

Measuring Progress

JANUARY 2012

PALOS VERDES PENINSULA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

VOLUME 18

A Message from the Superintendent

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND District staff, I wish you a very happy and successful new year. The holiday season always provides an opportunity for reflection, especially the many reasons to be thankful. In the PVPUSD, I am thankful for the fact that I am a Superintendent in a community that is committed to providing the highest quality educational programs possible for students. I know it has been said many times in the past, but it is important to recognize the fact that the Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District provides the benefits of a private school education, in a public school setting. Student achievement over the past six years has improved each and every year. It requires a commitment from the entire community to maintain this level of success.

State support for the public school system will remain uncertain. The Board of Education approved the First Interim Report on December 8th. This mandated report included the loss of \$3+ million in State income. School districts are now waiting to determine the impact of the Governor's proposed 2012-13 budget on future revenue. We will send out additional information once we have the opportunity to evaluate the impact of the Governor's budget plan on PVPUSD.

Thankfully, the community supported Measure M (parcel tax) in order to soften the blow from ongoing State budget shortfalls. On November 8th, 68.8% of the voters in PVPUSD said yes to continuing financial support for our local public school system. It is important to thank Julie Trell, Kim Rutledge, and the entire Measure M team for working so hard to get the message out to the community.

Finally, I want to recognize Pearl Iizuka for her leadership as the Deputy Superintendent of Business Services since 2004. Pearl guided the District through one of the toughest economic times in recent history. Her expertise allowed the District to maintain a high level of educational excellence, despite State budget reductions. Once Pearl announced her retirement, District leaders conducted an extensive search for her successor. I am pleased to announce that on December 13th, the Board of Education employed Lydia Cano as the new Deputy Superintendent. Lydia has over twelve years of experience as the Assistant Superintendent of Business Services and Director of Fiscal Services for the El Rancho Unified School District (Los Angeles County) and the Little Lake City School District. She has the experience, knowledge, and expertise to guide the District through difficult budget times.

Walker Williams

Walker Williams, Superintendent of Schools



November 2011 recipients of the Chuck Miller Grant (see page two).

District Partnerships

Point Vicente Interpretive Center



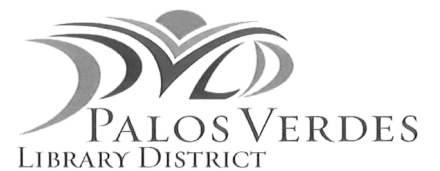
Thanks to a grant sponsored by the Los Serenos de Point Vicente,

all fourth grade students in PVPUSD will participate in a field trip to the Point Vicente Interpretive Center (PVIC) this spring. The Los Serenos Docents prepared the presentations and activities for the trip following a meeting with fourth grade teachers. The presentations on local history and geology are aligned with the State standards in science and history.



Students and teachers are excited about the field trip that will instill pride in our community by introducing students to the treasures in our own backyard and reinforcing our

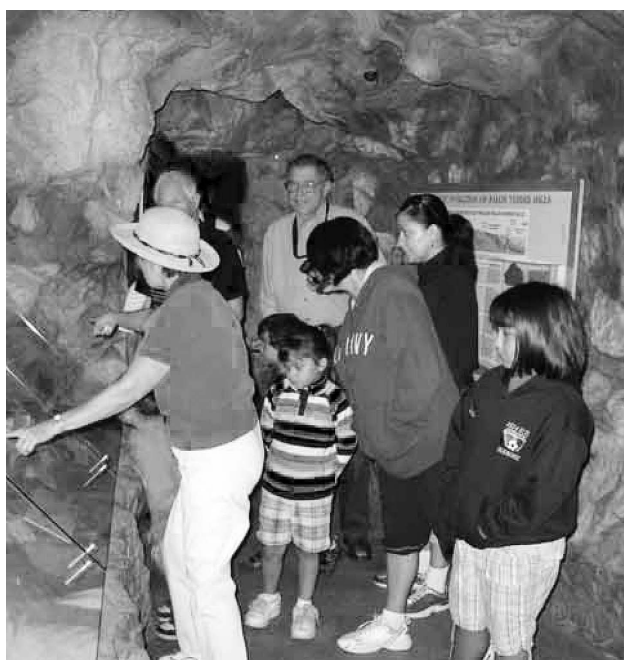
collective responsibility to preserve them for future generations. The District is most appreciative to Herb Stark and the docents for providing this unique opportunity for our students, as well as Holly Starr and the staff at PVIC for coordinating the program.



