

FREE

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

Covering the Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District



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Fred London Finds Creative Way to Cool Kids Off



Traditions and Those Who Begin Them



Donald B. Austin, Ed.D.
Superintendent

We are proud to grace the cover of this edition of the *School News Roll Call* with the legendary Fred London. The theme for this edition was conceived prior to Fred's passing, but fits perfectly for a tribute to his life.

Fred London put many traditions in place throughout his career. Some of those traditions were so personal to his staff that we won't use this venue to share them. Instead, we would like to offer thanks to Fred's family and all of those who follow in his footsteps to build upon his legacy. The

best traditions outlast the people who put them in place. Traditions left from Fred all begin with his care for the well-being of others. This included his family, his staff, and his students.

A life well-lived is a life that inspires stories involving smiles and tears. Perhaps, Fred pointed us in the direction of creating a tradition of finding joy in every day. A life with few wasted moments is something we should all strive to emulate. Fred London was a one of a kind and left his fingerprints all over PVPUSD and our community. Enjoy the stories written in this edition and thank you all for adding to the traditions of our amazing District.

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Health News

by Amruti Borad, DO

How do I treat a bug bite or sting?

Bug bites and stings usually cause momentary alarm, temporary discomfort and pain, but no serious or lasting health problems. However, some bites or stings may result in serious infections that require immediate treatment.

The severity of the reaction depends on your sensitivity to the insect venom or substance and whether you've been stung or bitten more than once.

Flea and bed-bug bites are typically not dangerous and usually cause local irritation or go unnoticed. Tick and mosquito bites usually only produce local swelling and itchiness, but should be monitored for a couple of days for any delayed reactions. Spider bites cause swelling and are usually harmless, unless caused by a black widow or brown recluse spider. Bee and wasp stings cause temporary redness, swelling and pain, but may also cause severe allergic reactions.

Prevention

Avoiding areas with stagnant water and wetlands where mosquitos and ticks are

more common and staying away from spiders, bees and wasps — since they don't attack unless they feel threatened — may be the first step in prevention. When outdoors, in wooded areas for camping or hiking, wear tight fitting clothes, gloves, long sleeve shirts, and tuck pants into socks, to minimize skin exposure.

Treatment

For mild reactions, immediately after being bitten or stung, wash area with soap and water and apply cold compress for 15 to 20 minutes. Antihistamines or topical creams will help to alleviate itching and lessen swelling, and acetaminophen can help relieve the pain. For more severe reactions, seek immediate medical assistance.



Mild allergic reactions

- Red bumps
- Itchiness
- Mild swelling

Severe allergic reactions

- Swelling of the face, tongue or mouth
- Difficulty swallowing or speaking
- Chest tightness
- Wheezing or coughing
- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- Dizziness or fainting
- Hives or redness over most of the body
- Muscle aches or cramps
- Nausea and vomiting
- Weakness, fever or chills

Dr. Borad is a family medicine physician at the UCLA Health office in Palos Verdes, located at 501 Deep Valley Drive, Suite 100



Use with Caution

When using bug repellent, spray lightly on exposed skin, not on skin already covered by clothing. Reapply sunscreen every two hours, but only apply insect repellent once a day to avoid toxicity to the skin and body.

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



Christine Byrne
Executive Director

Time to Give Thanks

The season of giving thanks begins with the Skechers walk at the end of October. Watching our entire community rally and come out to support our schools and be the most represented school district from the entire South Bay is an amazing experience. It is a great way to kick off the season of giving and celebrate friends and family.

I want to thank all of you who walked, virtually walked, and registered family and pets!

During the time of year when we give thanks and think of others, it's important to take stock in the things that are important to us and how we support those around us. The board of the Peninsula Education Foundation is made up of local parents of our community who volunteer their time and energy to help raise \$3.1 million to support vital programs and positions throughout our school district.

I recently asked Shari Shigenaga, PEF's current EVP, why she wanted to serve as a trustee. Ms. Shigenaga has been a PEF Trustee since 2014. She is a parent of three children attending PV schools. She has been involved in various parent-community organizations since moving to Palos Verdes 11 years ago and understands the importance of being involved in the community in which she and her family reside.

"I feel that one of my jobs as a parent is to ensure that my children have the best education available to them," Ms. Shigenaga said. "Serving on the PEF Trustee Board has been personally rewarding, as we are all parents of students in our district and are working for a common goal: providing essential funding to support our students and PV schools."

It is the commitment and support of volunteer parents assisting PEF as well as on our school campuses that help make our schools and community places to be thankful for! Thank you to all PEF supporters, and happy holidays!



The Shigenaga Family



Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Netragrednik

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FOUNDER/PUBLISHER: Kay Coop
562/493-3193 • kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com

ADVERTISING SALES:
562/493-3193 • Fax: 562/430-8063

CONTENT COORDINATOR: Barbra Longiny

GRAPHIC DESIGNER/PRODUCTION: Katie Caress

COPY EDITORS:

Lisa Brock, Kate Karp & Anna Zappia

SOCIAL MEDIA: Nancy Lueder

Netragrednik by Neta Madison



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SCHOOL NEWS ROLL CALL, LLC

P.O. Box 728, Seal Beach, CA 90740

562/493-3193

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By the time this publication is distributed you will have enjoyed Thanksgiving and be moving on to more holiday festivities and Winter Break. As this year comes to a close I'd like to thank you for continuing to include *School News* among your reading choices. I consider it a privilege a publish the excellence

from PVPUSD. It is evident from the articles that this community supports the district with volunteer efforts, community events, and as involved parents. Include in the mix Dr. Austin's strong leadership, dedicated staff, principals, teachers, classified employees and you have PVPUSD!

