

Pleasant Valley Elementary

PV Views

October 23, 2009

"Where Eagles Fly"



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PV Event Calendar

- October 30th**
Halloween Parade at 9:00am & Halloween Happening at 6:00 to 8:00pm
- November 5th**
Make-up Picture Day
- November 6th**
Giving Day
- November 10**
Site Leadership Meeting
- November 11**
NO SCHOOL
Veterans Day
- [Click here to view the full school calendar](#)
- Lunch Menu**
- Mon-Oct. 16**
Baked Popcorn Chicken OR Chicken Caesar Salad
- Tues-Oct. 27**
Pizza Stuffed Crust
- Wed-Oct. 28**
Egg Roll OR Taco Salad (chicken)
- Thurs-Oct. 29**
High Tech Burrito OR Oriental Chicken Salad
- Fri-Oct. 30**
Hot Dog (Turkey) OR Tuna Salad

Quick Links

- [PV Eagles Website](#)
- [School Fuel](#)
- [First 5 Marin](#)
- [Superintendent's Newsletter](#)
- [H1N1 Virus](#)

From the Desk of Terry Gavin Brown

Dear Parents:
 It was Red Ribbon Week at Pleasant Valley and we owe a big thank you to some parents who decided to make Red Ribbon meaningful with a focus on healthy habits. Thank you to Adam Rosenbaum's mom, Elaine Hannah, for the informative healthy habits lunch time talks about good nutrition choices and the benefits of exercise. We chose lunch specifically for the two presentations because kids had a chance to hear about healthy choices while eating their own lunches. It was the perfect time for the students to identify the grains, fruit, vegetables and dairy in their own lunches that help keep them strong and healthy. It was a living, hands-on lesson. The best kind.

Wednesday, Erin and Cole's mom, Lisa Citarella and Morgan's mom (Kim Overstreet) kicked off the Walking/Running Club. Thank you to the wonderful volunteer team of moms who helped launch this lunchtime exercise activity. Red Ribbon Week was the perfect time to highlight the importance of exercise. What an organized and fun event.

Our [H1N1 Virus](#) presentation last night was excellent. Again we thank Elaine Hannah for donating her valuable time to educate PV families on how best to protect ourselves and children. Elaine's presentation was very informative, and I wish all parents had been able to attend. Elaine's newsletter has lots of great information. Elaine reminded us that frequent hand washing, nutritious foods and plenty of sleep are very good defenses against this virus.

Our Halloween Happening Committee is terrific. Thank you to everyone who is stopping by on Monday nights to help out. We have our last meeting at 6:00 p.m. in the Multiuse Room. Stop by if you would like to help. Just a reminder that we need lots of donations for the cake walk and baked goods sale. You can begin dropping off your baked goods on Friday morning.

Thank you Tuscany Grill, Debby Kendrick, Alli Steadman and all the families eating dinner at Tuscany Grill on Wednesday to support the school. What fun and what a great dinner. My favorite place in town!!!

Okay parents I promise I am not the Halloween Grinch. I actually love Halloween and look forward to it every year. As the school's principal though I need to ensure Halloween activities are fun and safe. Last week in preparing for the parade I caused quite a bit of angst when I wrote "no masks". Some parents loved the idea and the other half wanted to turn me into the great pumpkin for even suggesting such a thing. As a result, the "no mask" rule was debated and discussed throughout the week. From students to grandparents, teachers to office manager, it seemed that everyone had a strong opinion. So before I tell you the compromise, and yes, there is a compromise, I want to share why we considered the "no mask" policy in the first place.

I imagine you are a teacher with a class of 20 students and half your class you can't identify because masks hide their faces. You take your precious little class over to a crowd of 400 students for the school parade. There are six little power rangers in your class who have multiplied before your eyes because in every other class little power rangers, pirates and monsters are also marching and their costumes "mask" their identities. In the midst of all this, parents and families are taking pictures and little sibling power rangers, pirates and monsters seem to be everywhere. Your students' safety means everything to you and now you have a reason to want a "no mask" policy for your school.

Now imagine you are a six year old and you are marching in a school parade and suddenly the grim reaper is standing across from you. You look around and there are bloody masks that get bloodier when students squeeze them and gruesome faces that are very scary. You are six years old but now you have a reason to want a "no mask" policy for your school.

Last year, though we asked for no scary masks, 14 students came to school with them. That does not include some really gruesome costumes that are inappropriate. I hope you understand now why the majority of teachers and staff continue to be very concerned. However since I was not proactive in making the "no mask" rule known early enough in the year, I do believe there should be a compromise.

