Superintendent’s Message

I hope everyone had a healthy and happy holiday season.

This is an exciting time of year for the Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District as we focus on welcoming the parents of preschoolers and kindergarteners to register their children in our outstanding elementary schools and preschool programs. Furthermore, rising eighth graders and their parents will be choosing which of our exemplary high schools they will attend in the fall.

In this issue of Measuring Progress, we will detail the preschool, kindergarten and high school registration deadlines. We will update the district’s budget situation and the progress being made on our renovation and construction projects as well.

Additionally, in light of the tragedy that took place in Newtown, Conn., we are working with school administrators and various agencies to review our school safety procedures. Our goal is to enhance our practices and make the learning environment as safe as possible for all students and staff.

We continue to be grateful for all of our school volunteers and for those who make financial contributions to support our schools through the Peninsula Education Foundation and the local Parent Teacher Associations and booster clubs.

Walker Williams, Superintendent of Schools
supt@pvpusd.k12.ca.us

Anticipating that state school funding will remain flat, PVPUSD is projecting that it will continue to deficit spend over the next two years, relying on reserves to balance the budget. Cano says the district will have more direction about its projected state funding after Gov. Brown releases his budget this month and the PVPUSD Board of Education has a chance to review its implications.

While the district will likely face more budget cuts in 2013–2014, Cano credits the district’s “financially conservative” school board for ensuring that PVPUSD is faring better financially than some of its counterparts around the state. The district is borrowing money from its own reserves to meet operational costs, pay its employees and protect programs.

Meanwhile, for the current school year, Proposition 30 did allow PVPUSD to restore the following instructional days to the calendar: Jan. 28, Feb. 8, Apr. 22 and May 17. May 24 will be a student-free day and a professional development day for teachers.

It’s Time to Enroll Students

Parents of preschoolers, incoming kindergarteners and rising eighth graders please note the important enrollment information featured on the back of this newsletter. Palos Verdes High School and Palos Verdes Peninsula High School students recently gathered to discuss high school enrollment. Pictured from right to left are Theo Wendorff, Carolyn Michaels, Pecko Lin, Selina Lee, Juwairiah Syed, Annelise Kostrencich, Jamie Black and Tim Cotter.

Ridgecrest Intermediate sixth graders work on their social studies lessons in Ms. Lajoie’s class. Pictured at top are Toni Fond, Misato Shimizu, Elyssa Miranda Lavertu, Minami Yamaura and Lauren Kong. Pictured on the bottom are Sofia Molina, Erika Hsu, Matthew Lin, Nicholas Wang and Rachel Liu.

PVPUSD Budget Update

The Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District (PVPUSD) will likely be spared from making drastic budget reductions over the next two years thanks to the passage of Proposition 30 — Gov. Jerry Brown’s school funding ballot initiative.

However, the district will still need to make budget reductions for the 2013–2014 fiscal year because the ballot initiative, which voters approved in November, failed to generate new revenue for public schools. The ballot measure also did not restore money lost since state school funding began shrinking in 2007.

Lydia Cano, PVPUSD deputy superintendent for business services, says Proposition 30 was a temporary solution to California’s public school funding crisis.

Currently, California school districts’ expenditures exceed their income. As a result, school systems need roughly a 3 percent increase in funding to stay afloat — anything less will trigger budget cuts, she says.

Palmos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District
375 Via Almar
Palos Verdes Estates
California 90274-1277

310-378-9966
www.pvpusd.k12.ca.us
Enrollment Information & Events

Preschool
PVPSUD's preschool program has small staff-to-student ratios providing children ages 2 to 5 with personal interactions with adults. The preschool curriculum prepares children to thrive in kindergarten. Children enjoy enrichment activities such as yoga, art and sports. Full and part-time schedules are available. The sites are open from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

For more information contact
Mary Ellen Haworth
Site Director
Miraleste Early Learning Academy
(310) 732-0922, ext. 200
mary.ellenhaworth@k12.ca.us

Carolyn Martinez
Site Director
Valmonte Early Learning Academy
(310) 791-5078, ext. 3
martinez@pvpusd.k12.ca.us

Transitional Kindergarten
PVPSUD's transitional kindergarten (TK) program is for students who need more time to become confident learners. Children with a birth date between Oct. 2 and Dec. 2, 2020, automatically qualify for TK.

Transitional kindergarten functions as a bridge between the child-centered curriculum of preschool and the academic expectations at elementary school. TK is a two-year kindergarten program that offers a developmentally appropriate curriculum to allow students time to mature. Parents may request a TK screening to determine whether their children are ready for kindergarten.