Our next issue is January 31, 2018.





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Contest!

This student is in a picture in this issue.
When you find him, email the **page number** to:
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Please put PVPUSD in the subject line.



Your entry must be received by January 15, 2018.
From the correct entries, we will draw a winner
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PVP Council of PTAs

Enriching Our Community

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

Each year, dedicated parent volunteers work tirelessly to bring exciting opportunities to our children. While the programs offered at each school may differ, the appreciation for these experiences is shared by parents across the hill. At the individual school level, our PTAs support national programs such as Red Ribbon Week and Reflections while answering their own schools' needs with uniquely designed programs.

Our PTAs fund-raise to pay for the many wonderful programs they provide. At Montemalaga, one parent can't decide which fund-raiser she loves most! In the fall, there's a parent social with an auction. Parents come together for this fun community event that supports the school. Themes like Black and White, Havana Nights and Montemalaga Prom have kept people coming back each year. In the spring, they host their annual Fun Run. Although it's a fund-raiser, the Fun Run does more than just raise money—it engages the students in physical fitness and reminds them just how strong they are. One of the benefits of these fund-raisers is the garden program. Students in all grades visit the outdoor classroom to learn about how food grows, taste new things, and write in their journals. Montemalaga parents love seeing their children's interest in gardening grow!

Spectrum of Arts!

At Lunada Bay, the PTA supports a special fine-arts program! Each grade level has a different focus, and students are exposed to things like cultural dance, ceramics, puppeteering, folk dance, musical theater and even hip-hop! One parent shared some of the amazing assemblies that PTA has brought to her children's school. Her personal favorites were a Native American assembly and another that brought an indoor planetarium experience to the students.

At Vista Grande, one of the most anticipated school events is the Spring Festival, where children can play games, participate in crafts, and try new foods. It's a great community event that both students and parents look forward to each year. Their annual Science Night brings hands-on experiences to the children along with an educational and entertaining show. It's quickly become another family favorite.

All of our elementary schools have similar programs that are loved by the children and parents alike. With the dedication of our PTAs and all the hardworking volunteers, we look forward to seeing what other enriching experiences are waiting around the corner.



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Cornerstone @ Pedregal *Elementary School*

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Michele Marcus
Principal

Celebrating Tradition

Cornerstone opened its doors 25 years ago. As we get ready to celebrate this big anniversary, we can't help but reflect upon the programs and activities that have over the years become our cherished traditions.

From traditions in the classrooms, to traditions that occur around our campus, many things are passed down from one year to the next with a true sense of commitment and caring by everyone involved. There are so many great traditions at our school that it is impossible to name them all, but here are just some of the amazing annual events which are a part of our Cornerstone tradition.

A very special program run by Cornerstone families is called the "Year Of..." Through monthly assemblies, classroom lessons, and a special culminating celebration, our Cornerstone community does an in-depth study of one country each year. Parent volunteers spend many hours creating lessons and activities that expose our students to a variety of topics, including the culture, geography, food, and traditions of the "Year of Country." This year we are celebrating the Year of Japan.

While our Cornerstone families help carry on traditions that will enrich our curriculum, our teachers continue the

traditional programs that they bring to their classrooms. Each year our kindergarten puts on a Mothers' Day Fashion Show which rivals New York's Fashion Week! Their Native American Day is also a big favorite for everyone. The first grade celebrates the 50th day of school with a 50's party, and at the end of the year they also host a Publishing Party to share their students' writing.

Everyone at Cornerstone also looks forward to the second grades' Immigration Day, where students can experience what it was like to be an immigrant arriving in the United States through Ellis Island. This is a truly memorable experience for all of our Cornerstone alumni.

As a relatively new grade-level team, our third-grade teachers use of gardening as a foundation for cross-curricular lessons has quickly become a tasty tradition that everyone at Cornerstone enjoys. Each year the fourth grade also hosts an Explorer Day, where students can "become" the explorers they have researched and studied. The Poetry Cafe is also something that our students can't wait to join.

Finally, it wouldn't be fifth grade at Cornerstone if our students weren't showcasing their acting skills by performing two Shakespeare plays in the original. These traditions, and more, are an important part of the Cornerstone Experience, and they are remembered years later by both student and parent alumni.

Dapplegray *Elementary School*

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



Nancy Parsons
Principal

Learning is Fun

Because of tradition, the Dapplegray Elementary School family retains and repeats events and activities year after year. While valuable for the correct reasons educationally, these various classroom

plays, art shows, gingerbread villages, ancestor studies, letters to myself as a senior, and archaeological digs all create a virtual "quilt of memories" for each student and family.

But these recollections do not reflect the true value of traditions. Each special event, repeated from sibling to sibling, is a reason for families to celebrate success. Older brothers and sisters relive the excitement of past accomplishments and bask in the glow of younger siblings' joy. No report cards, no tests, no rankings; just heart strings tied to positive childhood memories.



Fourth grade tradition - an archaeological dig reveals layers of California history buried and ready to tell our story.



Dapplegray Kindergarten tradition - Hooray for Turkeys kicks off the holiday season.

