, Mrs. Perantoni, Mrs. Roskos, Ms. Shulman, Mr. Smith, Mr. White, and Mr. Woodward all went to school up here on the hill.

So, as we prepare for the end of the school year, I look forward to saying goodbye to my first batch of Raiders. This group of eighth-graders has given me the first glimpse of how well we prepare our students for high school. I have watched these young people throughout the year, and I believe that our Raiders are more prepared than any of the ninth-grade students I have ever met at my former schools. This is what makes Ridgecrest and PVPUSD among the best in the state.

We will return next fall striving to prepare the next group of young people even better than the last. For starters, our 70 Where Everyone Belongs (WEB) leaders from the eighth-grade class will welcome them and reassure them that they belong here—and that they are the newest proud members of the Raiders family. Meanwhile, a group of about 300 former Ridgecrest Raiders will be busy taking their high schools by storm.

Silver Spur *Elementary School*

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



Marta Jevenois-Richardson
Principal

Looking Forward to a Great Summer

The end of the school year is definitely a very busy time for our parents, teachers, and students. State testing is now over, and our end-of-year activities are well on their way. It is graduation time, end-of-year parties, class celebrations, and the list goes on.

However, as a principal, and above all as an educator, it is during this hectic time of year when I most realize how blessed we are to be a part of this amazing community.

Everyone is working together in making our children's experience one to always remember!

Summer vacation is here. You and your children will surely be looking forward to many wonderful events and adventures. But unfortunately, for some, summer is a time for learning loss. A recently released survey from the National Summer Learning Association (NSLA) confirms that teachers spend a significant amount of time re-teaching material due to summer learning loss.

A significant majority of the teachers surveyed by the NSLA agreed that such summer learning loss could be ameliorated if students participated in a summer learning program, or continued their learning at home. Summer is a great break from school, but it should not be a great break from learning.

Summer activities provide valuable experiences in which children can learn about themselves and the world around them. Here are a few easy ways to prevent summer brain drain in your home, and to enrich your child's life through reading, math, and journal writing:

1. Start a family book club.
2. Make visiting the library part of your summer plan.

Please make sure that your child's day includes time that is set aside for independent reading. Reading is a "sport" with a 12-month season, so just like with any other sport, please ensure that your child makes it to "practice" every day. The PV Public Library is sponsoring a Summer Reading Program. Please check it out at <http://www.pvld.org>, and then encourage your child to actively partake of these programs.

3. Math is important. Math tends to be an area where students really get behind during the summer months. Try to give one problem to your child each morning. This can take a few minutes. It is important to do math all summer long. This can be done when you ask your children to help you cook, measure, guess, add, subtract, etc.

4. Encourage journal writing.

Wishing you a great summer, one that is full of adventures and learning!

Soleado *Elementary School*

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



Gina Stutzel
Principal

A Farewell Message

As I begin to wrap up the school year, I want to reflect upon what worked well and what I think I should continue to support for the next school year.

This year my reflection is a bit different. At the beginning of next year I will be handing over the reins to a new principal. So I begin by closing out this year with a joyous reflection of all of my years at Soleado.

I will start by thanking everyone for your endless hours of volunteering, overseeing, reading, organizing, donating, and doing whatever else was necessary to support our Soleado Suns, both at home and in school.

Special thanks goes to our PTA and Booster Club who, as usual, went above and beyond the call of duty to provide whatever was necessary to add to our students' already rich school experience. But this experience could not occur without the endless energy, skills, and devotion of our Soleado staff. They are a special group of educators who work well beyond the school day to provide quality experiences for the students. They are an exceptional group, and I will miss working alongside them next year.

A final word to the Soleado students: Thank you for all your hard work throughout the school year. I am honored to have had the chance to be your principal. You have made me proud every day, and have kept me laughing and young at heart. I am grateful for your joy, astute insights, and amazing talents.

Best wishes to you, and may your lives be full of love, laughter, and learning.





Jeri Delatorre
Principal

The Power of Prepositions

Prepositions are tiny words, powerfully tied to verbs. The end of a school year is filled with culminating activities, and so it is also a time that we prepare to send our students off. We also send on, send out, send with, send to, and send among.

