

PV Views



November 20, 2009

Happy Thanksgiving! No school next week. Enjoy your holiday!

In the Office

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Quick Links

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Dine & Donate

Please join **Mary's Pizza Shack** in supporting Pleasant Valley PTA at a **Dine & Donate Fundraiser on TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1st!** Twenty percent of your purchase will be donated to the PTA when you present the Mary's Pizza Shack flyer with your order. Pick one up at the office on Monday, November 30th or Tuesday, December 1st. See you there!!

Newsletter Submissions

news4pv@yahoo.com

From the Desk of Principal Terry Gavin Brown

Dear Parents:

What a productive week here at Pleasant Valley. Five days of quality instruction for our students, five days of parent-teacher conferencing to determine better ways to meet the needs of the students, five days at a busy book fair with dedicated volunteers providing countless hours to ensure time for students to browse through the books and finally three days of loving grandparents visiting the school to participate in our Over the River Days.



Some of the highlights of the week: Tuesday, Jeff King, Principal of San Jose Middle School and district leader in the No Excuses-Commitment to Excellence Program, stopped by for a tour of the school. By 8:35 a.m. small group learning circles were up and running in grades one, two and three. Parent volunteers were working in each of the grade levels and our Instructional Aides were already involved in small group focus work. Mrs. Baraban's class was headed into the library while another class headed to the book fair. No wasted instruction time. What was impressive is the way this school gets up and running so quickly in the morning, the number of volunteers to work with our small group learning centers and the Instructional aide focus groups.

Conferences: It seemed from early morning to late evening, classroom teachers were busy meeting with parents. Teachers were exhausted by end of the week but satisfied that these conversations strengthened communication between home and school. I want to thank the teachers for all the extra work that goes along with the demands of a school's conference week.

Thank you to our book fair chairs Pamela Fox and Jennifer Opegard. What an amazing book fair. We appreciate the time and work that went into this event. Unsung heroes who worked tirelessly for the children.

This week we brought Lydia Marie Child's Thanksgiving poem to life by decorating our campus and creating a grandmother's house for students to visit. Though the poem is over 150 years old its message is still there. Thank you to our artistic designers, Kate Mulligan and Sherry Clark, your artistic talents are amazing. Thank you to Katherine Johnson and Cynthia Fry for overseeing the setting up of the room. And to the other "behind the scene" helpers, your thanks is greatly appreciated. The 3-days of "Grandma's House" could not have happened without all of your help.

Enjoy this week with your family and loved ones. I wish you all a very Happy Thanksgiving.

Sincerely,
Terry Gavin Brown

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Important Dates and Events

Monday, November 23rd- 27th: THANKSGIVING BREAK

Monday, November 30th: PTA Meeting, 7:00pm

Tuesday, December 1st: NUSD Board Meeting, 7:00pm

Wednesday, December 9th: Holiday Hope Assembly

Wednesday, December 9th: Home for the Holidays, 6:00 to 7:00pm

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

Reflections Art Program

Calling all Artists!

It is time for the annual PTA Reflections Program, where students can showcase their artistic talents in six different artistic categories: Literature, Musical Composition, Photography, Visual Arts, Dance Choreography, and Film/Video Production.

The theme of this year's Reflections Program is "Beauty is. . ."

Students are invited to design a piece in one of the six art areas that represents this theme. The deadline for entries is December 1, 2009. See your arts teacher or go to the front office for entry forms and guidelines. Entries may be submitted to the front office on or before Tuesday, December 1st. All entries must be the work of only one student and must be original works and must relate to the theme "Beauty is. . ."

Entries are judged at the local, state and national levels. Winners will be selected in each of the six art categories and given Awards of Excellence and Awards of Merit, which are recognized and displayed as part of the national PTA program's traveling exhibit. Participation is open to all students.

The National PTA Reflections Program is an arts recognition and achievement program for students. For 40 years, the program has provided students an opportunity to express themselves creatively and receive positive recognition for original works of art inspired by the annual theme, which this year is "Beauty is. . ." The program also seeks to increase community awareness of the importance of the arts in education.

