



# Welcome to Mar Vista Home of the Sea Lions



April 2016

## School News:

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

### Upcoming Events

- ◆ School Site Council (SSC) Tuesday, April 12<sup>th</sup> 4:30-5:30 in the library.

ELAC mtg. Tuesday  
April 12<sup>th</sup> 5:30 in  
the library.

Mar Vista Parents  
(MVP) April 12<sup>th</sup> 6:00  
in the library.  
Discuss Fundraising  
Ideas.

Mar Vista Parents  
(MVP) April 19<sup>th</sup> 6-  
7:30 in the library,  
regular meeting.

"How to Train Your  
Dragon" evening  
play. Monday April  
11<sup>th</sup>. 6:00 in the  
cafeteria.

Pages & PJ's.  
Thursday April 14  
5:30-8

Spirit Day  
Wednesday April 20  
"Star Wars dress-up"

Sacramento Trip  
Friday, April 22 4<sup>th</sup>  
graders ALL DAY

Shoreline Band,  
Friday, April 29.

### 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 14, 5:30-8 pm. 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.

### SBAC Testing is coming!! Grades 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>

The SBAC testing program will begin Monday, April 11<sup>th</sup> and concluding on May 20<sup>th</sup>. 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](http://www.marvista.pvUSD.net) find the SBAC Resource link to review a practice test.

### Aptos Junior High School Sixth Grade Parent Night

Sixth Grade Parent Night: Wednesday, April 20<sup>th</sup> 6:00-8:00 pm. This program is for parents/guardian only. Aptos Junior High Counselor (Stacey Carroll) will visit our sixth graders on April 25<sup>th</sup>. 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 6<sup>th</sup> grade parents to go to Aptos Jr. High web site for pertinent information concerning the junior high at [www.aptosjr.pvUSD.net](http://www.aptosjr.pvUSD.net)

### Calling All Mar Vista Parents!

#### The School Site Council needs you!

What is the School Site Council (SSC)? It is a group representative of the various parts of the school community making decisions that affect the school. It is made up of school employees (the principal and another staff member), teachers, and parents. The SSC plans, monitors, and evaluates the activities and expenditures for certain programs operated at the school to improve student achievement. The SSC meets once a month during the school year to accomplish these goals. If you are interested in becoming part of Mar Vista's SSC please come into the office to find out how you can become a member.



# Mar Vista School Newsletter

## Comcast Cares

Comcast Cares Day is coming to Mar Vista School on Saturday, April 30, 2016. Comcast California will be partnering with us for a campus clean-up and beautification day. The Mar Vista community is invited to join and pitch in! It's all part of Comcast Cares Day, the company's annual day of service, when Comcast employees, families and friends partner with local schools and local organizations nationwide on projects that benefit the communities where they live. We hope that the Mar Vista community will join us for this special day of volunteer work with Comcast on Saturday, April 30, 2016.

Hours are from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm. Light breakfast and lunch will be provided.

Sign up here: <https://www.comcastinthecommunity.com/Project/Detail?projectId=7151>

## Mar Vista Auction

The Mar Vista Auction was a big hit, thanks to our Mar Vista families!! Thank you for helping to create the amazing class projects, bidding on-line, and to those that came to our awesome Cantine event! Congratulation because we raised over \$21,000 this year! And \$8,000 was from our Cantine event! Thank you!!



Upper Left: Lieutenant Medina, Community Officer Kary Bisagno, Deputy Brian Erbe, and Deputy Matthew Persley prepare breakfast to celebrate the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> trimester

Above: Students from Bunkyo University in Tokyo on their annual visit to Mar Vista

Left: Students enjoy their pancake breakfast





# Mar Vista

## School Newsletter



April Students of the Month



Lily Richards, Mar Vista 6<sup>th</sup> grader and local celebrity, will be on KZSC 88.1 ([kzsc.org/listen](http://kzsc.org/listen)) April 23 from 11 to 12 o'clock, just push the play button, she will be



Emma Yeaman and Ava Collette-Garcia Strickland, top Science Fair winners for Santa Cruz County



# Mar Vista School Newsletter

Dear Mar Vista Elementary School Community,

Over the past several years, 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. In its place, Mar Vista 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 11 and conclude May 20. 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 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.

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](mailto: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