



## PV Views

November 13, 2009

### Early Dismissal Next Week!

12:30 All Week -- Grades 1-5

Kindergarten schedule DOES NOT change

#### In the Office

**Julie Spaan**  
Office Manager  
897-5104

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What's for Lunch?

[Click here to view this week's lunch menu.](#)

#### Quick Links

[PV Website](#)

[H1N1 Virus Info](#)

[Superintendent's Newsletter](#)

[School Fuel Website](#)

[First 5 Marin](#)

#### Newsletter Submissions

[news4pv@yahoo.com](mailto:news4pv@yahoo.com)

#### LOST AND FOUND

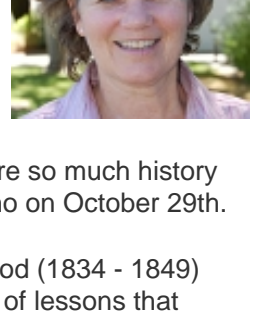
Please check out the "Lost & Found" tables this week as you go to your Parent-Teacher Conferences. Tables will be set up outside the library with all "lost" items. Any items not "found" by Friday, 11/20, will be donated to the Good Will. (We are still looking for a garment rack to help display things in a more visible way.)

#### Safety Alert

As a school and parent community, we all need to be aware of any suspicious activity on, around or near our campus. We have experienced several acts of vandalism on our campus over the last few weeks, occurring over the weekend and in the late evening hours. If you observe anything, please contact the police (if appropriate) and notify the office as soon as possible.

#### From the Desk of Principal Terry Gavin Brown

Dear Pleasant Valley Families:  
We have a busy week coming up with lots to do but before I move forward I want to go back "in history" to Thursday when I visited Petaluma Adobe and Mrs. Baraban's class who was there on a field trip. The fourth grade history and social standards focus on California History and what a better place to teach the class then at a bona fide rancho where so much history took place. Mrs. Feller's class visited the rancho on October 29th.



Imagine a day during the Mexican Rancho Period (1834 - 1849) brought to life for the students through a series of lessons that culminated in a trip to Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park. The preparation took place weeks before as students studied the social, political, cultural and economic life and interactions of the people of early California. Students prepared for the event with planning, research and assumed the identity of an individual that lived during that time. Students spent "a day in the life of" Californios to gain historical perspective.

When I visited the Rancho, the sense of purpose and calm was clearly evident. The students were all involved in various important tasks. The main economic activity of the ranchos revolved around the hide and tallow trade but plenty of important chores kept students busy including weaving baskets to carry food and goods, preparing the mid-day meal, making candles, cleaning the fleece to make the wool and making corn husk dolls. Students spent 45 minutes at each task before rotating to the next to learn a new skill.

The trip was amazing and I want to acknowledge that without the help of parents this trip could not have happened. Parents were at each station, in dress and character, to teach and guide the students the various skills. Outstanding job parents!!!! We need to thank Deborah Baraban and Joan Fellers for organizing, planning and making this event come to life. This is dedication above and beyond but it is what they do to enrich the curriculum and make it come alive for our students. Their hard work resulted in a day students will never forget, a better understanding and appreciation for the past, a curiosity to learn more and a sense of joy that reflected in the smiles of our fourth grade time travelers.

Conferences are here. This is probably the most important time of the year. When parents and teachers talk and work together student achievement happens. First I want to remind you this is not an adversarial but a collaborative discussion. A report card is a reporting of how students are doing in a particular point of time and indicates where areas of strength and need are. It is really a guide for parents and teachers to take a look at and understand the student better in terms of academic and school needs.

Remember I'm a parent too and know it is easy to get caught up in the "report card" hoopla. We must be careful to keep our perspective. When we think of report cards like blue ribbons that we can show off to all the relatives then we become upset if a mark appears that is not in keeping with the "perfect student" image. It is easy to become sensitive about our kids during report card time. But I caution you, that as parents we need to be careful not to get too wrapped up in the "mark" and miss the message that there are areas where our child needs to improve. A report card when viewed as a tool to inform and guide is when it is most effective.

It is also important to make sure that we do not look at the report card and just assume this is "good enough." We need to ask ourselves and our kids "can you do better," especially if you know they can. While we do not want to stress our children out, we also need to make sure our expectations are set high enough so they are challenged. I remember (true story) Sheila Cunningham a friend and neighbor of mine looking at one of my homework papers. We were in fourth grade. She had a funny look on her face. "You're going to turn that in?" I said something like it was good enough and Sheila told me it could be better. She spent 15 minutes at most showing me how starting with simply underlining the title. Every time I underline something I think, and thank, Sheila. She taught me a valuable lesson that I believe in to this day. Good enough can be better. Habits like going that extra mile, finishing the work completely are much easier to develop in early grades as opposed to later on in life. So when you look at your child's report card, ask them one important question. Can it be better and how can the school and I help you accomplish help you make that happen?