When academic learning is surrounded by the authentic learning that comes when practicing for plays, memorizing lines, researching your heritage, and digging in the dirt, an atmosphere evolves where students feel safe to explore and take risks. When this

occurs, student achievement is improved and self-esteem soars.

That is the true tradition of Dapplegray. As stated by Fred London, our original principal: "Learning is fun, and fun is good!"

Lunada Bay *Elementary School*

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



A Patriotic Pause

Walking in the neighborhood around Lunada Bay Elementary School, you may have heard our bell tower. The music has been playing for students throughout the day since the 2001–2002 school year. The bell

tower was a gift from the graduating fifth-grade class. Seventeen years later, students are still appreciating the sounds from our bell towers.

One of the tower's main functions is playing "The Star-Spangled Banner" at 8:30 a.m. every morning. If you have not seen this before, it is a sight to see. It does not fail to give me pause when I see an entire play yard full of children freeze, remove their hats, and



A toddler – and future Lunada Bay student - pauses as the National Anthem plays while walking her big sister to class

place their hands over their hearts in honor of our national anthem being played. There are few things that unify large groups of people, but seeing this tradition at Lunada Bay is something I have the pleasure of relishing in every day. I marvel at how adults walking with toddlers will freeze with their little ones. I've been on the loading zone in front of our kindergarten yard and have watched students pause as they jump out of their cars.

Perhaps the most poignant example was what former principal Joan Romano described on the morning of September 11, 2001. Ms. Romano shared how moving it was to hear those patriotic songs when children arrived at school as the news of 9-11 was trickling in. The songs continued to play unfettered by the events of that historic day.

I invite you to join us on campus and see this timeless tradition of patriotism and civic pride that thrives every morning at our school.

Mira Catalina *Elementary School*

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



A Rich History

Mira Catalina Elementary School first opened its doors to students on the peninsula in 1963. Mira Catalina has always been a very proud school, with many traditions that date back decades. Throughout the years, I have had countless alumni, many of whom are parents of current students, recall their own fond memories of attending Mira Catalina as students. We have a staff, parents, and,

ultimately, students who have deep roots at Mira Catalina. It is a strength of our school and one that we continue to build upon each and every year.

Each month we celebrate the culture of Mira Catalina at a spirit assembly, which has a character trait theme. We hold our spirit assemblies in the front of our school right at the start of the school day. Each class comes up with their teacher, and a student from each classroom brings

the classroom flag. During our assemblies, we do the Pledge of Allegiance, highlight a pillar of character that we embody at Mira Catalina, sing the Mira Catalina school song (my favorite part), highlight upcoming school events, and recognize students who have demonstrated exemplary character over the past month. We hold these assemblies on the first Friday of each school month. Our fantastic student council advisors, Mrs. Ackerman and Mrs. Adams, work with our student council representatives to plan out and produce each assembly.

I have said it many times before, but Mira Catalina is a very special place. There is a pride that staff, parents, and students, both current and past, have about their elementary school. This pride is something that we cherish and honor. Our monthly spirit assemblies are a great tradition and a fantastic way to celebrate the school's rich history.

Go, Mira Cat!



Miraleste *Intermediate School*

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



Frank Califano
Principal

'Thanks to Mrs. Godbold...'

It would be very hard to describe all of the Miraleste traditions without introducing the author of most of them.

Elizabeth Godbold (Liz) was a student at Miraleste High School. She began her teaching career in 1989 as activities director at Miraleste High School. In

1991, when Miraleste was converted into an intermediate school, Mrs. Godbold stayed on as a PE, health and video-production teacher. She is a Marauder for life, and when we talk traditions, we need to start with Mrs. Godbold.

She either started or has maintained the Summer Sunset Carnival, the Turkey Trot, the Talent Show, the Holiday Tree Lot, the MIS Track Meet, the giant South Bay



Invitation Middle School Track Meet usually held at either PVHS or Pen High, the Spirit Game with Halftime Heroes, the South Bay Intermediate Sports League, the Mighty Marauder Club, and last but not least, the End-of-Year Memory Show for our graduating eighth-grade class.

In her spare time, she raised two great young men and has been a devoted wife.

Both of my daughters are MIS alumni. Both agree that their intermediate school experience was the best of their school years. My philosophy is simple: I do not want our school's reputation

to be built on test scores. I want our students to enjoy coming to school, to experience competition, to involve themselves in community service and the arts. Thanks to Mrs. Godbold, Miraleste students have the ability to do all of those things and more.

Palos Verdes *Intermediate School*

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



Trista Ramirez
Principal

We Are the Champions!

One way to become acquainted with the culture of a school is to ask about the traditions of that community. This article gave me the opportunity to inquire about the traditions of Palos Verdes Intermediate School (PVIS), those activities and events that have been passed from one generation of Sea Kings to the next. While there are impressive traditions evident all over our

campus, there is one that strikes at the heart of so many of our students, faculty and staff—the student versus faculty athletic competitions. Taking place several times throughout the school year, these competitions range from kickball to soccer to basketball, starting with grade-level competitions and ending with the students challenging our faculty to a game to crown the winners!

To really know any true tradition, one must go back to its origins to find out how it all began. In this case, it was in the early 1990s, when a legendary PVIS physical education teacher, Becky Fields, started organizing student competitions at lunch. It was a great way to engage students in sports and games, with the championship team challenging the staff to a final competition. As changes in administration happened over the

years, these athletic competitions amongst the students morphed and changed, but one constant remained: the final student versus teacher championship game.

