

Pleasant Valley Elementary

PV Views

September 18, 2009

"Where Eagles Fly"



REMINDER!! WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2009 12:30 DISMISSAL GRADES 1-5 (Kindergarten remains on Wacky Wednesday schedule)

Contact us

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Principal

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PV Event Calendar

[September 22nd](#)
PTA Meeting
7:00 p.m.

[September 23rd](#)
Picture Day
Minimum Day
12:30 Dismissal for
Grades 1-5

[September 26th](#)
Rock 'n Blues

[October 7th](#)
Walk to School Day

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

Lunch Menu

[Mon-Sept. 21](#)
Baked Chicken Rings
OR Chicken Caesar
Salad

[Tues-Sept. 22](#)
Pizza Stuffed Crust

[Wed-Sept. 23](#)
Garden Veggie Burger
OR
Taco Salad (chicken)

[Thurs-Sept. 24](#)
BBQ Pork Rib
Sandwich OR Oriental
Chicken Salad

[Fri-Sept. 25](#)
Soft Taco Wrap OR
Fruit Salad

Quick Links

[PV Eagles Website](#)

[School Fuel](#)

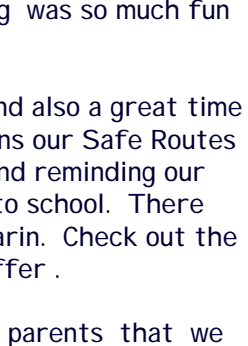
[First 5 Marin](#)

[Superintendent's Monthly Newsletter](#)

From the Desk of Terry Gavin Brown

Dear Pleasant Valley Families:

Thank you, Linda Blum and PTA for our wonderful Back to School Spaghetti Night. What a fun evening. The students loved it and I think parents had a pretty good time too. The Multiuse Room looked beautiful. Thank you to all the families who served as cooks, food & setup crews and clean-up. That you Mrs. Spaan for all your help in coordinating the event. The raffle prize was super, thanks to the generosity of Mangia e Bevi Deli. Stop by for a delicious sandwich!!!!!! The whole evening was so much fun that I can't wait to do it again.



It is a great time of year for riding bikes to school and also a great time to remind our kids about bike safety. This week begins our Safe Routes to School program. We will be talking about safety and reminding our kids about how to keep safe while walking or biking to school. There are some great safety classes for kids offered in Marin. Check out the Marin Bike Coalition for a list of what they have to offer.

Since we are speaking about safety, I need to remind parents that we have no school supervision before 8:15 a.m. Students should not be on the school campus prior to 8:15 a.m. We cannot guarantee their safety when they arrive so early. We need everyone to understand how important this is.

Our fourth/fifth grade spelling Bee is coming up this week. We will be buzzing with results in our next news.

While we are on the topic of results we did receive our API scores and they did go down. The good news is that our API is 880 which is above the state's goal of 800 for all schools in California. However our API should be higher. We have analyzed the data and put new programs into place and intend to improve our scores which will result in a higher API for the upcoming year. I will have a powerpoint presentation at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday prior to our PTA meeting explaining API and AYP and also our plans for raising our scores. We have a strong staff. This is a strong school. We can and we will do better and I look forward to showing you how.

Our Pan Napa donations fell short about \$2,000 dollars. If you made a pledge to support a teacher and did not send in your check, we can accept checks directly at the school office. Over \$9,000 dollars was pledged, \$7,323 collected and \$360 sent to School Fuel leaving us with \$6,963. It is not too late to collect those pledges. You can send them to our school office if you have an outstanding pledge.

On September 30th the school will have a Native American Unity Day. This will be a day of respect, and a day of learning. We will have a morning outside assembly (weather permitting) and throughout the day the students will be learning about the Native American people who walked this earth before us. We are expecting some representatives from Native American tribes to join us. We are planning a special lunch if all goes according to plan. More details to come.