At every academic level we send off our upperclassmen. At Vista Grande, we send off our fifth-grade class celebrating their growth and achievements. But it is not merely a sendoff. Our fifth-graders are sent off to sixth grade, to school on a larger and grander scale with more students and increased opportunities for independence. They are sent with the foundational academic skills they need to succeed. Study skills have been taught, and character traits such as responsibility, kindness, and honesty have been instilled. These fifth-graders are sent to a middle school setting where teachers understand their readiness to think deeply, as well as note their fragile self-awareness.

Palos Verdes intermediate schools adeptly nurture our pre-adolescents, and encourage problem-solving with support from teachers, counselors and staff. We are proud to send our fifth-graders off to middle school to be among their longtime friends. They will also be finding themselves among dedicated educators who have coordinated new learning experiences for them to build upon their fifth-grade successes.

Tiny words, yet powerful. It is often the little things that make a difference. Whatever your child's age, remember to send them on their way with a hug. Send them out into the world expressing your confidence in their ability to be successful. Send them with the security that you will be there when times get tough. Send them to great adventures!

We do all of this so that our children will one day be sent among the citizens of the world to make a difference.

Day at the Beach –Word Search Contest

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

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

Entries must be received by July 15, 2018

From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a GAZUMP card/dice game - fun for all ages!

- | | |
|------------|---------------|
| SUN BLOCK | SURF BOARD |
| TOWELS | FLOAT |
| SWIM SUIT | SHIRT |
| SUNGLASSES | SANDWICHES |
| UMBRELLA | SHORTS |
| HAT | CHAP STICK |
| FLIP FLOPS | FIRST AID KIT |
| PAIL | COOLER |
| SHOVEL | DRINKS |
| BLANKET | SNACKS |
| BOOK | |





Apprehension's Blanket



Kan S.

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

The Tournament of Wooden Pearls

August 8, 2017, Kyoto, Japan – A deathly silence settled over the chamber, nestling deep into the corners, only to be torn in twain by the series of beeps accompanying the Flash Anzan Round, where fulgurating

numbers of immense digits shot across the vast projection screen in the span of several breathtaking seconds.

Throughout the next hour, contestants challenged one another for the august shield-plaque that would serve as a testament to their triumph over all of Japan and the world. Later, masters of the bead in the Yomiagé-Zan and Yomiagé-Anzan competitions, where a professor intoned over fifteen digits at once in rapid succession, forming calculations of tremendous numbers, vied for mastery over each other. And as the Tournament of Wooden Pearls concluded with flags, certificates, medals, trophies, and plaques galore, and even though I was not even close to winning, it was the greatest accolade to have the honor of representing my nine years of abacus alongside the most marvellous of soroban practitioners who risked everything onto every bead of their soroban



Kan Shimada is an eighth-grader and an avid nine-year soroban practitioner who has participated in the All-Japan Soroban Championships, among others and holds, 4 dan level, holding true to his ancient Japanese heritage; however, he aspires for 5 dan in both soroban and mental calculations. One of his chief interests, besides every manner of learning, especially engineering, science, and business, is the art of the soroban, a mighty coalition of wooden beads and pearls that has granted him great skill over the years. This is the penultimate issue in this series dedicated to the Heisei Year 29 All-Japan Soroban Championships.

Alana's Book Review



Alana F.

Helpful Writing Book

Do you ever feel the pains of writer's block? Chances are, you have, if you've ever written before. Well, here's the funny and extremely useful solution! Insightful

and hilarious, *642 Things to Write About* is endlessly helpful. Containing prompts like "A houseplant is dying. Tell it why it needs to live," to "A day in the life of the person sitting next to you," this book will give you the best ideas to spark your creativity.

This book is amazing for beginning and experienced writers alike. I'd give it seven out of eight triforce shards for being inspirational and creative, seemingly never running out of things to give you. 642 is a lot of prompts, after all. And even if you're not a 'writer,' per se, this book is great for passing the time. So pull up some cushions, make yourself a cup of tea, and release your inner writer!