I had the chance to see the first round of competition for this year take place: the kickball tournament, which culminated with the student versus staff kickball game. Students and staff came to the field each lunch period to cheer on their teams and watch as fierce competitors faced off for the title of "kickball champions." As you can see from the photo, the student championship team wore their winning T-shirts with pride while their teachers comforted one another on a game well played. Amazing camaraderie, enthusiasm, and school pride were born out of a tradition that remains as important today as it was over 20 years ago.

Better luck next time, teachers! And go, Sea Kings!



Montemalaga *Elementary School*

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



Jody Pastell
Principal

Celebrating Traditions

Many wonderful people with “life experience” have told me to always relate stories that give insight and share traditions.

We hear about holiday traditions and always look forward to experiencing the same smells, treats,

and fun activities. For example, each year I fondly remember the great smell of Yorkshire pudding and prime rib filling the entire house on December 24. My parents always prepared this traditional meal, and my immediate family has continued the same tradition. Traditions provide comfort and a familiar experience for us. We find happiness and support in sharing stories and remembering important people and events in our lives.

The Montemalaga Elementary School staff and families also share many wonderful traditions. The different grade-level activities, including the Thanksgiving play, the holiday evening sing, the Sweetheart Dance, and Family Bingo Night, are all examples of annual traditions. Each year as



we plan for these activities, we share stories and laugh about the events and how much they were enjoyed by students, staff, and families in previous years.

Recently, another tradition was shared at Montemalaga: the tradition of celebrating the accomplishments of outstanding teachers with the entire community. Annually, educators are recognized by the Palos Verdes Peninsula Rotary Club. Teachers are nominated by peers for going above and beyond

as educators to meet the needs of all students. At the elementary level, two teachers are recognized each year—one Transitional Kindergarten through second-grade teacher and one third- through fifth-grade teacher. This fall Mrs. Jennifer Stoddart was recognized as outstanding educator for grades three through five. She most definitely tells the stories of excellent teaching every day in the classroom. Mrs. Stoddart is a master at making connections and sharing stories to make education exciting. She now joins the long list of teachers who are “legends” in our district. And people will continue to tell the stories and remember the difference these legendary teachers have made in the years ahead. What a great tradition!

Point Vicente *Elementary School*

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



Beth Hadley
Principal

A True Book Exchange

One of our favorite traditions at Point Vicente is our celebration of reading, Read Across America. Anchored in celebration of Dr. Seuss and starting in 1998, Read Across America has expanded to promote reading all across the country. At Point Vicente, teachers have sponsored our school celebration since 2012.

Every year, we invite community leaders to read to each of our classes and to share the importance of reading in their life. We have welcomed former Point Vicente principals, authors, librarians from the Palos Verdes Library, school board members, a restaurant manager, familiar faces from a local supermarket—all kinds of readers have taken time to join us and emphasize the importance of reading!

Since I came to Point Vicente, I have added a new element to our tradition. Each year, I challenge the students to log the pages they read for a month. I also keep track of the pages I read. Each class compiles the pages read and computes their class average. Any class that beats my total earns a treat! Every year, I make sure to solicit recommendations from students on the books I should



read. Thanks to the students, I’ve discovered wonderful new young adult fiction and reread old favorites. Last year, our school total was 257,353 pages!

As adults, we know that confident readers hold the keys they need to unlock their future—multiple doors will open for them. Nothing is more important to us than establishing solid literacy skills. Read Across America is just part of our program to motivate and encourage our students to become self-sustaining readers.

Palos Verdes *High School*

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



Charles Park, Ed.D.
Principal

Tradition is Part of Every School

Palos Verdes High School enjoys the tradition of rivalry week with Peninsula High. This tradition is one that goes back 15 years since the reopening of Palos Verdes High School. It is a tradition that has always been filled with high energy and intensity, and that is what makes any tradition exciting. The PV Pen football game is a football game and a community event.

It marks a day where many students, teachers, parents and community members come together to fill a stadium and watch a rivalry game and see the spirit of Red Tide and the Zoo. It's a fun and exciting day and that's what high school is all about. More importantly, it is a tradition that we enjoy because the whole week is filled with school activities that highlight school spirit. Our ASB puts together a rally where students wear



Red Tide t-shirts and show our school Sea King pride. Cheer, Song, Marching Band and Color Guard also pump up our school spirit. We are exceptionally proud of our football program and our head Coach Guy Gardner, who has a senior son on our team currently, and he is a motivator for our staff and students. Football for him has always been a family tradition. His message to a large audience at All Pro Dads was about making no excuses and working hard to get better every day. That is who Guy Gardner is and he imparts that work ethic to students and student athletes. So here's to our tradition of rivalry week and let's enjoy what our high school has to offer including school spirit!

Palos Verdes Peninsula *High School*

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



Brent Kuykendall
Principal

A Holiday Tradition

In December, students from Palos Verdes Peninsula High School will have the opportunity to participate in the time-honored tradition of providing a holiday program for students attending the Willenberg Career and Transition Center.

This event began almost 50 years ago, when Jim Kinney, the activities director of Rolling Hills High School, first reached out and connected with the school. Since then, the tradition has continued, never missing a year and always providing a life-changing experience for all involved.

