

Mar Vista School Newsletter



April 2015

School News:

Richard Determan, Principal
Stephanie Monroe, Academic Coordinator
Barbara Di Puma, School Office Manager

Upcoming Events

Spring Break
April 3-April 10

Restructured Days
April 1, 15, 22, and 29.

Kindergarten Round up.
Monday April 13th

School Site Council
(SSC). Tuesday, April
14th, 4:30 to 5:30 in the
school library.
ELAC mtg. Tuesday,
April 14.
6:00 in the library.

Mar Vista Parents Mtg.
(MVP), Thursday, April
16th. 6:00 to 7:30 in the
school library.

School Play, Thursday
April 16th, intermediate
grades.

Fourth Grade Trip to
Sacramento. Friday,
April 17th.

Sixth Grade Parent
Night. Aptos Jr. High
6:00-8:00. Thurs. 4/16
Aptos Jr. Counselor
orientation to our sixth
graders. Monday, April
27th.

A letter from the Principal

At Mar Vista we do not accept a parent's request for his/her child to be placed in a certain teacher's classroom for next year.

Please rest assured that this is a decision we do not take lightly at Mar Vista Elementary School. Our teachers devote considerable time and effort to make the most appropriate placement for each child. There are a number of factors that are taken into consideration when making a classroom placement decision, which render it impossible to grant a parent's request. I can state with confidence that the faculty at Mar Vista is one of the finest in PVUSD, and the children's needs are always at the forefront when making these very important decisions.

Annual Pages and PJ's

Mark your calendar for Thursday, April 23, 6-8. Families are invited to come to Mar Vista for an evening of great stories read by local authors and community members. Everyone is invited to come, wear their pajamas, and stay for hot chocolate and cookies at the end of the evening. What a great way to share the love of literacy and great stories with family and friends. This event is free of charge, but the evening is priceless.

News from the School Nurse

Parents of 6th graders: Your student will be required to have the Tdap booster (not to be confused with the DTap), or appropriate Tdap waiver signed in person at Mar Vista by the parent/guardian before entering 7th grade. **There is no grace period.** If you have any questions, please contact the school nurse at (831) 761-6177 x4976.

SBAC Testing is coming!! Grades 3rd-6th

The SBAC testing program will begin Monday, April 13th and concluding on May 22. It is very important that student attend daily & on time so that we can complete the testing within the time allotted. Please do not schedule children's appointments during these weeks. For information will come in the April newsletter. Go to Mar Vista's home page at www.marvista.pvusd.net find the SBAC Resource link to review a practice test.

Aptos Junior High School Sixth Grade Registration

Sixth Grade Parent Night

Thursday, April 16th 6:00-8:00. This program is for parents/guardian only.
Aptos Junior High Counselor (Stacey Carroll) will visit our sixth graders on Monday, April 27. Mrs. Carroll will give the students a brief overview of the junior high program. Students are sure to be at school on this very important day. I strongly encourage 6th grade parents to go to Aptos Jr. High web site for pertinent information concerning the junior high at www.aptosjr.pvusd.net

Mar Vista Site Council

After multiple meetings the Measure L subcommittee completed a priority list of work to be accomplished. The subcommittee consists of parents, teachers, staff and a community member. This committee met with our district Measure L Project manager, and reviewed it with him. At our next meeting April 14th at 4:30 in the library, the Site Council will be investigating the Positive discipline program, Bullying survey and the latest bench mark results. All community members are invited to attend.



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After school Programs

Learn to DISCOVER

Students will build and program a variety of 'smaller' LEGO creations, to jumpstart your imagination. Students will build and program a spider, roller coaster and more. This program begins, April 20 through June 1.

Guitar Class

Mar Vista will offer an after school guitar class for grades 1-6. To ensure a spot for your child be sure to turn in the form no later than Monday, April 13th. Start date is Monday, April 13th.

Singing Class

Mar Vista will be offering an after school group singing class for grades 1-6. To ensure a spot for your child be sure to turn in form no later than Wednesday, April 1st. Start date is Thursday, April 2nd.