Students can wear masks but the following rules must be adhered to:

- 1) Masks must not interfere with vision. Children should be able to see out of their costumes with no interference.
- 2) Masks should not hide identity. At all times a teacher should be able to recognize the students in their classes.
- 3) Masks must not be gruesome or scary. There must be no blood or violent expressions. Items like knives and forks may not be protruding from any part of the costume.
- 4) Costumes must be in good taste and appropriate for an elementary school. Costumes must comply with the USD Board policy dress code (i.e., no bare midriffs, spaghetti straps, etc.) Costumes should not be suggestive or have words or phrases that are inappropriate.
- 5) Weapons (guns, sword, bombs, etc.) and blatant messages of violence are not permitted.
- 6) Remember if you are having trouble thinking of a costume for your child, the "college theme" is big this year. Cheerleaders, sports, graduates, and alumni costumes will help promote our "No Excuses - College Bound" thinking.

Pleasant Valley's Halloween parade for grades K-5 will be on the upper playground blacktop on Friday, October 30 at 8:45am. Please carpool or use the street for parking making sure not to block our friendly neighbors. Please do not block the school parking lot. Do not park in the white zone for this event. Thank you for your cooperation in working to make this Halloween a safe, smart, and sensible day at school.

I know, I wrote a book, but I like to keep you informed.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Brown

Halloween Happening -- ADVANCE TICKET SALES

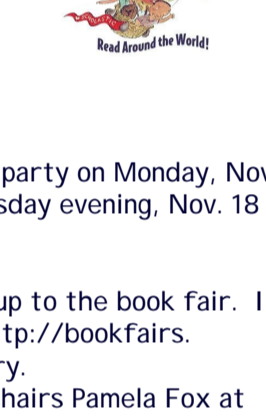
In this week's Friday Folder, you will find a "Halloween Happening" Flyer, letting you know all about the special evening that is being planned for next Friday, October 30th from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. This is sure to be an awesome event, and we hope it will become the first annual, with many more to come.

The flyer will allow you to buy advance tickets, so you can avoid the crowd the night of the event. If you would like to purchase advance tickets, just fill out the form, turn it in to the office, and the following day you will receive your tickets via your child's homework folder. If you have any questions, please give the office a call.

**** Volunteers are still needed! ****

Se viene! Es kommt! それは来ている! It's coming!

Our annual Scholastic Book Fair is just around the corner and we want you to join us at "Destination Book Fair - Read Around the World", November 16th - 20th in the PV multi-purpose room. Book fair hours will be Monday to Thursday from 8 - 2, and Friday from 8 - 1. Please note that the book fair takes place during parent/teacher conference week, so come shop with your children when school gets out every day at 12:30!



Special events that week will include our kick-off party on Monday, Nov. 16 at 12:30, and Family Shopping Night on Wednesday evening, Nov. 18 from 6:30 - 8:30.

More information will follow in the weeks leading up to the book fair. In the meantime, please check out our web site at <http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/homepage/pleasantvalleyelementary>. If you have any questions, please contact our co-chairs Pamela Fox at pamela@foxarts.com or Jennifer Oppgaard at joppegard@yahoo.com.

DINE & DONATE FUNDRAISER

Congratulations to PV families. Our first "Dine & Donate" for the year was a great success! We need to thank Tuscany Country Grill, of Novato, for their generous donation of \$240.00. A huge thanks goes out to Alii Harris (Ray's mom) for facilitating this fundraiser. Watch for more information for next month's "Dine & Donate", on November 4th at Finnegan's. A very special thanks goes out to Debby Kendrick, who is this year's fabulous coordinator!

PTA Volunteers, We Appreciate Your Efforts!

We are thrilled that Emma Mesenburg, Susan Roca and Katy Nuss have enthusiastically volunteered to plan Pleasant Valley's benefit auction this year. The auction is one of the school's biggest fundraisers and a fun-filled evening for parents. Emma, Susan and Katy are creative, organized and super-motivated. If you are interested in helping with the auction please contact:

- Emma Mesenburg - emmamesenburg@yahoo.com or 233-3000
- Susan Roca - roca_21@comcast.net or 310-9224
- Katy Nuss - ktnuss@gmail.com or 250-0183

Thanks again, Emma, Susan and Katy for your dedication to Pleasant Valley and our children.

Many thanks to Lisa Citarella and Kim Overstreet and their committee of volunteers for kicking off the Walk/Run Club at Pleasant Valley with a fun Walk/Run-a-thon fundraiser. We appreciate all of the hard work it requires to launch this exciting new PV club with such a wonderful event for the school.

Thank you to Debby Kendrick for being the chair of the PTA's Dine and Donate Committee. Debby and her committee will work with local restaurants in organizing fundraising dinners for PV -- and we look forward to tasting the sweet rewards.

