

# The Paradise Valley Paw Print

September 2014

Dear Paradise Valley Families,

Greetings and welcome to the 2014-15 school year! We have the first day of school behind us and everyone is off to a great start. Paradise Valley Staff and I are excited to be working with your child/children. This school year we will continue to learn new things, embrace the new Common Core State Standards, and experience many fun school events. As a staff, we are committed to educating and supporting ALL children to ensure they are college and career ready. We believe in whole-child development through character development and building citizenship in our students. Project Cornerstone assets are an integral part of our students' daily educational experience, and we emphasize positive choices through three school rules: Be Safe, Be Respectful, and Be Responsible (3 B's).

After a full year of planning, preparation, and professional development, our teachers will implement California's Common Core State Standards in English Language Arts and Mathematics this year. These new standards and the attendant Smarter Balanced Assessment officially replace the California State Standards and the STAR tests in English Language Arts and Mathematics beginning this year. The new standards are intentionally designed to better prepare students for college and career and emphasize collaboration, communication, critical thinking, and real-world project-based learning. You will notice that your child's homework and classwork will be considerably different from previous years. Our staff will be covering more about these standards at the Back to School night presentations on September 16<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 – 7:30 pm.

Our summer has been a busy one with all the construction upgrades at our school. Measure G funding has provided for our school roof to be reroofed, student and staff bathrooms to be upgraded, new HVAC to be installed, and we now have two new portable classrooms. We are excited about these upgrades!

Parent and community involvement is vital to the success of all at Paradise Valley. I encourage you to stay connected with our school through on-going communication with your child's teacher, through numerous volunteering opportunities, and more. Please consider joining our Parent Advisory Groups such as the School Site Council (SSC), English Learner Advisory Committee (ELAC) and Home and School Club. There are many ways for you to support our school, and the more parent support we have, the more programs we can bring to Paradise Valley. By working together, we can ensure that students have a happy and successful educational experience.

In upcoming editions of this newsletter, you will be hearing from me on a variety of topics ranging from activities and events to school accountability and test results. I look forward to the opportunity to share with you the many exciting things going on at Paradise Valley Elementary School. I hope you and your child/children have a wonderful start to the school year. Welcome to Paradise!

Sincerely,

*Swati Dagar*

Mrs. Swati Dagar, Principal, Paradise Valley Elementary School

Produced by the PV Home & School Association, Inc. (HSA)

<http://www.paradise.mhu.k12.ca.us/> & <http://paradisevalleyhsa.org/Home>



# What's Coming Up

## September

- 1 Labor Day No School
- 5 Back to School BBQ 4:30 p.m.
- 19 School Site Council Meeting 2:15 p.m.
- 13 Panther Prowl Sponsorships Due
- 15-19 Book Fair, Library
- 16 Back to School Night 6:00-8:00 p.m.
- 23 Fall Pictures
- 25 Home & School Assoc. Mtg 7:50 a.m.

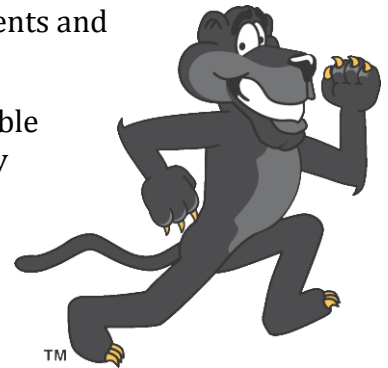
## October - National Bullying Prevention Month

- 3 Panther Prowl Assembly
- 9 Home & School Assoc. Mtg 7:50 a.m.
- 17 Panther Prowl Run
- 20 Unity Day Assemblies
- 22 National Bullying Prevention Unity Day  
Wear Orange to Show Support!
- 28 Picture Make Up Day
- 30 Great Pumpkin Display
- 31 Halloween Parade

## Get Your Walking Shoes On for the Fourth Annual Panther Prowl!

Paradise Valley hosts the school's walk-a-thon on Friday, October 17th. This kid-favorite event has been a huge success, raising close to \$100,000 to help fund the extras our PV students and teachers so greatly deserve!

Parent and corporate sponsors are needed. There are multiple, tax-deductible sponsorship levels! In return for sponsorships of \$50 or more, the company name/logo or family name will appear on the walk-a-thon pledge forms distributed to approximately 700 students. Sponsorships of \$250 or more earn the name/logo on the pledge sheet and on a banner hung during the month of October in front of our school. To become a sponsor contact: Jill Moyer, [jbmoyer1@aol.com](mailto:jbmoyer1@aol.com), or Amy Oselinsky, [aoselinsky@yahoo.com](mailto:aoselinsky@yahoo.com). Sponsors are due Friday, September 12.



## Join the Fun at the Back-to-School BBQ & Carnival, Sept 5<sup>th</sup>

Don't miss it! Friday, September 5, 4:30-7:30 p.m. Join your teachers, family and friends for a fantastic evening of carnival games, crazy hair, cotton candy, snow cones and much more! Barbeque dinners will be available for purchase; choices are a hamburger or hot dog with a drink and chips for only \$5.00! Delicious Chicken Caesar salads will also be available for \$8.00.