Piano Class

Mar Vista will be offering an after school group piano class for grades 1-6. The course is available to students of all skill levels. To ensure a spot for your child be sure to turn in form no later than Friday, April 3rd. Start date Wednesday, April 15th

Last Chance to order your Yearbook

Final opportunity to order the year book. Please place orders online at ybpay.lifetouch.com #4988015. Orders are online only. After that, there will be limited quantities of standard hard cover and soft cover books available. Prices will go up to \$25 each when yearbooks arrive in June.

Mar Vista 50th Birthday Picture

The school picture has arrived, it is beautiful. There are a limited number of copies available in the office first come first served. The price is \$25.00. Don't miss out on this wonderful keepsake.

Mar Vista Auction

"Congratulations Mar Vista! Our Auction this year earned \$20,000-amazing! Thank you for your help in any way you contributed. The Cantine event was a huge success. The projects earned double what we've done in the past."



Lions Club distributing flags to 1st graders



Japanese college students visiting Mar Vista



Students of the month for February



Students of the month for March

Mar Vista

School Newsletter

Dear Mar Vista Elementary School Community,

Over the past several months, our teachers and staff have been working to implement California's Common Core Learning Standards in our classrooms. The effort is an ambitious remodeling of our education system, intended to help all students graduate ready to handle college-level work and 21st-century jobs. All of us are proud of the impact that this effort is having on our students' learning every day.

Now, we need to see how well we are doing. The purpose is to see whether your children are understanding what they learn. The updated standards call for a different measure of progress than the usual end-of-year assessments. In California, the state discontinued annual CST/STAR testing last year. In its place, Mar Vista 3rd through sixth graders will be taking the Smarter Balanced Assessments (SBAC) when we return from Spring Break.

SBAC assessments use technology to offer adaptive tests that can accommodate a wide range of students with diverse learning backgrounds. They also allow us to check if students are learning the skills we are teaching, rather than getting points for guessing, as was possible on previous "fill in the bubble" tests.

At our school, testing will begin on April 13 and conclude May 22. Teachers, administrators and parents will be the only ones that receive their individual student's scores. Please go to Mar Vista's home page for more information, you will find out the testing schedule and practice tests.

As we make these changes to curriculum, instruction, and assessments, we are keeping a levelheaded approach. Just like a newly remodeled kitchen takes a while for cooks to get used to, with these tests, there will be a period when our school's education remodel will be on display. These "under construction" signs might be a student's test scores that seem lower than in the past, but are really early indicators of how an individual student is progressing towards being college- and career-ready. Please remember that this first round of test scores will provide us with a baseline for how our students are doing against the new standards and allow us to measure improvement and inform our teaching methods over time.

California's success is made possible because of the great human potential of its residents. Our school's goal is to harness this talent to develop a capable, agile workforce that has the diversity of skills needed to fuel our economy. With the help of our state, standards, teachers, students and parents, we are preparing your child for the demands of the 21st century, whatever those may be.

If you have any questions about our new California State Standards or the assessments, please feel free to speak to your child's teacher or to contact me at 761-6177 or email me at richard_determan@pvusd.net. To get a sense of what the SBAC tests will be like, you and your child can view the practice test online at the California Department of Education (CDE) webpage: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sa/practicetest.asp>.

Sincerely,
Rich Determan

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Mar Vista Parent & School Club (MVPS)

The MVPS promote the education and welfare of our students by...

- *organizing fundraisers & events
- *providing technology equipment (computers & iPads), art, music, assemblies, & basic school supplies
- *supporting our library, classrooms, teachers, field trips, & school improvements

Help us support our students! The following are descriptions of available Board positions for the 2015-2016 school year:

The President presides over all MVP and Executive Board meetings. He/she posts an agenda at least one week prior to meetings. The President performs other duties as may be prescribed by the bylaws or assigned to him or her by the Executive Board or the MVPS. He/she also coordinates the work of the Officers and committees of the MVPS to promote the objectives and the charitable purpose.

The Vice President assists the President and assumes the duties of the President in the event of the President's absence or inability to serve.

The Secretary records the minutes of all meetings of the MVPS, including meetings of the Executive Board. The Secretary keeps on file a current copy of the bylaws and performs other delegated duties as may be assigned. This office can be shared.

The Director is a member of the Executive Board and attends all meetings of the MVPS and the Executive Board.

Make the choice to be involved with the MVPS next year!
For more information, contact Regina Bowyer at regbowyer@gmail.com.



Student council sponsored Pennies for Patients Drive