Native American Day promotes respect for our environment and for the history of the land. While regular instruction will continue after the assembly, we are planning for some afternoon enrichment activities to enhance this day. We will ask our students to wear harvest/fall/earth toned clothing that day (browns/greens/yellows/orange/dark red) to mirror the colors of the beginning of fall and to promote unity. We are asking that students not wear feathers and or any stereotype garb that might offend Native American visitors to our school.

If there are any families with Native American heritage stories or activities to share please contact me. If there are any families with songs or chants or Native American music to share we would much appreciate your help. We will need seven large canvass tarps for the afternoon outside grassy activities. If you have such a tarp and would be willing to let us borrow it, we would be very grateful.

Third through fifth grade students are an integral part of this day as the State's social studies standards encompass the community and its history (3), the California Native American tribes (4) and the Native American Tribes (5). The students and their teachers will be hosting the afternoon activities.

I am also looking for parents to help with the day's events. I need some assistance with final planning and prep (music-art-general duties) and there are activities planned throughout Unity Day which will be enhanced by parental help. Please contact the office to let us know if you are interested. This will be a day of enrichment and awareness. It will be a day of learning for your students; a day of learning for all of us.

Just a reminder that record temperatures are expected this week in our final days of summer before fall begins. Hot days are often hard days for students, so dress them accordingly. Know we will be watching them even more closely during this upcoming heat wave and allowing them plenty of time for water and cool downs.

Finally, Tuesday night before the PTA meeting I will present two parent presentations. Please see the schedule listed below. I encourage all parents to attend.

6:30 - 645 - Pleasant Valley Volunteer Training Film
6:45 - 7:00 - Pleasant Valley's 2009 AYP/API Scores
7:00 - PTA Meeting

Have a safe and happy week. I will look for you at the Blues by the Lake concert. I can't wait. It is sure to be lots of fun.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Brown

REMINDER!! SEPTEMBER 23RD - 12:30 DISMISSAL FOR GRADES 1-5

Please mark your calendars for Wednesday, September 23rd. This is a District-wide Staff Development Day, and our children in grades 1 through 5 will be dismissed as 12:30. (Kindergarten will be on their "Wacky Wednesday" schedule.) This date was not in our school calendar, as this date was determined after the calendar was printed. The afternoon will be used for teacher training for our new Math Adoption, so that they will be at the "top of their game" to teach our children!

A WORD FROM OUR PTA PRESIDENT

Spaghetti Night was great fun! Thank you to all the families who turned out to help us kick off our school year in style. Of course, no event happens without helping hands and feeding 410 people dinner was made fun and easy with the help of the following team:

Heather Sargent and Kathy Tovey for organizing the food orders and check-in lists, Juan Navarro and Cesario Hernandez for helping unload supplies and food and setting up our multi-purpose room, Miriam Campos (our lovely lunch lady) for assistance with kitchen equipment and food handling.

For set-up, food service and cleanup, thanks to Debbie Kendrick, Abby Koniaris, Kathleen Franks, Stephen Kilgariff, Cindy Harris, Glendening Family, Butler/Steinert Family, Estrada Family, Gerace Family, DeMaur Herrera, Katharine Johnson, Jamileh Shafiae, Amy Ondrick, Leslee Loeber, Deanne Hartnett, Laura Bertolli and Christy Murphy.

Thank you to Mrs. Brown and the fifth graders; Nick Malliaras, Joe Malliaras, Presley O'Keeffe-White, Grace Lamont, Jorge Gonzales, Frankie Bondanza, Brittany Haire, Natalie Mansergh, Perry Borders, Daniella Ingargiola for help with food and beverage service and tidying up during dinner as necessary!

Thank you to Michael at Mary's Pizza Shack for delivering pasta and French bread on time and with a smile - the food was terrific and everybody got enough to eat. Thanks to Angie Houlahan and all of the PV Bakers for bringing us yummy cookies for dessert and to Josie Brandis for making sure we had Peet's Coffee.

Thank you to the McCue and Simonetti families for donating our raffle prize for the evening - a gift card to their new deli, Mangia e Bevi, which is located in the Tresch Triangle shopping center (and I hear the sandwiches are amazing...)

