In this issue: **2015 Class of Retirees Honored**

The Palos Verdes Faculty Association, the California School Employees Association (Palos Verdes Chapter 123), and the Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District hosted a retirement reception to honor our retiring certificated and classified employees. Colleagues, family, and friends joined us in the celebration, which was held on Tuesday, May 19 at Gaetano’s Restaurant. Congratulations to our retirees and we thank them for their service to the District.

Pictured below, left to right: Fred London, Cheri McAllister, Jeanette Low, Marcia Risdon, Jim Parrott, Cindy Barkdull, and Walker Williams.
SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS NEEDED

The Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified District (PVPUSD) is actively recruiting substitute teachers to work in our world-class schools. Substitute teaching positions offer a flexible schedule, good pay, and an opportunity to work with PVPUSD’s outstanding students and staff. Please take a moment to refer potential candidates to our District employment website. The job flyer is also attached as part of this edition of Personnel Matters.

Please note that the Board of Education recently raised the rate of pay for certificated substitute teachers in PVPUSD. Effective January 1, 2015, the daily rate for certificated substitute teachers has been increased from $100 to $130. Additionally, the long-term rate for certificated substitute teachers has been increased from $130 to $160.

Please spread the word, as we seek to augment our certificated substitute pool! Questions from applicants can be directed to the Human Resources Department at 310-378-9966 x417.
Fred London, Principal at Dapplegray Elementary, is retiring after years of dedicated service to PVPUSD. A recent Daily Breeze article recounts how Fred arrived from the Inglewood Unified School District and started his career on the Hill as principal of Silver Spur Elementary School in 1968. He went on to open both Cornerstone and Dapplegray elementary schools as principal.

“It has been a great ride, a great privilege to be able to open two schools,” London said.

The School Board, along with the city of Rolling Hills Estates, agreed to rename the driveway at Dapplegray “London Lane.” The city will install a street sign to match other city street signs; the school will keep its Palos Verdes Drive North address.

Board of Education member, Barbara Lucky, recalled that when London was tasked to re-open Dapplegray in 1999, the facility needed work after it had been leased out to tenants for years.

“It was a total disaster,” Lucky said while tearing up. “Fred was in charge of the school and he did a marvelous job working with contractors to move all the trash out of the school. He had all the confidence in the world that the school would be successful.”

Mrs. Madge London, retired PVPUSD teacher and wife of Fred, and daughter Nicole London, teacher at Mira Catalina Elementary, shared the following remembrances:

As a youth, Fred attended Redondo Beach Union High School — he would ditch school to go surfing and the truant officer knew where to find him.

Fred was a lifeguard in Redondo Beach — he lied about his age and started lifeguarding when he was 17 (he did pass the test).

As a college student, Fred went to USC on a football and track scholarship. He was a good football player in high school because when he caught the ball he could outrun everyone else . . . that’s where his track came in handy.

Fred used to live in Hawaii. After graduation from USC, he spent the summer on the North Shore with friends to surf and he made it into a small part of “Riding Giants”, a surf documentary.

Fred’s first teaching assignment was at Torrance Unified School District where he taught for two years before going to France, in 1963, to teach for three years.

An avid cyclist, Fred spent three summers bicycling down the west coast from Canada to Mexico.

WE THANK FRED FOR HIS DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE PALOS VERDES PENINSULA USD!
On the May 7, 2015 meeting, the Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District (PVPUSD) Board of Education confirmed the appointments of four administrative positions for the 2015-16 school year. The Board of Education and Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Donald B. Austin, are enthused about bringing into administrative leadership roles two new faces to the PVPUSD as well as the promotion of two veteran District teachers.

Dr. Kim Fricker will serve as the Administrative Director in the Educational Services Department and report to Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, Dr. Joanne Culverhouse. Dr. Fricker is currently the principal at Canyon High School in Orange Unified School District and brings a wealth of instructional expertise to her new role. Dr. Fricker states, “It is an honor to be here today as I am very excited to join this outstanding District and I look forward to getting to know all of you and this community in the coming days and months.”

