

# Pine Valley Middle School - A California Distinguished School



## PUMA NEWS

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*A publication of Pine Valley PTA*

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### Dates to Note:

Date	Event
May 1	Last dance of the year, 7-9 pm. 6th, 7th, and 8th graders welcome, dancing, socializing and guitar hero
May 4	Pine Valley PTA Meeting
May 4-12	STAR Testing Teacher Appreciation Week
May 5	Final day of Measure C Mail-in Election.
May 7	Final Teacher Appreciation Luncheon
May 11	Incoming Freshman Sports Information Night, 7pm in the Cal High Commons
May 14	Pine Valley Open House: BBQ 5:30-7:00pm, Classrooms open 6:30 to 8pm
May 18	Staff Development Day - no school for students
May 19	Statewide special election
May 20, 21	Drama II play, <i>Midsummer Night's Dream</i> , 7pm, MPR
May 25	Memorial Day Holiday
May 26, 27	Band Performance, 7pm, MPR
May 28	Awards Night, 7pm (invitations mailed to recipients)
June 11	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion Ceremony 6:00pm at Cal High

## President's Message - by Collette Ricks & Lani Bari

We would like to thank our Parent Education Chairperson, Donna Dao Willins and Pine Valley Counselor, Julie Damgen for the well-received and well-attended 8<sup>th</sup> grade parent night. The time they spent (on registration and research summarized in the information packet) is appreciated, and the information is valuable.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for our annual Pine Valley Open House on Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup>. Bring the whole family starting at 5:30pm, for a delicious on-site Fuddrucker's dinner prior to the classrooms opening for visitation. Tickets need to be purchased in advance to guarantee your Fuddrucker's meal. Just print out the [order form](#) and return it to the office with cash or check payable to *Pine Valley PTA* by May 11.

If you haven't already mailed your Measure C ballot (no postage needed), do it **today**. To count, ballots must be received by the county elections office by 8 pm on May 5. If you mail it after May 1<sup>st</sup>, it likely won't arrive in time to be counted. Postmarks do not count. Instead, hold on to it until May 5<sup>th</sup> and take it to one of the two local drop-off locations, but these are only available for 4 hours on May 5<sup>th</sup> (4-8pm). Only you or a member of your household may drop-off your ballot. The drop-off locations are:

- Creekside Community Church, 1350 Danville Blvd., Alamo
- San Ramon Valley Conference Center - 3301 Crow Canyon Rd., San Ramon

Our next PTA meeting is Monday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm in the library. As a reminder, there will be no school on May 18<sup>th</sup> (Staff Development Day) and May 25<sup>th</sup> (Memorial Day). As always, feel free to contact us with your questions & concerns.

Collette Ricks  
[collettericks@comcast.net](mailto:collettericks@comcast.net)

Lani Bari  
[lanibari@comcast.net](mailto:lanibari@comcast.net)

## Principal's Message – by Jason Law

As the new principal at Pine Valley (something I will not be able to say much longer), I am finding that May is the transition month. We are busily planning to wrap up one year and making preliminary plans for next. Very busy, but exciting to plan.

First, let me remind everybody of STAR Testing that is taking place May 4-12. We visited all students in their Core classes at the end of April to remind them of the importance of these assessments and to give students some test taking tips. Let me remind you, as we did students, of the importance of attendance those days. You can support your student by making sure that they attend school, are well rested, and have had breakfast. Though that is good advice any time, these are things that are within our control to support students during testing. Our 897 API from last year's testing makes us very optimistic for breaking that 900 API barrier when scores are released next fall. I have witnessed many excellent standards-based lessons this year and am confident that students will do extremely well.

The month of May will also provide many opportunities for parents to visit Pine Valley. Our annual Open House will be held from 6:30-8:00pm on May 14. Please join us for a pre-Open House BBQ at 5:30, which will be catered by Fuddruckers. Thank you to the PTA for arranging this. We will also be having Drama and Band productions this month (see calendar for dates and times). I look forward to all these evenings, as we get to show off what we do here at Pine Valley each day. I am especially looking forward to our Awards Night on May 28. Award recipients and their parents will be getting invitations in a few weeks.

Finally, I want to remind our parents of the school dress code. As the weather gets warmer, infractions increase. Please reference page 18 of your child's binder-reminder for the parameters of the dress code. Our young ladies are in violation the most. Shorts and skirts should be longer than the pinky finger as they extend their hands at their sides. Shoulder straps should be at least two inches wide. Thank you for your support.

At the end of the month Assistant Principal, Katie Martin, Core Teacher, Patti Moore and I will be representing Pine Valley as we receive our California Distinguished School Award in Anaheim, CA. Thank you PTA for supporting us financially with the cost of the trip. It will be a quick day trip, but one worth making so the Pine Valley community can get the recognition it deserves.