For more information contact
Jody Pastell
Director, Curriculum and Instruction Office
(310) 378-9966, ext. 163
pastellj@pvpusd.k12.ca.us

High School
Eighth graders entering high school in PVPSUD have the unique opportunity to select which high school they will attend in the fall. Palos Verdes High School and Palos Verdes Peninsula High School are nationally recognized schools in academics, athletics and extracurricular activities. In 2012, Newsweek magazine ranked both schools in their top 1,000 public high schools in the nation.

The high school selection process deadline is Feb. 19. Both schools will host a variety of programs for prospective students and their families.

For more information contact
Palos Verdes High
Trista Ramirez
Associate Principal, Counseling and Guidance
(310) 378-8471, ext. 205
ramireztr@pvpusd.k12.ca.us

Dr. Nick Stepney
Principal
(310) 378-8471, ext. 200
stepney@pvpusd.k12.ca.us

Also visit: www.futureseekings.com

Peninsula High
Stephanie Scott
Associate Principal, Counseling and Guidance
(310) 377-4888, ext. 273
scottss@pvpusd.k12.ca.us

Mitzi Cress
Principal
(310) 377-4888, ext. 200
cressm@pvpusd.k12.ca.us

Also visit: www.pvpusd.com and click "Incoming Panthers"

District Construction Continues
The district has completed the final projects funded under Measures R & S, which are school construction bonds. Those projects included the second gym and band room at Palos Verdes Peninsula High School and asphalt and plumbing projects at various schools. The pool renovation project at Peninsula High is finished as well. Construction on a new classroom wing at Palos Verdes High School is scheduled to be finished this fall. The district is using state matching funds to build the wing that will feature 10 classrooms. Roofing and plumbing projects at various schools are ongoing.

A new building with six classrooms and a weight room at Peninsula High is in the approval stage. The new structure will replace old portable buildings. Construction is scheduled to begin this fall.

Palos Verdes Peninsula High School (PVPHS)
27118 Silver Spur Road
Rolling Hills Estates

Jan. 22 and Feb. 1
8:30 a.m. to 1:50 p.m.

Private School Shadow Day
To attend, RSVP by the Friday before the Shadow Day at visitpvp@dwpusd.net. Find registration forms at www.futureseekings.com. For the "Incoming Panthers" link and click "Information." Prospective parents are invited to meet with Peninsula administrators from 8:30 to 10 a.m.

Jan. 24
5:15 p.m. to 8:15 p.m

Information Night for Incoming Freshman

Jan. 29
6 p.m.

Coffee House/ Basketball Game
Peninsula High Coffee House and Gym, followed by the boys’ varsity basketball game at 7:30 p.m.
PVPHS students will perform music, sing and read poetry prior to the game. Prospective families are welcomed guests.

Jan. 30 and Feb. 1
5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Principal Forums
Peninsula High will host hour-long Principal Forums in the school’s College Career Center for prospective students and their families to meet Principal Mitzi Cress.

Transitional Kindergarten
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pastellj@pvpusd.k12.ca.us

Kindergarten
PVPSUD’s kindergarten students attend class until 2:15 p.m. each day and benefit from a total of 240 instructional minutes. Kindergartners learn and interact with other students through shared activities such as reading buddies and math lessons. Technology is used as an instructional tool as well.

A child must be 5 years old on or before Oct. 1, 2013, to legally start kindergarten for the 2013–2014 school year. Parents enrolling children in kindergarten must present proof (birth certificate or passport) that the child was born on or before Oct. 1, 2008. Parents also must provide proof (utility bills or mortgage receipts) that they reside within the school district boundaries. Kindergarten packets will be available at all elementary school offices starting Feb. 13.

Parent orientation meetings
Jan. 29
7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Vista Grande Elementary School
7032 Purlridge Drive
Palos Verdes Estates

Jan. 30
7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Daggett Elementary School
3111 Palos Verdes Drive North
Rolling Hills Estates

For more information contact
Jody Pastell
Director, Curriculum and Instruction Office
(310) 378-9966, ext. 163
pastellj@pvpusd.k12.ca.us

Botrells

PVPHS student ambassador lead campus tours. A question-and-answer session with administrators, teachers, current students and their parents follows the tour. Athletic facilities tours begin at 4:30 p.m.

Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District (PVPUSD)

Students in Stacey Smith’s kindergarten class at Dapplegray Elementary School use iPads and color worksheets.