This relationship with Willenberg includes two days of festivities. On the first day, several busloads of Peninsula students travel to Willenberg, providing entertainment, delivering gifts, and interacting with the students whose lives are profoundly limited. Our students dressed in holiday attire, perform multiple times throughout the day, bringing joy and excitement for both students and staff. On the second day, Willenberg students visit Peninsula High School. Hundreds of Panthers will greet our visitors and join them in games, crafts, and tours of the school. The day ends with a holiday performance in the gym and one final

celebration before the honored guests leave.

This is a special opportunity for the students and staff of both schools. Ask any faculty member or student who has ever been a part of the Willenberg program, and they will tell you something magical happens. It's hard work and a long day; however, at some unexpected moment during the day, everyone experiences the joy that comes from sharing time with these amazing students.

The event is coordinated and organized by both Associated Student Body (ASB) and Service Learning Leadership, but it is truly our entire school that makes it such a success. What better way to celebrate the holidays than giving back and showing how much our Panthers care!

It is a tradition of caring that is 50 years strong, one that we are honored and excited to continue this holiday season.



Rancho del Mar *High School*

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



Micah Farrell
Principal

Giving Back

Tradition is generally thought of endearingly and usually with great anticipation, such as the big game or a favorite holiday. For Rancho Del Mar, our biggest

and best tradition is all about giving back to the community. It is about teaching our students selflessness, and supporting local charities like the Rainbow Services and Shelter of San Pedro, California.

Every year from November to December our school site collects gifts for children, young adults, and mothers in need. These gifts range from personal hygiene items to toys. Former Rancho Del Mar Principal Mrs. Rosemary Humphrey started the drive for Rainbow Services in 1994, and it has been a mainstay here ever since. Mrs. Humphrey believed that students should be connected to their community and give back whenever possible. Rainbow Services is one way in which she realized this goal.



Rainbow Services and Shelter is a nonprofit agency that offers services and shelter to victims of domestic violence. They provide food, shelter, counseling, and legal and medical services at no cost to the recipients. Families stay in the emergency/transitional shelter for as long as needed and to get back on their feet. Our Associate Student Body (ASB) leads this drive for charity, primarily through campaigning classes and peers. The ASB also works closely with the administration to further their efforts through multimedia channels.

At the conclusion of the drive, Rancho Del Mar's ASB presents the items to Rainbow Services at the shelter. The students are able to see first hand where their collection of goods is disbursed. They also tour the facility and meet the people who are utilizing the services that Rainbow provides.

The drive has been very successful over the years, with 100 percent of our students participating, many of whom donate multiple times. We look forward to the holiday season as fall moves to winter, and for the chance to help those in need.

Rancho Vista *Elementary School*

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



Salvatrice Kuykendall
Principal

Celebrating Traditions

Rancho Vista Elementary School celebrates many traditions, including our Country Dinner Dance, School Carnival, Fun Run, Family Fun Nights, and, most recently, our Veteran's Day celebration.

Veteran's Day is observed annually on November 11 and celebrates all those who have served in the United States Armed Forces. Each year Rancho Vista celebrates our veterans by hosting a special breakfast, followed by an eventful assembly. This year the Rancho Vista student council began planning for the event weeks in advance, including raising funds. The student council sold ice pops, finger puppets, and pencils to provide breakfast for our veterans.

On the day of our special celebration, the community, including neighbors, parents, and grandparents, were invited to take part in the festivities. The Rancho Vista

student council hosted a breakfast in the multi-purpose room, which allowed parents and students to interact with, listen to, and get to know our heroes. After the breakfast, the Palos Verdes Peninsula High School band performed for our veterans and students. Additionally, the special outdoor assembly with the entire student body allowed each and every veteran to be recognized and speak to the children about their time in the armed forces. Every single parent, staff member, and child walked away from the assembly having met and heard the stories of our heroes.

This special event touched everyone's heart and made us all proud to recognize our veterans and be a part of the special Rancho Vista village.



Ridgecrest *Intermediate School*

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



Jaime Mancilla
Principal

Punkin Chunkin'

We all have our family traditions and are passionate about keeping them. Similarly, school traditions create a sense of community with a common love for a shared practice. At Ridgecrest Intermediate School, the teachers have said that dressing up for Halloween is a non-negotiable, so I was ready with my costume. They also told me about the special meals that the PTSA and the

other parent associations prepare for them on certain days throughout the year. Any tradition revolving around food is a tradition I will happily promote.

In October, I had the pleasure of witnessing a special Ridgecrest tradition that has been in place for the last four years. The Punkin Chunkin' contest began as an eighth-grade science project to study physics and engineering and has become a school-wide event that concludes with a lunchtime pumpkin launch for the finalists in each category. Over the years, the contest has taken on a life of its own, and the punkin chunkers have grown to include creations that require quite a bit of lumber and other

materials as well as time, energy, creativity, and, most importantly, group effort.

Students put their engineering skills to the test as they build huge contraptions, including catapults, slingshots and trebuchets. The project requires that the students launch a pumpkin a total of 4.5 meters. However, some contraptions have launched them as far as 50 meters. Needless to say, the lunchtime final competition is a very popular tradition! After seeing it for the first time, I must say that I was very impressed with the different chunkers and how far the pumpkins flew!

As I reflected on whether this was a tradition worth continuing, I thought about the students. Many of them worked extra hours at home and were very excited about it. I came to the conclusion that indeed this is what every teacher strives for: student learning and student engagement that go beyond the traditional lecture and textbook. With a few moderate adjustments to the project parameters, I hope that this will be a tradition that Ridgecrest students, teachers and the community will be talking about for generations to come.