Alana is a student columnist and a self-proclaimed "huge nerd." When she doesn't have a book in her hands, she loves to play video games and write fiction. She rates books on a scale of 1-8 triforce shards with 8 being the highest

Unforgettable Books

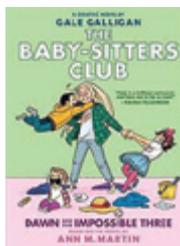


Sofia Atoofi

The Baby-Sitters Club

Dawn Schafer is moving from sunny California to freezing Connecticut. She is eager to accept her first big job as a babysitter in the Baby-Sitters Club. But things don't go exactly as expected. Taking care of three kids whose mom seems too busy to even care about is a hard task.

And getting along with the leader of the club, Kristy, isn't



as easy as it looks, either. But Dawn finds a way to steer through all these obstacles and makes joining the Baby-Sitters Club a success.

I really liked this novel because it teaches you about responsibility yet in a fun and interesting way. I rate this comic book 4 out of 5 stars, because the drawings were very detailed and funny.

Sofia is a fifth grader who loves writing. When she isn't submerged into a book, she enjoys doing gymnastics, acting, and singing. Her favorite kind of books are informational books, as she loves learning about new topics. She wants to become a writer or designer when she grows up, and hopes to someday publish a book, called *Painting a Path*, which she wrote for a school competition.

Palos Verdes Library District

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Laura Henry
Young Readers
Manager

Summer Reading Fun for Everyone

What happens when kids read in summer? No matter what their reading level is, they become better readers! They gain fluency, confidence and see reading as a delight, not a chore. Summer is the perfect time for kids of all reading levels to explore the fun they can find in books and at the library. Drop by any PVLVD branch to learn more.

PV Summer Readers: Reading Takes Us Everywhere — Kids who will be entering

TK – 5th grade in Fall 2018 can join the library's summer reading program. It's perfect for proficient and struggling readers alike! Members can read any books and also try some reading activities that are fun, informative or even funny. They can track their progress online at www.pvld.beanstack.org, or drop by the library to use a classic paper reading log. As members, kids also collect souvenir patches. We have eight awesome new designs this year!

Teen Summer Reading Challenge: Read outside the Lines! — Teens who will be entering 6th – 12th grade in Fall 2018 can join this self-paced program. Members are challenged to read about a topic they don't know much about or read a book in a format they haven't tried before

like an audiobook, ebook or graphic novel. They can also read about characters with different looks, outlooks and lives. Members who read 1,000 pages collect a \$5 Amazon gift card, then can read another 1,000 pages for a second \$5 Amazon gift card. There is a limit of two gift cards per person for the summer.

Summer Events: Want more summer fun? — Come to our kick-off event on June 10 for music, games and treats! And that's just the beginning! From June 12 through August 9, each library will feature special weekly activities for kids. This year, we're featuring mad science, amazing magicians, superhero adventures and more! Check our calendar at www.pvld.org/calendar.

Riddle Fun — The Riddle of the Week, which starts June 18, is a summer tradition at PVLVD. Every week, kids can solve a riddle and receive a small prize. The Riddle of the Week is a way for kids to have fun while they improve their reading skills.

Parents and other grownups — Ask about our new program, "Discover Something New"! It's a whole new twist on reading for grownups.

These amazing programs, made possible by the Peninsula Friends of the Library, run from June 4 through August 20.



JOIN US FOR OUR 2018 SUMMER CAMP!
June 18th - August 3rd

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B is for Book



Bailey

Stirs Your Emotions

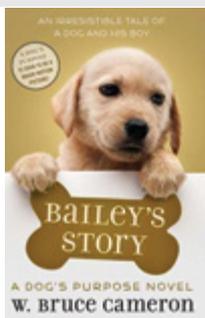
Bailey's Story

by W. Bruce Cameron is one of my favorite books so far. It definitely warmed my heart.

The moment Bailey is born, he is looking for a purpose. He falls into the hands of many people. But the moment Bailey leaps into Ethan's arms, he knows he's in the right place. Going to the farm and playing with the flip is just the first part of Bailey's purpose. Will Bailey realize that, even with the bad things that happen, he must stay true to the boy he loves?