PV Library Gets the Scoop on Homework with "Ace Reporters"

The Palos Verdes Library District (PVL) has teamed with the school district to enhance services that meet the homework needs of our students. Working under a

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Los Serenos docents bring local history and science to life for PVPUSD 4th graders at the Point Vicente Interpretive Center.



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Important information about our local schools

2012–2013 Enrollment Information

High Quality Preschool Programs— Enroll Now for Fall

Both MELA (Miraleste Early Learning Academy) and VELA (Valmonte Early Learning Academy) enroll children ages 2 - 5. Highly qualified preschool teachers promote exemplary early childhood experiences. Small staff/student ratios mean that students receive meaningful adult interaction for learning. The preschool curriculum is carefully designed to prepare students to successfully enter the kindergarten programs in PVPUSD. Enrichment activities are incorporated into the day and include music, art, yoga, sports, cooking, and gymnastics.

Sites open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 6:00 p.m. Enrollment options include both full and part-time schedules.

For information contact: **Carolyn Brown Martinez**, VELA Site Director: 310 791-5078, ext. 578; or **Mary Ellen Haworth**, MELA Site Director: 310 732-0922, ext. 200

New Laws on Kindergarten Enrollment Eligibility

The State of California has changed the law related to Kindergarten enrollment. SB 1381 requires a child to be five years old on or before November 1st in order to legally start Kindergarten in the 2012-13 school year. A child with a birth date between November 2nd and December 2nd, 2007, will now be eligible for the District's Transitional Kindergarten or preschool programs.

Transitional Kindergarten

Kindergarten aged students are also eligible to enroll in TK if the District's assessment and screening process determines they would benefit from a two year kindergarten program.

The PVPUSD Transitional Kindergarten (TK) program provides a bridge for those children who need the gift of time. The additional time is essential for helping some students become more confident as they move to the next level of academic achievement. Our Transitional Kindergarten program has a comprehensive curriculum that includes the same content as kindergarten but meets the needs of the student at a pace that has been adapted to best suit his/her abilities. Quite simply, TK is very similar to kindergarten, but it is designed for a child who is not quite ready for the entire kindergarten program.

The greatest gift of Transitional Kindergarten is that it provides a way for children to enter school at different levels of social-emotional and interpersonal maturity. Ideally, children would come out of preschool with many of the skills they need for a successful kindergarten experience. In the real world, not all preschools are alike, nor do all children attend a preschool that teaches the skills needed for success in the early primary grades. A TK screening is conducted for all children whose parents are concerned that their son/daughter might not be ready for kindergarten.

TK functions as a real transition between the child-centered curriculum of preschool and the academic expectations of elementary school. In every sense, transitional kindergarten is a gift to your child, allowing for more time to experience the joy of play-based learning, giving them the best of both worlds.

For more information contact:
Jody Pastell at (310) 378-9966, ext. 163

Kindergarten Orientation / Enrollment Information for 2012-13

Parent Orientation meetings for PVPUSD's highly successful kindergarten program will take place on

February 6th and 7th at 7:00 PM. Duplicate meetings are being offered at two different locations to ensure that all interested parents can attend. The meetings will be held at Vista Grande Elementary School on Monday, February 6th, and at Dapplegray Elementary School on Tuesday, February 7th.