Finally, a personal thank you to Julie Spaan for her graceful assistance with everything from event planning and setup to running the guest check in table - we are so lucky to have you and your enthusiasm and encouragement in all things supporting our kids!

Our first PTA meeting of the year is coming up on Tuesday evening, September 22, 2009 at 7:00 PM. Child care will be provided and we encourage you to attend this informative meeting to learn about the many PTA programs that are running on our campus.

We have a fun and exciting year of family activities planned and we will be providing information about these PTA programs and voting in the 09/10 budget. Come find out about our Halloween Happening, Peaceful Playgrounds, Bingo Night, Family Sock Hop and more, plus information on the benefits of PTA membership.

Linda Blum
PTA President

PARENT VOLUNTEER TRAINING

For those parents who have not been able to attend the brief power point presentation prior to volunteering in the classroom, we have two more scheduled sessions. We strongly encourage all volunteers who have not already attended a session, to please do so. This way, we can be sure that all parents and staff are on the same page when helping our students in the classroom. If these dates and times won't work for you, please contact the office.

Tuesday, September 22nd - 6:30 p.m. - Multi-purpose Room (right before the PTA meeting)
Thursday, September 24 - 8:15 a.m. - Computer Lab

POPSICLES FOR SALE ON FRIDAY AFTER SCHOOL 5th Grade Walker Creek Fundraiser

Each Friday after school, all natural frozen fruit bars will be for sale for \$1.00. A table will be set up in front of the school by the flag pole. The money raised through these sales, will go towards this year's 5th graders going to Walker Creek. What a great way to end the school week, and also to help our 5th grade. Fifth grade parents, please contact Jennifer Altmann at merrithew2@comcast.net to sign up to help sell, and to answer any questions you may have.

Be A Lunch Buddy!

Thank you to Vicky Meblin and Cindy Roncoglia for volunteering to help Miss Miriam at lunch.

We are seeking two more parent volunteers to help with serving food and assisting students as they go through the lunch line. We need help on Monday and Friday.

The job is fun and easy! It entails serving food and assisting students as they go through the lunch line. Lunch time is between 11:35 and 12:45.

If you can help on Monday or Friday, please contact Katharine Johnson at 892-0654 or katharinejohnson@comcast.net.

Get Listed in PV's Business Directory

CALLING ALL PV FAMILIES WHO OWN BUSINESSES OR PROVIDE A SERVICE!!!

We are putting together an online PV Business Directory... so if you own a business or provide a service and you are interested in being included in the online directory, please email Julie DeRuvo, julie@deruvofamily.com by Thursday, October 1st. Please include the following:

1. Name of the Business
2. Business Category (ie: Web Designer, Architect, Accountant)
3. Contact information (Business Address, Phone # and Email)
4. PV Family Name

PTA Notecard Fundraiser

This is a great fundraiser for both parents and the PTA. It provides the PTA with funding (we generated \$2300 last year), and it provides you with a priceless piece of your child's artwork to cherish and share with friends and family.

Here's how it works: Your child's art is reproduced onto notecards, stickers, notepads, and invitations which you can purchase at reasonable prices. Then your child's original artwork will come home with a letter/order form, next week. All you need to do is return the homework, order form and a check by October 2nd, and you will receive your items in time for the holidays.

Please consider participating in this fundraiser and helping out the PV PTA! If you have any questions, please contact Kristen McAndrew at 893-9518 ordog-lips@mindspring.com.

Growing Up Green Sloat Fundraiser

Any Sloat Garden Center, during Sept. 18-28, will donate 10% of pre-tax sales purchased by our community (with our flyer) to PV in the form of a gift card which can be used for classroom projects, our school garden, buffer fly garden or school grounds. The flyer can be obtained in the office or downloaded at www.pveagles.org. The school with the highest total sales will receive 20% back and a visit from Sloat's experts to help support school garden activities. If you need plants or supplies, visit Sloat and you can help support PV too.