Mrs. Kelli Keller will take the helm of Ridgecrest Intermediate School beginning July 2015. Mrs. Keller replaces outgoing principal Mr. Brent Kuykendall, who will be leading Miraleste Intermediate School after his long and successful tenure at Ridgecrest. Mrs. Keller is currently a principal in the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District. Mrs. Keller brings significant experience from the elementary, intermediate and high school levels and welcomes her new role in the PVPUSD. Mrs. Keller, who grew up in the South Bay and is moving to the Peninsula, states, “I am thrilled to not only take on this leadership role with the District, but to also be a resident of such a wonderful community.”

Ms. Lea Toombs will serve as an Associate Principal at Palos Verdes Peninsula High School under the leadership of principal Mrs. Mitzi Cress. Recently, Ms. Toombs has served as an Instructional Coach at the District office and prior as a high school English teacher in the District. Ms. Toombs commitment to the students and staff of the PVPUSD is a hallmark of her service to our District. Ms. Toombs states, “I am looking forward to working with the Peninsula family, as well as our outstanding community members and educational partners. Together, we will continue to build a strong network of educational opportunities to serve every student who aspires to a brighter future.”

Mr. Jeremy Meadows will serve as an Associate Principal at Palos Verdes High School (PVHS) under the leadership of principal Dr. Charles Park. Currently, Mr. Meadows serves at PVHS leading the special education program and also has experience teaching at the elementary and high school levels. Mr. Meadows is excited about being able to continue to serve the PVHS community in his new leadership role at the school. Mr. Meadows states, “I look forward to supporting our school community as we continue on a path of excellence and I look forward to joining the Palos Verdes High administrative team.”

The Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District Board of Education is slated to confirm principal appointments at Dapplegray and Lunada Bay elementary schools for the 2015-16 school year during the May 21, 2015 meeting. The Board of Education and Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Donald B. Austin, believes that the timely appointment of top-quality candidates for each school is key to ensuring continued success at those elementary campuses.

Mrs. Nancy Parsons will be recommended to lead Dapplegray Elementary School, replacing long-time principal Mr. Fred London, who retires on June 30 after years of dedicated service to the District. Mrs. Parsons, with the District since 2012, brings a wealth of leadership experience to Dapplegray Elementary School, the largest elementary school in the PVPUSD. Prior to her tenure as principal at Lunada Bay Elementary, Mrs. Parsons served in different district and school-site administrative positions in Southern California and Arizona. Mrs. Parsons states, “I am looking forward to working with the staff and community at Dapplegray. PVPUSD has entrusted me with continuing the outstanding work Fred London started at Dapplegray when it opened, and I would be deeply honored to continue in that same tradition.”

Mrs. Julie Tarango will be recommended as principal of Lunada Bay Elementary, replacing Mrs. Nancy Parsons. Mrs. Tarango, currently a veteran teacher at Montemalaga Elementary School, began her teaching career in PVPUSD in 2005. Mrs. Tarango is recognized as an instructional leader and received the Palos Verdes Peninsula Rotary Educator of the Year Award in 2009. Currently, she serves on the District’s Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Committee. Mrs. Tarango states, “I am delighted for this opportunity to continue serving our school district in a new capacity. I would be honored to join the team of teachers, staff, students, and parents who make this school thrive as the heart of the Lunada Bay community.”

Dr. Donald B. Austin states, “We are beyond excited to have identified top candidates from our own District – Nancy and Julie know our Peninsula communities, understand our purpose and will hit the ground running with their new schools.”
SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS NEEDED

(On-call, $130 daily rate and $160 long-term rate)

Interested candidates MUST submit the following:

1. PVPUSD Certificated Employment Application Form (available at www.pvpusd.net under Employment/Opportunities/Certificated Positions)
2. Copy of valid California teaching credential OR substitute permit
3. Copy of Basic Skills Exam
4. Current Resume
5. Letter of Interest
6. Three Letters of Reference (no more than 3 years old)

Qualified candidates are requested to mail the above materials to:

PVPUSD
ATTN: Certificated H.R. Processing
375 Via Almar
Palos Verdes Estates, CA 90274

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