

Pleasant Valley Elementary

PV Views

January 9, 2009

"Where Eagles Fly"



Contact us

Terry Gavin Brown, Principal
Julie Spaan, Office Manager
Tim Davidson, PTA President

Attendance Recorder:
897-6264

Office
897-5104

Website
www.pveagles.org

News submissions
news4pv@yahoo.com

In This Issue

[Note from Terry Gavin Brown](#)

Quick Links

[PV Eagles Website](#)
[Mrs. Wheeler's Music News](#)
[Safe Routes to School](#)
[School Fuel](#)
[First 5 Marin](#)

Lunch Menu

[Monday, Jan 12th](#) - Baked Chicken Tenders or Chicken Caesar Salad

[Tuesday, Jan 13th](#) - Pizza or Chef Salad

[Wed, Jan 14th](#) - Chicken Rice Bowl or Taco Salad

Change in Menu Item
[Thurs, Jan 15th](#) - Corn Dog or Oriental Chicken Salad

[Friday, Jan 16th](#) - Bean Burrito or Tuna Garden Salad

PV Event Calendar

[Jan 19th](#) - Joint PTA/PV Leadership Team Meeting 6:00 P.M.

[Jan 19th](#) - No School - Martin Luther King Jr. Day

[Jan 20th](#) - School Barod

[Jan 24th](#) - School Fuel - Paint the Town Red

[Jan 26th](#) - No School - Staff Development Day

[Jan 28th](#) - Library Book Club

[Click here to view the full school calendar.](#)

From the Desk of Terry Gavin Brown



The New Year is always an important time for schools. This is the time of year we settle in and begin serious preparation for state testing. Teachers review grade leveled standards to make sure essential standards have been covered or will be covered prior to the test. Assessment results are reviewed to make sure areas of need are identified and addressed. We take the tests very seriously. It is our goal to prepare all students so that they are confident and ready for the State exams. Future newsletters will include information about the grade leveled standards and about the importance of assessment as we head toward STAR testing.

January 20th we will welcome a new president of the United States. Many of the classrooms will be watching the inauguration on television. We will encourage students to wear red, white and blue on January 20th to celebrate democracy. A presidential inauguration is a "civic lesson in action" for students. I remember watching the inauguration of President John Fitzgerald Kennedy. I was in third grade and I like to think a citizen was born that day....me. Watching the inauguration and hearing President Kennedy's words made me realize how fortunate I was to live in this great country. My hope is the on 1 inauguration day we can share this moment with all of our students.

We have worked hard to set up Study Island. During the holiday break, Mrs. Spaan imputed students' names into the program while I worked on setting up classes. Teachers have now logged onto the system and our setting up specific information for each classroom. Next week you will receive a letter with your child's password and username.

January 21st will be Study Island Day at Pleasant Valley. The children will be encouraged to wear "island" attire. We will kick off our first Study Island contest guaranteed to get students motivated to visit the island. Later in the day staff will receive a special training and we will have an Open House for families during the evening. A flyer will be sent out next week but in the meantime put a palm tree on your calendar to remind you about Study Island Kick-off Day.

Next week I will be attending 4 days of training sponsored by the City of Novato Office of Emergency Services. This Specialized Training Institute will support disaster preparedness efforts. The City will have 22 employees from various departments. There will also be employees from Novato Fire, Novato Sanitation District, North Marin Water District, Fireman's Fund, American Red Cross, Novato Community Hospital, multiple representatives from Marin County and San Rafael, along with representatives from Mill Valley and Ross.

This training program introduces participants to key emergency management principles and practices using the earthquake, a very complex natural disaster. Participants will be involved in a progressive series of exercises culminating in a realistic earthquake simulation as a member of an emergency management team. The importance of a comprehensive set of strategies is stressed. Those strategies include initial disaster response and options to mitigate the impact of disasters before they happen and to strengthen preparations for prompt, effective restoration during recovery. In my absence, Len Banaag a former teacher and an up and coming Novato administrator, will be here to sub for me.

The news on the State budget is not good and we are facing some bleak times ahead if things don't change. K-3 Class reduction funding could be compromised and a number of programs cut. I urge our school families to support the recommendation for a parcel tax and to get involved in making sure it is passed. I encourage all members of the school family to support School Fuel activities and to make donations to the program. The future of California schools is at a serious crossroads and we as citizens need to get involved to make sure our students' education is not compromised. I have been in education many years and while we have weathered many serious times because of budget cuts, never has it seemed so dire. There is hope for education if we make it a priority and support new funding. I will keep you posted as budget news becomes available.

Until then,
Stay warm Pleasant Valley

Gate Parent Information Night

Who Should Attend:
Parents and Staff of 3rd and 5th Grade Students

When: Thursday, January 15, 2009
Time: 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Where: 1015 Seventh Street, Novato District Education Center Mabel Croughan Room

Topics Covered: Current information, such as screening And identification of students and important dates for testing

For more information, please visit website www.nusd.org/parents/GATE

SCHOOL PHYSICALS & ORAL HEALTH ASSESSMENTS

Providing the school with recent health physicals and oral health assessments is helpful in assuring that your child is being supported in the areas of medical and dental health. State law mandates that all students in California schools must show documentation that their child has had a health examination for school entry by the 1st grade. State law also mandates that all new students in kindergarten and first grade enrolled in California schools must have documentation of an oral health assessment by a dentist. Please call the school nurse at 897-4206 ext 712 if you need any assistance.

OUR MISSION: Pleasant Valley is dedicated to building a community of learners where students strive to reach their full potential academically, socially, and emotionally. Learning is a life-long process that fosters effective thinking strategies, social responsibility and positive interpersonal skills. We are committed to preparing Pleasant Valley students for the world that awaits them in the twenty-first century.