Finally parents while these conferences are a minimum week for the students they are a maximum week for the teachers. Please be mindful of the time allowed you. Please be respectful in your words and reactions to our teachers who work so hard on behalf of your child.

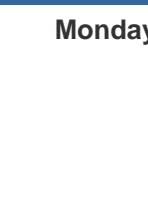
Our book fair is up and running. Thank you committee chairs and volunteers. What a beautiful display. Make sure to stop on by and see the great books and holiday gifts available to purchase and make your life a whole lot easier. One stop shopping what could be better.

Finally as we look forward to welcoming our Grandparents this week we do extend a special prayer to two of our PV families. One of our families lost a beloved Grandfather this week. Sadly we also learned that one of our favorite grandmas had a serious heart attack mid-week. We will miss having these beloved grandparents with us but they will be with us in spirit.

I look forward to seeing you this week PV families.

Sincerely,  
Terry Gavin Brown

#### Lunch Menu for Week of November 16th



**Monday 11/16:** Chicken Sandwich OR Chicken Caesar Salad  
**Tuesday 11/17:** Pizza Stuffed Crust  
**Wednesday 11/18:** Grilled Cheese Sandwich OR Taco Salad  
**Thursday 11/19:** HighTech Burrito OR Oriental Chicken Salad  
**Friday 11/20:** Turkey Hot Dog OR Taco Salad

**PLEASE NOTE THAT MONDAY LUNCH HAS CHANGED FROM THE SCHEDULE THAT WAS ORIGINALLY SENT OUT.**

#### Important Dates and Events

**Monday, November 16th - 20th:** EARLY DISMISSAL 12:30 ALL WEEK Grades 1-5 (Kindergarten schedule DOES NOT change)

**Monday, November 16th - 20th:** Parent-Teacher Conferences

**Monday, November 16th - 20th:** Book Fair in the Multi-use room

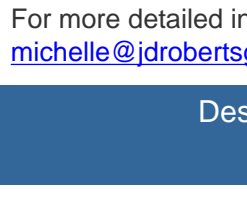
**Wednesday - Friday, November 18th - 20th -** Grandma's House

**Monday, November 23rd- 27th:** THANKSGIVING BREAK

**Tuesday, November 30th:** PTA Meeting, 7:00pm

[Go to the complete school calendar on the PV website](#)

#### Over the River to Grandma's House...



Grandma's Day is fast approaching, and we're looking forward to seeing many of our students' grandparents on campus to read stories to the children and help serve up muffins and hot apple cider.

The event is scheduled for Wednesday through Friday of next week (Nov. 18th - 20th). There are several things you can do to help your child fully enjoy the events of the day:

- Sign up that special grandparent to attend the event by sending an email to: [lcacey@nUSD.org](mailto:lcacey@nUSD.org) **Deadline to sign up is Monday, November 16th.**
- Encourage the grandparent(s) to write a letter to your child. Send it to the school, and it will be delivered to them when their class visits Grandma's house.
- Submit a picture of your child with their grandparent(s) to [pvgrandparents@gmail.com](mailto:pvgrandparents@gmail.com) to have it included in a slideshow that will be shown during their class visit. **The deadline for picture submissions is Sunday, November 15th.**

There are also several volunteer opportunities:

- We need 13 gallons of apple cider.
- Volunteers are still needed to help on the days of the event.
- Help transform the Science Lab into "Grandma's House". Decorations/props are welcome.
- Rocking Chairs (please contact the office first, if you have a chair we can borrow)

For more detailed information, please see the "Over the River..." email from November 4th or contact [michelle@jdrobertsgroup.com](mailto:michelle@jdrobertsgroup.com) with questions or to volunteer.

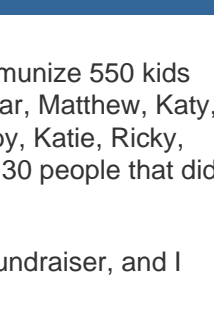
#### Destination Book Fair is here! Book Fair opens Monday at 8:00am!

**Date:** November 16th -20th  
**Hours:** Monday - Thursday: 8am - 2pm, Friday: 8am - 1pm

**Kick Off Party:** Monday at 12:30  
**Family Shopping Night:** Wednesday 6:30-8:30

The classroom walk through schedule is in today's Friday Folder.

Monday is "Dress Like A Tourist Day!" Have your child wear their silliest tourist garb or country-themed clothing.



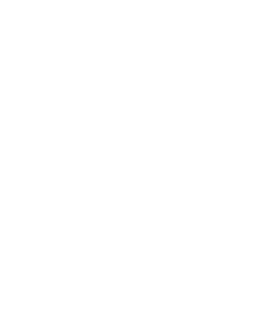
#### Unicef a Big Success!!

