

Happy Holidays!



# Mar Vista School Newsletter

December 2014

## School News:

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

### Upcoming Events

Restructured Days- Dec.3  
Dec. 10 and Dec. 17

MARS Fridays December 5  
December 19<sup>th</sup>

Second Harvest Food Drive  
Bring a bag of canned food  
items Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>.

Family Math Night  
Dec. 10 @ 6:00 Rio Del Mar

School Site Council  
(SSC) - Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> @ 4:30  
in the Library. Measure L  
project for Mar Vista will  
be discussed, please  
attend.

Mar Vista Parent's Club  
(MVP)- Nov. 11<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00 in  
the Library.

6<sup>th</sup> Grade Outdoors Science  
School- Dec. 15-Dec.19

Winter Break (No School)  
December 22-January 9

#### A Note from the Principal, Rich Determan

I would like to thank you all for the wonderful welcome to Mar Vista Elementary School. I have always heard of the merits of Mar Vista during my many years at Aptos Junior High, it is truly a gift to be called a Sea Lion.

As demands and complexities of teaching children increases, it become more evident that we all need to work together to insure that our children reach their full potential. I believe that all of us, the school and the community must work together in an extended family environment to insure success for all our children. With that in mind, I invite you to be an active participant at Mar Vista School. Whether you are a classroom volunteer, a member of Mar Vista's parent Club (MVP) or School Site Council (SSC) English Language Advisory Committee (ELAC), special event participant, or member of one of our school committees, you are encouraged to be involved! Research on schools clearly demonstrates that parent participation in their child's school coincides with a greater likelihood of academic success for their child.

#### Common Core State Standards (CCSS)

The goal of the CCSS is to provide a single set of clear and consistent educational standards in math and English language arts that states can share and voluntarily adopt. A total of 45 states have adopted the Common Core State Standards. Until now, every state had its own standards and different expectations of student performance. Common standards will help ensure that all students are receiving a high quality education consistently, from school to school and state to state. Common Core standards can provide parents with clear expectations for what children should know and be able to do when they graduate high school or advance to a particular grade level. Common Core standards provide consistency for parents and students during transitions and allow parents to continue to support student learning regardless of changes in ZIP code. **I strongly encourage Mar Vista Parents to attend the Family Math Night at Rio Del Mar Elementary School on Wednesday Night December 10<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6 o'clock. Parents will have the opportunity to get some of your Common Core math questions answered.**

At Mar Vista, we have been studying the new standards and have been implementing them by doing Writers' and Readers' Workshop. We have also instituted MARS Fridays which are tasks that teach higher-level, critical thinking math skills. Our staff is continuing to learn more about these new standards and how to best teach them.

**Mar Vista Elementary is a California Distinguished School**



# Mar Vista Spirit Days- Every Friday!

## Wear your Mar Vista Gear



### What is new at Mar Vista

#### New Staff members to Mar Vista

Richard Determan Principal  
Roisin Fahey - Fifth Grade Teacher  
Rebecca Miske – Fourth Grade Teacher  
Melanie Larson – VAPA Teacher  
Kelli Murdock – Physical Education Teacher  
Arielle Thurwachter – Lib. Media Tech.  
Nancy Perez – Head Custodian

#### Operation Go Green

The 5<sup>th</sup> graders in Mrs. Thorington and Mrs. Fahey's classes are sponsoring Waste Free days to encourage student to reduce their trash. Using reusable containers, water bottles and spoons/forks from home are great ways to throw away less and save money and the same time. Parents, we would love to have your support and help. We need a couple of compost boxes built, If anyone is able to volunteer during primary or upper grade lunch, please contact Sara\_Thorington @pvusd.net!

#### Coat Collection

Girls Scouts troop from Mar Vista Elementary, collected coats for the needy. They stood out in front of school for two weeks gathering the coats. Great job !!!

#### Second Harvest Food Drive

For the next three Wednesday's we are requesting that each child fills a bag with canned food items. A bag will be provided for each child on Tuesday. If parents would like to make a monetary donation for every dollar raised that will equal 3 pounds of food. It would be great if Mar Vista were the top elementary school in Santa Cruz County.

#### What Is Happening with Measure L?

Come to Mar Vista on December 9<sup>th</sup> at 4:30. Brett McFadden from the District Office will be here to give us an update.

A big shout out goes to our incredible MVP (Mar Vista Parent) Club. The parents provide extra resources for our students not provided for by the District. Last year the MVP club purchased iPad for every sixth grader. The sixth graders have been working this year together to create hands-on learning experiences, share ideas, design projects, make movies, write and illustrate stories, photograph images, make music, navigate current technology. The purchase of the iPad's would not have been possible without the MVP's fund raising projects, and all of the Mar Vista parents participating in the projects.

Thank you

With the Holiday season upon us, if you purchase items through Amazon please use the web site address listed. <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/46-3398144>. Every time you use this address the school will receive a percentage of your purchase price.

Mar Vista's Annual Online School Auction will happen in the Spring. Details concerning the auction will be published in the February Newsletter.