Silver Spur *Elementary School*

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



Marta Jevenois-Richardson
Principal

Celebrating Traditions

Traditions and rituals are an important part of family life, and the same holds true when it comes to establishing the traditions and rituals for school life at Silver Spur. Silver Spur Elementary is definitely a place where traditions and rituals are maintained year after year. Our students, staff, and family members all understand that traditions are a powerful tool for creating a strong sense of community.

For example, we sing our school spirit song at the close of every Friday's spirit assembly. Our students grow up in Silver Spur knowing that, "We care about each other as we work and sing and play." Announcements over the speakerphone remind us all to, "Make it a great day or not, the choice is yours." The repetitive nature of positive school traditions and rituals creates lasting memories in our children, and helps to establish our Silver Spur culture.

In kindergarten, our students have fourth-grade buddies. They cook on Fridays and put together *The Three Little Piggy Opera*. In the first grade, students learn patriotic songs to perform in front of the entire student body on Memorial Day. The second-grade students will

always remember making Frankenstein pots for Halloween, and performing in their holiday play. They also have their *Life Cycle* and *Rumpus in the Rainforest* plays.

In grade two, students conduct research about a famous American, and also do an oral presentation in the first person dressed as their historical figure.

The third grade has first-grade buddies on Fridays. They study local history, put together a play, create their own gingerbread village, and even design their own board games. Students in grade four study California history, do a research report on a Mission, and also design a "22nd Mission." They learn about opera, attend their first performance of one, and also participate in their first overnight field trip.

Students in grade five go on their first week-long field trip to Science School in Malibu. They also have their own History and Science Fair, and, of course, they very much look forward to their Fifth Grade Fun Day.

Silver Spur would not be Silver Spur without some of the above mentioned traditions that make our school unique and special. And of course, none of this would be possible without our dedicated, hard-working staff. Year after year they go above and beyond the call of duty to provide a well-rounded education for all of our students.

Soleado *Elementary School*

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



Gina Stutzel
Principal

A Very Special School Song!

According to Webster's Dictionary, the definition of tradition is "an artistic or literary method or style established by an artist, writer, or movement, and subsequently followed by others..." At Soleado, we have a long-standing tradition that started the first day our school opened in 1968. Mary Chilton, a veteran teacher in the Palos Verdes school district, was one of the many teachers

selected to open the new school on the hill, Soleado. She was a devoted teacher and had many talents that made her special. One of those special skills was creating the Soleado Song. The Soleado Song includes many special lyrics that define our unique school. The staff that opened the school in 1968 worked together to create names for our buildings, decide on a mascot, and even pick the school colors yellow and orange. Their collaborative spirit and unique perspective made this school and the song a "special place in the sun." To this day, there are many former Suns that come back to the campus and want to walk around to reminisce and talk about their childhood experiences as Soleado Suns. And without a single hesitation, they recite the Soleado Song word-by-word. Thank you Mary for your

vision, inspiration and creativity. The students at Soleado will continue this great tradition for many years to come....

School Song: The Soleado Suns

The Soleado School is a special place; it's a place in the sun with a smile on its face.

The people, like the sun, make it shiny and bright so it's easy to see how to do things right.

The Soleado Suns, they work and they play.

The Soleado suns chase sadness away.

The Soleado Suns always do what they say.

The Soleado Suns are winners today.

In casa de los Ninos and Chicos too, the littlest sunbeams begin to shine through.

There's Monte by the mountains and Vista with the view, 'neath the trees so green and the sky so blue.

The Soleado Suns, they work and they play.

The Soleado suns chase sadness away.

The Soleado Suns always do what they say.

The Soleado Suns are winners today.

Vista Grande *Elementary School*

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



Jeri Delatorre
Principal

Of Tradition

There are certain traditions that become rites of passage: blowing out candles on a birthday cake, eating at the grown-ups' table for Thanksgiving, lighting the menorah, a first kiss, exchanging wedding

vows. It is interesting that none of these examples require written instruction. In fact, Merriam-Webster defines *traditions* as "the handing down of information, beliefs and customs by word of mouth or by example from one generation to another without written instruction."

Traditions are powerful! Some of our most poignant memories are tied to traditions. Like most schools, Vista Grande has its own set of traditions. Each year, our kindergarten class receives a T-shirt that proudly states "Class of 20_ _." First-graders look forward to weekly reading sessions with their fifth-grade Reading Buddies. Second-graders can't wait to become part of a living wax museum.



A tradition that serves to bind our fifth-grade class together is that of making tie-dyed T-shirts. Students begin with plain-white T-shirts, roll them up, and apply vibrant colors. After allowing them to soak overnight, they rinse, wash, and proudly wear them to school. This badge of honor is proudly worn throughout the year in place of standard spirit wear. We know who the fifth-grade students are at the Fun Run and on Spirit Days! The shirts say, "Look at me! I belong here! I am a mighty-fifth grader!" Isn't that what tradition is all about—a sense of belonging to something important? To something bigger than yourself?

As we approach this holiday season, consider which traditions you will build with your family. This "unwritten instruction" will have a lasting impact on your child's life. In the words of James Baldwin, "Children have never been very good at listening to their elders, but they have never failed to imitate them."