Kindergarten Enrollment Information for 2012-13

Kindergarten registration packets will be available in all school offices starting Tuesday, February 15, 2012. Parents enrolling children in kindergarten must, at the time of registration, present proof (birth certificate or passport) that the child was born on or before November 1, 2007. Parents must also present proof that they reside within the school district boundaries.

For more information contact:
Jody Pastell at (310) 378-9966, ext. 163

Recreation / Community Programs Department

Please call (310) 541-7626 to learn more about these other District programs.

- ▶ **Elementary Before/After School Day Care—
"PV Kids' Corner"**
- ▶ **Intermediate After School Care—
"Teen Scene"**
- ▶ **Elementary School Enrichment Program**
- ▶ **Adult Education Classes**

High School Orientation Programs for Freshman Class of 2012 / Enrollment Information

Students entering high school in 2012-13 are encouraged to attend the 8th grade orientation programs for our nationally recognized high schools. The Palos Verdes Peninsula High School orientation is on January 25th at 5:30 p.m. The Palos Verdes High School orientation is scheduled for February 1st at 5:30 p.m.

Current private school students interested in transferring to either Peninsula High or Palos Verdes High in September are encouraged to contact the following individuals for more information.

Greg Puccia (Peninsula High):
(310) 377-4888, ext. 273

Kristen Huber (Palos Verdes High):
(310) 378-8471, ext. 601

The high school selection process will take place from January 13th through February 17, 2012.

Enrollment Based on Parent Employment

This month, the Board of Education will determine whether residency status based on parent employment will be granted for the 2012-13 school year.

If approved by the Board, applications will be posted on the District website at pvpusd.k12.ca.us, and will be accepted by mail beginning March 19, 2012.

The District will only place admitted students at a site or in a class in which there is available space. This may result in the student not being placed in the parent/guardian's first choice. A determination of space availability by grade level and program will be made on or before the Friday of the first week of school in Fall 2012.

For information, contact **Jana Beck** at (310) 896-3401 or beck@pvpusd.k12.ca.us

District Partnerships

Continued from page 1

grant approved by the California State Library, children's librarian Michael Barb has dubbed the nine-month project "Ace Reporters." This pilot effort, which kicks off in January 2012, will focus exclusively on 4th and 5th graders. Working closely with Dr. Susan Liberati and the district's curriculum department, teachers, and elementary school principals, the PVLD will conduct in-class training sessions to teach students the best means of using the library's print and digital collections to complete their school reports and assigned reading.

For more information, feel free to contact PVLD's **Michael Barb** at (310) 377-9584, ext. 216, or mbarb@pvld.org.

Chuck Miller Grants Peninsula Education Foundation

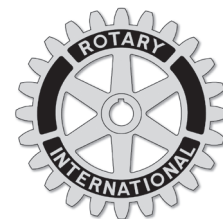


The Peninsula Education Foundation (PEF) continued its long history of supporting classroom instruction by providing 51 grants

to teachers who were recognized at a well-attended reception in November. Thanks to the PEF, \$35,000 in "Chuck Miller Grants" will benefit PVPUSD students through supplemental books, instructional materials, software programs, writing development, science & technology support, and much more.

The Chuck Miller Grants are part of the \$2.7 million pledge that PEF has made to the District for 2011-12, so that we can employ more teachers/counselors and continue to provide programs such as elementary music, world language, and high school technology programs such as PVIT and SMERT. Please help PEF continue its support of PVPUSD schools through your generous donations.

Educators of the Year



THANKS to the Palos Verdes Peninsula Rotary Club, the entire school community in

Palos Verdes recently honored eleven public and private school teachers, four of them from the Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District. **Marilyn Craft** (Point Vicente Elementary), **Kathryn Burson** (Soleado Elementary), **Paul Woodward** (Ridgecrest Intermediate), and **Tecia Barton** (Palos Verdes High) are examples of the outstanding teachers who make the public school system in this community so successful.