WOW!! Congratulations! We have collected more than \$473.00, which is enough to immunize 550 kids against measles. A big thank you to Perry Borders, Nicole Stark, Jahmal, Emily M, Omar, Matthew, Katy, Elliott, James, Chet, Connor, Cate, Jacqueline, Olivia, Alyssa, Kyle, Mairead, Ellse, Abby, Katie, Ricky, Emely R., Ryan, Olivia, Ella, Danielle, Lood, Mikayla, Namoi, Bella, Peter, and the other 30 people that did not put their names on their boxes.

THANK YOU. There is still time to turn in your boxes Trick or Treat is Unicef's biggest fundraiser, and I am proud of all of you for contributing. --Debby Kendrick

#### SUPER SPORTS CAMP WITH MR. MAHONEY

Join Mr. Mahoney for a fun-filled 3-day sports camp located at the Novato Teen Center. Dates: November 23-25, from 10:15 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. We will play a wide variety of cooperative and competitive games emphasizing good sportsmanship. To register, please call 415-899-8200 (City of Novato, Parks & Recreation) Class Code Number 13792. Please remember to send your child with appropriate clothing and shoes, snack and a lunch.



#### Thanksgiving Food Drive

Thank you to all the families who generously donated an abundance of food and gift cards for our Thanksgiving Food Drive. All donations will be disbursed to local families through Novato Human Needs and the Marin Community Food Bank. Your generosity will surely make a difference to those in need.

#### Free H1N1 Flu Vaccination Clinics for High Risk Individuals

The following Marin clinics will provide free vaccinations for HIGH RISK Marin County residents High risk individuals include:

- pregnant women
- those who live with or care for infants (under six months of age)
- healthcare and emergency medical services personnel
- children and young adults (age six months through 24 years)
- adults (age 25 to 64) with medical conditions that might increase risk (such as asthma, heart disease, diabetes, or immunosuppression)

Saturday, November 14th from 9 am to 4 pm (while vaccine supplies last)  
Marin Health and Wellness Center  
3240 Kerner Boulevard in San Rafael

Wednesday, November 18th from 3 pm to 7 pm (while vaccine supplies last)  
West Marin Elementary School  
11550 Highway 1 in Point Reyes Station

Thursday, November 19th from 3 pm to 7 pm (while vaccine supplies last)  
Manzanita Recreation Center  
630 Drake Avenue in Marin City

Saturday, December 5th from 9 am to 4 pm (while vaccine supplies last)  
Location to be determined ASAP  
Novato

\*\*\*\* Only H1N1 vaccinations will be available at these clinics; no seasonal flu shots. \*\*\*\*

FOR MORE INFORMATION about H1N1 flu or flu vaccinations visit [www.marinflu.org](http://www.marinflu.org) OR call the H1N1 flu "warm line" at 473-6823 (leave a message and it will be returned as soon as possible).

#### YMCA @ PV

The YMCA @ Pleasant Valley School is competitively enrolling new families in our On-Net Child Care Program. We are competing with the other Marin Ys. The site that enrolls in our children gets a free Kid's Night Out for the parents and a free pizza & movie party for the kids. Please ask about our convenient drop-in program and our reasonable one-hour-per-day before and after school programs. We are investigating enrichment programs to make your child's time at the Y even more exciting. Contact Shyla Bauer if you have any questions 415-892-7476. Thank you!

#### Upcoming PV YMCA Events Include:

- Children's Holiday Craft Fair on November 30th through December 4th
- Pizza, Pajama, and Movie Party on Friday, January 22 from 6:00 to 9:00

#### Please note the YMCA's November Childcare Schedule:

- Nov. 16 through 20th- Parent/Teacher conference week 7-6:30 pm. Children come over after their dismissal at 12:30.
- Nov. 23, 24, 25- Thanksgiving Week: Nov. 23 and 24 from 7:00am to 6:30pm, and Nov.25 from 7:00 to noon at Loma Verde (sign up at PV YMCA).

#### News From School Fuel

There are now three new ways for Novato families to help the schools when they do their business around town, without any additional cost to them:

**1. Finnegan's Marin** - For November and December, 2009, Finnegan's will donate \$1 per diner for when you mention School Fuel to your server. This offer is valid only for dine-in meals.

**2. Red Boy Pizza** - Mention School Fuel or the Novato schools at Red Boy in Ignacio and it will donate back 10% of the purchase price for dine-in and take-out orders.

**3. Marriott Courtyard** - The Hamilton Marriott Courtyard is offering a special promotion through November and December 2009 - a 10% discounted rate, and a 10% donation to School Fuel. Mention the "Novato Schools Rate" if booking by phone or book [online](#).

#### Marin Treks New Science Nights and Vacation Camps

[Marin Treks](#) continues its support for School Fuel with Science Nights and vacation day camps at their natural history museum. Marin Treks will donate 10% of each admission on Science Nights (held Nov. 13, Dec. 4 and Dec. 11) to School Fuel. For day camps over the Thanksgiving and Holiday breaks, Marin Treks will give back 5% of each camp fee to School Fuel.

**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.