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Note-ables



Kate Karp

Rise, Shine, #Woke—Alphabet Rockers

“We want to grow children to shape the country,” said the creators of Rise, Shine, #Woke. Grow, not mold them into the mainstream. Woke is an African American Vernacular English term that means to be connected, to not be placated, to think for oneself, and to not remain ‘cool’ but ever active in social justice. That’s the substance of Rise, Shine, Woke.

This is the weightiest, most powerful collection I can remember reviewing. The no-fooling lyrics deal with resolving conflicting messages, persevering and celebrating differences instead of subscribing to the ideal of everyone being equal.



“It’s easy to say that we’re all the same and that for the most part, we’re equal. That’s not what we see...,” sing the artists on “Turn on the Light.” This is a “woke moment” for anyone who is or feels “different” in culture, race or nationality or as an outsider. It’s also discussion material for all children, no matter the experiences or culture.

The catchy “I’m Proud” goes beyond simple comfort in one’s skin. “The Nitro” gets you moving as the lyrics fly right by. You’ll want to download those lyrics from the link provided with the CD—you’ll need them!

The music is interspersed with conversational raps by children and inspirational dialogue from President Barack Obama, Maya Angelou and other African American guiding lights. The songs themselves could be thought of as the spirituals of the 21st century; like spirituals, they’re composed for jumping up, shouting out, and ultimately moving in a positive direction.

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

Alana’s Book Review

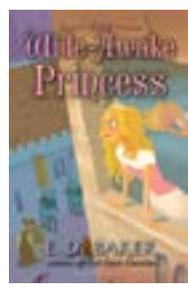


Alana F.

The Wide-Awake Princess

By: E.D. Baker

Long ago, in the kingdom of Treecrest, a baby princess was born, and was given many magical gifts. This little girl is known as Sleeping Beauty. So- as the



stories say- when the evil fairy cast the famed curse on the newborn, her fairy godmother lessened it. However, the royal family was so traumatized that they decided that their second daughter, Princess Annie, should be immune to all magic. Hence, when the sleeping curse fell upon her older sister, Annie was unaffected, and set off to find the one who could save the kingdom. Traveling far and wide, she battles things scarier than magic, like evil, fear, and stereotypes. But without any magical gifts, will she triumph?

I’d give this book eight out of eight triforce shards for it’s cleverly hidden messages. It’s also downright hilarious, and has had me laughing for hours.

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

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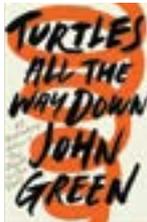
Lucy's Book Review



Lucy Davis

Turtles All the Way Down

Meet Aza Holmes. The sidekick, the best friend, the student. Every day, her thoughts condense and spin in what she refers to as 'thought spirals' - where one follows the other and then they don't stop.



Soon, she and her best friend, Daisy, go looking for a reward: \$100,000 to anyone who can provide information about Russell Pickett, a billionaire gone missing. With that much money on the line and the possibilities it could offer, their lives become a mess of night vision cameras, Applebee's, Star Wars fan fiction, and one very lucky tuatara.

Once again, John Green creates a story that makes you laugh, frown, and gets you to think in ways you never thought you could. I expected a lot from this book, and while it was wonderful and enjoyable, the things that I expected seemed to be its inefficiencies.

Four and a half bookworms that are very much deserved.

Lucy is a 6th grade student. When she isn't immersed in a book, she loves musical theater, ballet, and singing. She enjoys stretching her imagination by writing short stories of her own. Lucy will rate the books 1 to 5 bookworms with 5 being the best.

2 games in 1!

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Laura Henry
Young Readers
Manager

Fall and Winter Fun at the Library

During fall and winter, the Palos Verdes Library is one of the best family destinations on the Hill. This year, the Young Readers department is offering new events

and old favorites for kids of all ages to enjoy with their families.

The library is kicking off the season with an all-new program, PV Winter Readers! This spin-off of our popular summer program runs from November 20 to January 2. This program encourages elementary school children to read any books they like, try some fun reading activities, and collect patches as souvenirs of their winter reading fun. Kids can read anytime, anywhere and will have a choice of tracking their progress online or on paper logs.

In addition to this self-paced program, PVLD is offering some exciting special events!



Peek into the Past – One of PVLD's most beloved traditions returns Dec. 9. Fashions from pre-colonial times to pioneer days to 1970s San Francisco will be modeled at our historic fashion show. After the fashion show, we'll make a keepsake craft, enjoy lemonade and cookies and make new friends. Registration is required for this event. Look for details on our webpage.

Living History Museum of African American Heroes – With the start of the new year, we begin our preparations for the Living History Museum of African American Heroes

which takes place at the Peninsula Center Library in late February 2018. Children of any background in K–8th grade are invited to research an important African American and portray their hero at the museum.

Do you have preschoolers at home? Bring them to a storytime! PVLD offers 14 storytimes each week at three different libraries. Our schedule runs year-round with no registration required. Come to any storytime session for stories, songs and puppets: it's a fun time for children and their parents and caregivers.

Information on all these events will be at the Kids page of the PVLD website.

<http://www.pvld.org/kids>

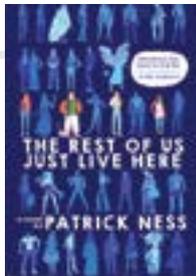
Book Review By Katrina



Katrina D.