I had not read a book like this one! The point of view surprised me and there are many funny quotes. I can relate to the characters' actions and thoughts to my life. My favorite component of this book is that it is well written and stirs your emotions. I rate this book 5 out of 5 stars.

I give this 4 1/2 stars out of 5. Bailey is a 6th grader that likes to read fantasy and daydream about adventure when she isn't dancing ballet or playing with her friends and siblings.



Book Review By Katrina



Katrina D.

Unique Read

All the Birds in the Sky

is an unusual cross between fantasy and science fiction that follows two children named Laurence and Patricia with unusual talents. Patricia is a witch struggling to understand what she's supposed to do with her powers and Laurence is a computer geek with a longing to leave this planet behind. Though close friends as children, age and ambitions pull them apart as adults. But as the world falls apart around them and the technology geeks and witches go to war over what is to become of Earth, the two of them must decide what side they will have to take, what risks they are willing to take and if they'll be able to live with hurting the other. This book is quite a unique read as Anders blends scientific theory with magical abilities, creating a strangely powerful and intriguing story.

I give this book a four out of five crescent moons.

Katrina is a tenth 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 book reviews from 1 to 5 crescent moons with 5 being the best.



Sophie's Choice



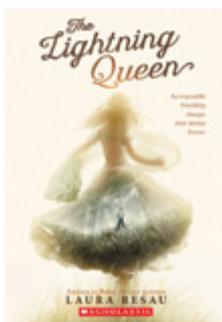
Sophie O.

Lightning Queen

This book is filled with hope and determination made by the characters. One of my favorite things is that the author based the book off of something that does

happen between the Rom people and other cultures. Among the best of friends, you'll see that even after death you shouldn't give up happiness. The author's presence is felt through the presence of the description of the characters and the scenes. You'll notice that people you thought you hated in the book change their characteristics with the help of Teo. Although I love all the characters I'm pretty sure my favorite person is Esma Queen of Lightning. She is strong spirited, happy, and strong-willed. This book will take you on an adventure of your own as you follow along with the main character's many adventures.

Sophie Olko is a 5th grader who loves to read and write her own stories. She enjoys soccer, loves to bake, act, draw and sew. One day she would like to have her own baking show.



Isabella's Book Review



Isabella A.

A Ghost Story

Took, by Mary

Downing Hahn, is a ghost story about a family that moves to Woodville, West Virginia. Against Daniel and Erica's will, they moved because of financial difficulties.

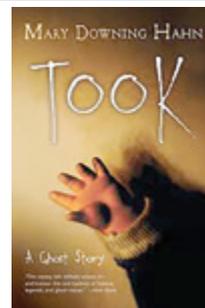
Some kids treat them like they're aliens colonizing Woodville. Kids scare them with stories about "Old Auntie" and how she takes one girl every 50 years. Last time, she took Selene Estes; Now, it will be Erica.

Erica begins talking to a doll, claiming she talks back. She hears her name whispered and sees people. One day she follows one of those people into the forest. That is when she gets "took." Her parents become unhappier with time and blame Daniel for Erica's disappearance.

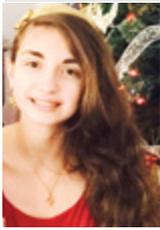
People say "Old Auntie" took her and will keep her for 50 years. Are people right? Will Erica be found?

I rate this book 4 stars because although I loved it, I disliked the character's attitudes.

Isabella is a 6th grader who loves to read, write, volleyball and plans on becoming an author of children's books. She rates books 1-5 stars with 5 being the best.



Christina's Book Review



My Favorite Book Series

In *Sammy Keyes and the Hotel Thief* Sammy is bored in her Grandmother's "Seniors Only" apartment where she has nothing to do, since she is not allowed to live there, stays there in secret and can't make any noise. One day Sammy borrows her Grams' binoculars and looks across the street at the shady Heavenly Hotel. Suddenly she sees a robber running out and he sees her. They stare at each other for a split second. Later a threatening note is slipped under the door that forces Sammy to solve the case before her Grandmother gets hurt. Sammy also has to start middle school and gets suspended on her first day for punching the Mean Girl Heather who started their rivalry by jabbing Sammy with a pin. To top it off, Sammy's nosey neighbor Mrs. Graybill knows that Grams is hiding her and wants to rat her out. With all this against Sammy, how is she ever going to catch the thief?