## Paradise Valley Book Fair

Join the school staff and students at this year's annual Book Fair, Monday, September 15, through Friday, September 19, in the school's library. Support your kids' classrooms, the library, and their own reading habits with affordable choices for every reading level and age. To volunteer contact: Lori Edwards at [ninalori@hotmail.com](mailto:ninalori@hotmail.com).



## Order Yearbooks Now

Order yearbooks online by December 1 for \$20 each at [paradisevalleyhsa.org](http://paradisevalleyhsa.org). Order forms will also appear in Friday folders in September. Questions or to help with photos, contact Gina Girouard at [yearbook@girouardfamily.com](mailto:yearbook@girouardfamily.com).

# People That Make a Difference

## Summer Renovations at PV

Measure G funds enabled renovations in three major areas this past summer. The school now has a new HVAC system throughout the facility. A new roof was added to all three buildings. Restroom upgrades were done in the student and staff restrooms.

Two new portables were placed on the campus over the summer. Currently one is a fourth grade classroom and the other serves special education students.

During the upcoming school year, technology upgrades will be implemented across the district. Also, the MHUSD School Board is looking at a possible new multi-purpose room for Paradise Valley.

## School Garden Flourishes

Paradise Valley has seen reduced water usage due to the ongoing drought. The grounds are watered three times weekly, but the condition of the grass shows the effects of less water. However, one part of the campus is blooming. The school garden, between the Y Child Care portable and the Kindergarten wing, is producing and flowering profusely. Parent and staff volunteers started the garden in April. Some of the beds contain espaliered fruit trees, tomatoes, parsley, beans, dill, and flowers such as impatiens, sweet peas, day lilies, dahlias and petunias. Classrooms have adopted flower beds, and working there helps students understand nature is a part of our lives and we need to take care of it.

## Join the Black Knights Chess Club for Some After-School Fun

Black Knights Chess Club will meet most Wednesdays, starting October 1st in the cafeteria 12:50-1:30. Chess club is open to all students in grades 1-6 and is a fun way for students to learn or improve their chess skills. Students will play chess and learn strategies with a tournament in the Spring. Complete the Black Knights Chess Club form and return it to your teacher or the office. Forms are available on the HSA website, in your Friday Folder and outside the school office. To volunteer to help on Wednesdays after school or if you have questions, contact Jenny Sakauye at [jennychan204@gmail.com](mailto:jennychan204@gmail.com)



## Fundraise While You Shop—With Scrip!

When you use scrip gift cards instead of cash, checks or credit cards at your favorite retailers, you are fundraising while you shop. Sign up to pay for your scrip gift cards online with PrestoPay™, the convenient payment system available on ShopWithScrip.com. When you use PrestoPay, your order payment is transferred securely via electronic debit. Not only will it achieve our green initiative, but you will automatically be put in each drawing for a free \$10.00 script of your choice! Drawings will be held throughout the year! All you need to do is sign up now! Once you receive your secure approval code, send it to Mary via email or call the number below. If you have any questions, please visit [www.ShopWithScrip.com](http://www.ShopWithScrip.com) or email Mary Lineen, Scrip Coordinator at [mslineen@gmail.com](mailto:mslineen@gmail.com) or call at (408)420-0472.

# Programs That Make a Difference



## Get Involved and Make a Difference for Your Kids!

Studies show that parental involvement in a child's education is one of the most important factors in raising student self-esteem and academic achievement.

Researchers have been studying the effects parent attitudes and actions have on their children's academic success for more than 30 years. The

results have been consistent. When parents are involved in their children's education at home, they do better in school. And when parents are involved in school, children go farther in school and the schools they go to are better.

When parents are involved in their children's education, the children are more likely to:

- Earn better grades.
- Score higher on tests
- Attend school regularly.
- Have better social skills.
- Show improved behavior.
- Be more positive in their attitude toward school.
- Complete homework assignments.
- Graduate and continue their education.

Moreover, most experts agree that parental involvement should go beyond attendance at teacher conferences and open house. We realize, however, that each of our families is unique – with its own priorities, needs, talents, and time constraints –and so we try to provide as many different kinds of opportunities for parental involvement as possible.

Please check out the volunteer opportunities on the Home & School Association website, and find the right volunteer opportunity for you! Or tell us what you would like to do! For more information or to sign up, see:

<https://paradisevalleyhsa.ourschoolpages.com/Packet/Volunteer/VolunteeringPacketPage/1>

## Surf's Up on the HSA Website

The HSA's website is back and is better than ever. This easy-to-navigate website contains information on every aspect of the HSA's work and general activities at school and gives parents an easy way to stay informed. Available on the website are the school's calendar, copies of the *Paw Print* newsletter, links to all HSA programs and activities, bell schedule, lunch menu, Common Core Standards, and much more. It also contains links to the variety of software programs for the students, such as IXL Math, BrainPop, BrainPop Jr., and the Accelerated Reader websites. For questions about the site, please contact Kimberly Leaman-Silva, [kimleamansilva@me.com](mailto:kimleamansilva@me.com).

**To receive your Friday folder info electronically, please sign up at the HSA website under the "First Day Packet" link at the bottom of the left side navigation bar.**