Many thanks to Elaine Hannah, our Red Ribbon chair, and her volunteers for teaching Pleasant Valley students this year's Red Ribbon Week theme, "Eating Right, Exercise and Have Fun!" Elaine and her tireless crew did an amazing job decorating the school with red ribbons while encouraging the children to eat right and exercise.

-- Kathy Towey and Heather Sargent
On Behalf of the PV PTA

WALK/RUN CLUB

Thursday was a great day with so many enthusiastic walkers and runners. A good time was had by all who participated. Mrs. Stephens and Mrs. Villaluna walked with their classes, what great role models. We would like to extend a special thank you to all of the volunteers who made the day possible. We couldn't have done it without you!

Donations and pledges are due to the office or your child's teacher by Friday, the 30th. For all funds received by this deadline your child will receive a special charm for helping to support the club. Please place all checks (made to PV PTA, Run Club in the memo line) or cash in an envelope with your child's name on it so that they get credit for the money they have collected. With this money we will be able to make the Walk/Run Club a success and fun for the kids.

All of the kids who participated Thursday received a necklace with a dog tag that you can write their name and/or phone number on so the necklace doesn't get misplaced. DO NOT LOSE THE NECKLACE as the Walk/Run Club continues in January. Their laps will be accumulative and they will be adding more charms to the necklaces.

If you would like to volunteer for upcoming Walk/Run Events please contact Kim Overstreet at overstreet5@comcast.net or Lisa Citarella at lcitarella@comcast.net Parent volunteers are essential for our program to be successful. Thanks.

eScrip Registration and Renewal Drive

Don't forget to turn in your eScrip 2009 Registration/Renewal Drive form. Each student who turns in a form will receive a pencil. Plus, for every item checked on the form, the student will receive a fun mini-eraser. Please turn in your form to the office or your child's teacher by Friday, October 30th.

Thank you for supporting PV through eScrip!

Support the 5th Grade Fundraising Efforts

Please come out and support the 5th graders and purchase gift wrapping paper, gift bags, chocolates and other goodies. Fifth grade students will be selling their products until OCTOBER 30!

This is a big fundraiser that will help the students defray the cost of attending Walker Creek in the spring.

You can view sample items in the office. If you have any questions you may contact Deb White at deblwhite@comcast.net. We welcome your purchases and support! Thanks!

Beginning German Classes at PV

The German School of Italy is interested in hosting a Beginning German class at Pleasant Valley. It would be one day after school and on campus. Please contact Josie Brandis at 415-897-9516 or joann.brandis@yahoo.com if you are interested.

Flower Power for the PV Garden

Please support the First PV Garden and Beautification Fundraiser by purchasing your bulbs on www.flowerpowerfundraising.com. Once you're on the flowerpower site, click on "find an organization" at the top. Type in "PV Garden" and start shopping.

When you purchase bulbs through the flowerpower site, 50% of all sales come back to PV and will be used to support PV's garden and beautification. The fundraiser is open to everyone. A huge pass this information on to your friends and family.

YMCA @ Pleasant Valley

The YMCA @ Pleasant Valley School is actively enrolling new children. Our program gets more exciting every day! The kids are loving being personally involved with the Y and their families to make our community a better place.

Our theme baskets are a huge hit! We will be featuring one every week until they run out. Next week's theme will be a Sports Basket created by Nate and Mike. Raffle tickets are \$1 or 6 for \$5. Upcoming events include:

- The YMCA @ Pleasant Valley School's 1st Annual Haunted House and Bake Sale on October 28th from 4:00 to 7:00pm. (\$1 Donation is Requested.)
- A Children's Holiday Craft Fair will be held the first week of December.
- A Pizza, PJama and Movie Party in January.
- Presley O'Keefe and Nate Willis will be starting an Adopt a Grandparent Club in November.

Mike Witzel and Frankie Bondanza are in charge of our new Skateboard Design Club. Every month 1 winning design is picked and the winner gets his custom design put on a free skateboard.

Expect a fun-filled year at the YMCA. Please call or email Shyla if you have any questions at 415-892-7476 or sbauer@ymcasf.org Thank you, Shyla Bauer

Upcoming School Fuel Events

Visit School Fuel's Haunted House, Friday, Oct. 23!

School Fuel is providing some safe Halloween fun for kids and parents at the school district offices. Come to the NUSD parking lot (7th Street & Grant Ave.) from 5:00 to 7:00pm Friday, October 23 for a tour of our third annual HAUNTED SCHOOL HOUSE. There will also be a non-scary Halloween area with games, prizes, and a fortune teller. Every child who attends will receive a book. Halloween costumes are optional, but welcome! Food will be available for purchase from California Grill. Festivities are free of charge, but donations will be cheerfully accepted.

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 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.