The Sammy Keys series are very action -packed stories about your everyday girl who must deal with very adult problems, all hidden in a seeming boring town. This is by far my most favorite book series and I give it a 5 out of 5 stars.

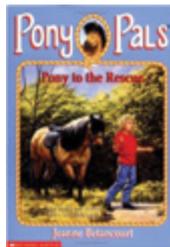
Christina J. is an 8th grader. Christina is a hard-working student who did a community service project "Quilts for the cold" last school year. She is an avid reader, who enjoys some peace and quiet with a good book about some great adventure. Christina is a young author herself. In 5th grade she wrote a book *Melody's Stories: I Am a Spy Now*, published by Studenttreasures Publishing (PIN #3582798).

Jenna's Review



Good Chapter Book

Pony to the Rescue is one of Pony Pals book series. There were three girls and three horses that met a little girl named Rosalie. Rosalie loved one of the horses named Acorn. Rosalie visited Acorn almost everyday. When the three



pony pals decided to go for trail camping, Rosalie got so sad since she couldn't go. In the middle of the trail, they found out Rosalie got lost! The pony pals thought about how scared Rosalie would be lost in the forest. Finally, the horse, Acorn found Rosalie! However Rosalie's mom misunderstood and blamed the pony pals and horses for getting Rosalie lost and didn't let Rosalie be close to them. Would Rosalie ever be able to ride on Acorn again? if you like horses, this is the book you can find interesting. It is also a good chapter book for 2nd or 3rd graders with simple but fun sentences.

Jenna is a second grader. She likes reading books and her parents reading books to her. Besides reading, she also likes art, dance and soccer.

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Note-ables



Kate Karp

Songs of Peace & Love

Vocal group Ladysmith Black Mambazo had long been cultural-music heroes in their native South Africa when musician Paul Simon made them world famous by weaving their quiet yet powerful harmonies into

his unforgettable *Graceland* album and the subsequent tour. Today, parents, grandparents and teachers can pass the group forward to younger generations in *Songs of Peace and Love*.

Ladysmith's latest children's collection, a 2017 Grammy nominee, carves a restful, thoughtful space into a world that has been too full of noise and confusion for both children and adults. Both lyrics and vocals are sung in a spirit of humanity and harmony and in tribute to late South African president Nelson Mandela.



“We know firsthand how hard it is to raise children in a world of conflict, in a world where children need positive role models and positive words,” group member Albert Mazibuko said. “We hope our songs can be an important part of the lessons of peace and love that all parents want to impart to their children.”

“Everything’s So Stupid” lays out the honest frustration in parent-child communication— from both sides. “Different Colors Mean Nothing to Me” tells of how different races and languages

are not things to be overcome but part of the world’s beauty. And there’s a Zulu version of “Old MacDonald.”

The overall message of Ladysmith is that talking to one another can pave the way for communication and, hopefully, peace. Let these songs move you along—they’ll put diamonds on the souls.

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

Ways to Travel Word Search Contest

Rules! One word in the list is NOT in the word search.
When you have completed the word search, one word will be left and that word you email to: Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com Please put PVPUSD in the subject line.

Entries must be received by July 15, 2018

From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a GAZUMP card/dice game - fun for all ages!

- | | |
|------------|--------------|
| WALK | CROP DUSTER |
| RUN | SKATES |
| JOG | SKATEBOARD |
| STROLL | HELICOPTER |
| CAR | YACHT |
| TAXI | ROWBOAT |
| VAN | FISHING BOAT |
| SCHOOL BUS | SURFBOARD |
| CITY BUS | HORSE |
| TRAIN | MULE |
| JET PLANE | |



Congratulations to Rhys Jung
Winner of our April Word Search Contest!



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