A Realistic Read

The Rest of Us Just Live Here is about characters who aren't heroes or villains, simply side characters. Told from the perspective of



Mikey, a senior who's struggling with the threat of life after high school, we see there are two types of students in his town. There are the 'indie kids', with strange names like Satchel who end up saving the world from a zombie apocalypse or a vampire takeover. Then there are kids who observe, but never really take part. Kids like Mikey, his sister and friends who are going through difficult things without the supernatural factor. Patrick Ness explores the real life situations that teenagers face today, from eating disorders to having to leave all your friends for a different country and how these side characters still manage to deal with their problems in a heroic way. Though dusted with supernatural twists, this book is a realistic read for teenagers who are looking for a quirky book. I give this book 3 out of 5 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.

Katie's Review



Katie C.

A Heartfelt Book

The book *Love What Matters* is a heartfelt book filled with different perspectives. Each story is a twist of something new. They are all everyday problems that we think about—homelessness, loneliness, sicknesses

and more. But instead of just thinking about it, the people in this book take action. Tears, laughs, smiles—that is what this book is about. The internal connections that pull us towards the story are amazing. The humor of a mom driving chopped celery to her son at school, a child no longer feeling like an outcast because of his birthmark—this is all love. This book gave me a lot to think about, and I definitely recommend it. *Love What Matters* is like a ball of emotions that you can unravel, each story representing something special. I give this book a five out of five stars.



Katie is a 8th grader that loves to read and write. Fictional books are her favorite. Besides writing and reading, she loves soccer, acting, dancing, and playing the violin. She hopes to publish her own book someday.



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Christina's Book Review

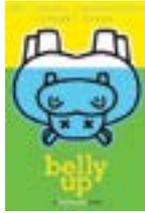


Christina J.

A Dangerous Secret

Belly Up is a book by Stuart Gibbs.

It is the story of a boy named Theodore Fitzroy solving what happened to the popular zoo mascot Henry the hippopotamus. One sad day Henry died at the zoo.



Everyone seems convinced that it was just a natural cause, but Theodore feels that something shady is going on. While investigating, Theodore found out somehow the only person willing to help and interested to find out the truth is Summer McCracken, the daughter of the owner of the FunJungle zoo. Unfortunately, after the hippo there are a few other deaths of animals – the jaguar, panther and a python. What the teenagers end up discovering is a very dangerous secret, which you will need to read about to find out. I like that this book was a light hearted mystery with interesting writing and a unique plot. I give this book 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).

Richard's Book Review

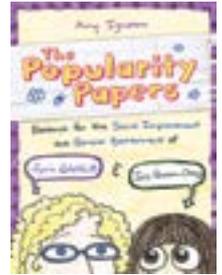


Richard J.

Funny Book with a Message

The Popularity Papers

is a book by Amy Ignatow. It's written like a diary by two middle school girl authors Lydia and Julie writing about their "observations"



and very funny results on their attempts to be popular. They go through many things to be popular, trying and failing in a funny way at hair bleaching, joining the popular sports teams, and even pretending to like boys, which really backfires, and many other things, too. The results are funny, unpredictable, but don't make them popular. They learned in the end that it's important to be yourself and be liked by your friends, not the people who everyone says are cool and popular. This is a really funny book written and drawn in a way I would have done with markers, pens and pencils, and the story is relatable in the way that they work so hard to be liked and noticed.

I give this book a 5 out of 5 stars, with 5 being the best.

Richard J. is a third grader. Richard likes math, playing sports, physical activities like bike-riding and running, reading and spending time with his family.

Weather Terms –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.

| | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| tornado | tsunami |
| cyclone | chilly |
| earthquake | cold |
| rain | hot |
| thunder | freezing |
| lightning | frost |
| snow | sandstorm |
| sleet | thaw |
| wind | flood |
| storm | hurricane |
| heat wave | |

Entries must be received by **January 15, 2018**

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



**Katie MacDonald, Jennifer Snaguski,
Chris Caoile, Eytan Ek, Dakota Johnson
Amy & Logan Goodman**

Contest Winners!
We had so many entries in the October contest that we drew 6 winners! It would be fun if they got together and played the GAZUMP game! Congratulations to:



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

ARRONDA H.
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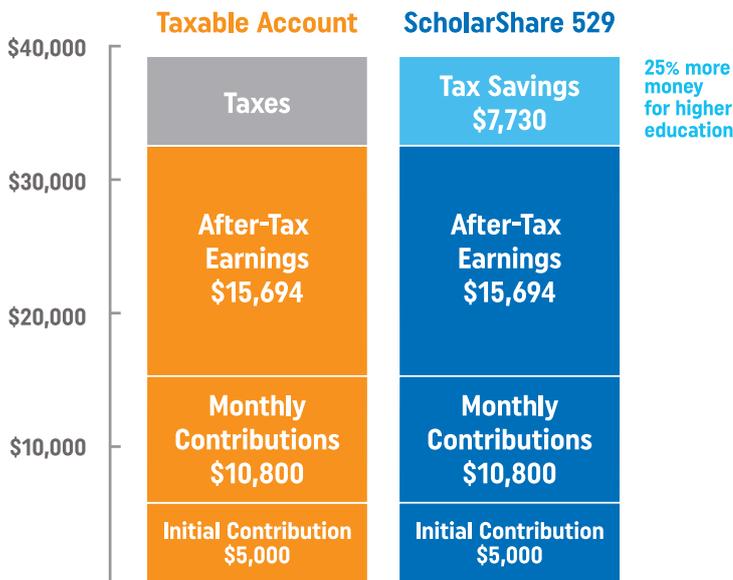
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