For more information, please call Tim Davidson, Pleasant Valley's Reflections Representative or go to the [California State PTA Reflections Home Page](#). Look for Entry Forms both in English and Spanish and Previous Years Winners on the right panel.

Run/Walk Club

Last week the Walk Run Club went very smoothly thanks to our volunteers: Jen Duncan, Milla Oumnov, Jenny Reid, Caroline Ruggiero, Holly Brown, Susan Roca, Jennifer LoScalzo and Michelle Roberts. Thank you!!!

All students are welcome to participate in the Walk/Run Club. It is a free, optional activity for all students and teachers to enjoy. They can chose to walk or run as much or as little as they would like, it is up to the child. We are there to encourage and support them in their exercise goals and healthy habits. Our next walk/run days will be on Dec 3 and 10th.

Our grace period for returning permission slips has finished, so if your child doesn't have a permission slip on file with the walk/run club they will not be permitted to participate until the form has been completed. EVERY CHILD MUST HAVE A COMPLETED PERMISSION SLIP! Permission forms can be obtained from and returned to the school office. Thank you.

Students who participate in running events on the weekends or holidays can present their race numbers or ribbons as proof of mileage and have the distance added to their walk/run card. Check out the [Turkey Trot](#) to sponsor School Fuel on Nov. 26th.

eScrip Online Mall -- You Shop, We Earn!

With holiday shopping just around the corner, you can shop at over 1,000 of your favorite online merchants and earn up to 16% of your purchases for Pleasant Valley. Online merchants include:

Apple Store, Barnes & Noble, Best Buy, Disney, eBay, Gap, Netflix, Old Navy, Petsmart.com, Restaurant.com, Sony, Toys R Us & more!

It's as easy as 1-2-3:

1. Enroll with www.escrip.com (Pleasant Valley Group ID# 136915186)
2. Click on the Online Mall logo at www.escrip.com
3. Shop at your favorite brand name stores and contributions are automatically donated to PV.

While you are at the Online Mall, Download "AutoEARN" to earn contributions every time you shop without having to visit the Online Mall first!

If you have any questions, please contact eScrip coordinator, Nancy Shepardson at oneill.no@comcast.net.

Thank You From the PTA!

Pleasant Valley is so proud to participate in such wonderful opportunities to help out the community.

Thanks to Debby Kendrick for coordinating, collecting and counting the money raised for the Trick or Treat UNICEF fundraiser! The kids did a great job!

Thanks to Michelle Roberts, for once again coordinating the Holiday Share with the Novato Human Needs and the Marin Community Food Bank! Thanks to all who volunteered their time and donated food to help families in need with their Thanksgiving dinner!

A very BIG thank you Jennifer Opegard and Pamela Fox for coordinating our outstanding book fair this year! During the week, the children and parents all had a fun time shopping and we're enjoying reading many great books! Thank you Angie Houlahan for coordinating the volunteers to help with the book fair. Thank you ladies for taking this on, and doing such a terrific job!

-- Heather Sargent and Kathy Towey

YMCA @ PV

The YMCA @ Pleasant Valley School is looking for new families to enroll in our On-Site Child Care Program. Please help us win the Enrollment Contest. We are competing with the other Marin Y's. Shyla has promised a free Kid's Night Out for the parents and a free Pizza & Movie Party for the kids, if we win. Contact Shyla Bauer if you have any questions at 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 DECEMBER CHILDCARE SCHEDULE:

December 21, 22, 23, 24 - Christmas Week: Dec. 21, 22 and 23 from 7:00am to 6:30pm and Dec. 24 from 7:00 to noon at Loma Verde (sign up at PV YMCA)

December 28, 29, 30, 31- New Year's Week: December 28, 29 and 30 from 7:00am to 6:30pm and Dec 31 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% donation to School Fuel, 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 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.

H1N1 Flu Information

Various Marin clinics are providing free vaccinations for HIGH RISK Marin County residents. For complete information about H1N1 flu, clinics, or flu vaccinations visit 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).

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.