Eat At Moylans to Benefit Rock'n Blues

Dine out at Moylan's on Wednesday, September 23rd from 11:30 a.m. to 12:00 midnight and 20% of all purchases will be donated to Rock 'n Blues By the Lake.

THIS IS A MINIMUM DAY - Take your family to LUNCH or DINNER and support the schools!

Please pick up a flyer at the Rock'n Blues ticket sales table in front of school (you must have a flyer to receive the donation)
Thank you for your support.

Blues By The Lake - Special Raffle for VIP Meet & Greet with Blake Lewis

Have you purchased your tickets for Rock'n Blues yet? Now there are two more reasons to get your tickets by Thursday, September 24, 2009.

All those who purchase tickets by September 24, 2009, including those who have purchased their tickets prior to this announcement from Pleasant Valley will be entered into a drawing to receive a VIP Meet & Greet with Blake Lewis. Two winners will be selected from those purchasing tickets from Pleasant Valley. Not only will you have the opportunity to meet Blake, but if you bring your camera along you'll be able to get a photo with Blake & his band, receive an event t-shirt and an autographed copy of Blake's newest CD, and have one item autographed. Winners will be notified on the morning of Friday, September 25, 2009. Remember to purchase your tickets by Thursday, September 24 from Pleasant Valley.

Rock-n-Blues By the Lake

Saturday, September 26, 2009
10am to 8pm
at Stafford Lake in Novato

Tickets can be purchased in our school office, by contacting PV's Rock'n Blues Representative Linda Blum (415-898-3676 or linda@balancingelement.com), or at the Farmer's Market in downtown Novato on Tuesdays. If you purchase tickets at the Farmer's Market, be sure to mention PV so we will be credited with the sale.

Advance Ticket Prices
\$45 Adults, \$20 Teens (ages 12-18)
\$15 Children (ages 5-11)
Children 4 and under are free

Use Green Ways to Get to School

Walk to School Day is Wed. Oct. 7th

Safe Routes to Schools would like to encourage everyone to find Green Ways to School. Traveling by a Green Way to School helps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and fosters life long habits for your children.

- If you live close by to school (within a 1/2 mile to 1 mile):
- Walk or bike to school - active transportation is great exercise and fun! (stay tuned for later this fall when SR2S launches its new SchoolPool Trip matching program to assist you in finding others to walk or bike in a group together)

- If you live too far away or live on a steep and narrow road:
- Take the bus if it is available
 - Carpool with your neighbors (the new SchoolPool Trip matching program will help you find others who live along your route)
 - Park and walk - find a remote location within 1/4 mile of the school where you can safely park your car and walk the rest of the way.

- If you must drive your car:
- Drive carefully and slowly - watch for children
 - Turn off your engine - letting your car idle exposes children to noxious fumes and increases Co2 emissions.

Everyone can be a part of the solution. Find your Green Way to School and help cool the planet and reduce traffic around our school.

Upcoming School Fuel Events

School Fuel Rummage Sale on October 10

Come to the School Fuel rummage sale in the Hill Middle School multipurpose room on Saturday, October 10 from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm. The proceeds will be used by School Fuel to help fund teachers and programs for all of the schools in the district. If you have anything to donate to this great cause, you can bring it to Hill on Friday, October 9 between 3:00 and 6:00 pm. Donations are tax-deductible. Clothes, books, small appliances, toys, furniture, bikes and house wares are welcome - but NOT mattresses, computers, TV's or stuffed animals. For more information or to volunteer, contact Kim McClure at 892-5792 or kimberlymclure@comcast.net.

Registration Now Open for the School Fuel Bocce Tournament

The School Fuel 2009 Bocce Tournament is open for registration! Put together your team and get ready for a fun day at the beautiful bocce courts in San Rafael on Saturday, October 17. The tournament will include instructions for beginners, round robin play, a delicious catered lunch, and prizes for the top teams. Players of all experience and ability levels enjoyed this great event last year. Registration will close as soon as 32 teams are registered. Only one registration form is required per team. For more information, contact Leslie Benjamin at (415) 897-4259 or lbenjamin@nUSD.org.