## Legislatively Speaking... by Nancy Vandell, SRV Council of PTAs

**Ballots, Ballots, Everywhere!**

Two elections are being held currently that greatly affect children and schools in our valley. One is for Measure C, the renewal of the San Ramon Valley Unified School District's local funding measure, and the other is for the statewide propositions 1A - 1F. By now, voters should have received ballots and information about both elections, which may cause confusion for some voters. This article summarizes the two elections, as well as PTA's positions on the measures.

### **Ballot 1: Measure C – Local School Funding Measure**

San Ramon Valley Council of PTAs voted to endorse and support Measure C, the SRVUSD local school funding measure. This measure renews local funding currently provided by a measure that expires at the end of June. Measure C will help to:

- Retain qualified and experienced teachers
- Prepare students for college and careers for a global economy
- Maintain strong math, science and literacy programs

Measure C requires a two-thirds threshold to pass. This means that two yes votes are required for every no vote. This is a mail-only election, and all registered voters should have received their ballots. Measure C ballots must be returned in the mail by April 30 to be sure that they are received in the election office in time for votes to be counted. (Note: no stamp is needed for this election). If you have not received a ballot, or have lost or misplaced it, immediately call the Contra Costa County Election office at (925) 335-7800 to request a replacement ballot.

Measure C would raise approximately \$6.8 million annually for the school district and would help to offset the severe budget cuts from the State. It would cost an additional \$4.50/month per parcel (a home or business) over the current measure and would last for seven years.

All Measure C funds go directly to our local schools and cannot be taken by the state. An independent citizen oversight committee and annual reports will ensure funds are spent wisely. No funds can be spent on administrator salaries. Measure C can only be renewed with voter approval. Exemptions are available for persons 65 and older and for persons receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) for a disability.

### **Ballot 2: Propositions 1A – 1F: Statewide Ballot Measures**

These propositions were put on the May 19 ballot by the Governor and the Legislature as part of the 17-month budget package signed February 20<sup>th</sup> to address the \$40 billion deficit faced by the state, as well as to provide some funding stability. The measures (particularly 1A, 1B and 1C) have significant impact on education.

California State PTA and the San Ramon Valley Council of PTAs have taken the following positions on these ballot measures:

**Measure 1A: Support.** This measure creates a rainy day fund, temporarily extends tax increases, and provides a funding mechanism for Proposition 1B, which will repay \$9 billion to schools.

**Measure 1B: Support.** This measure repays schools approximately \$9 billion in Proposition 98 funding, beginning in 2011-12.

**Measure 1C: Support.** This measure generates \$5 billion in revenues this year by securitizing and updating the state lottery; school funding would no longer be tied to lottery revenues, with no net change to overall school funding.

**Measure ID: Oppose.** This measure transfers voter-approved monies away from First 5 programs created by Proposition 10 (1998) for a period of five years, with the intent that the funds be used to protect health and human service programs for children supported by the state's General Fund. The measure makes other programmatic changes to how First 5 funds may be spent.

**Measure IE: Support.** This measure transfers monies away from mental health programs funded by Proposition 63 (2004) for a period of two years. The monies would go into the state General Fund to support mental health services.

**Measure 1F: No position.** This measure prohibits legislators and the Governor from receiving pay raises when the state budget is running a deficit.

"We have been urging lawmakers to support education funding and increase revenues as part of a balanced approach to the state's current budget crisis. Propositions 1A and 1B help achieve this," said Pam Brady, president of the California State PTA. "We understand the severity of the budget crisis our state faces," Brady said. "We believe 1A, 1B, 1C and 1E all take important steps to prevent deeper cuts to education and children's programs during these difficult times." The California State PTA's positions are based on statewide resolutions and position statements adopted each year by thousands of delegates representing the organization's nearly 1 million volunteer members.

### **Why are there two elections so close together?**

Many people are asking why Measure C is not on the May 19 ballot. The Measure C election was planned and set on the county calendar before there was any discussion of a statewide May 19<sup>th</sup> election. The mail-in election selected by the school district for Measure C was the least expensive option at the time. PTA believes that the local Measure C and statewide measures 1A, 1B, 1C and 1E are crucial to partly offset the significant budget cuts faced by our schools.

For more detailed information on the various ballot measures, please visit the SRV PTA Council website at (<http://www.srvcouncilpta.org/Public/PortalHome.aspx>).

## Counselor's Corner – by Julie Damgen

It is amazing how fast this year has gone by, and the end of the second semester is rapidly approaching. Please remind your students that this is the time to really buckle down to ensure that they earn passing grades for the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester. There is only a little over a month left of school. It is important for students to keep the end in sight and keep track of how they are doing in their classes.

**8<sup>th</sup> graders:** The drop-dead date this year is **JUNE 4<sup>th</sup>**. This means that any student with a semester F on this date will lose all graduation privileges (Day on the Green, Great America, Promotion Ceremony, and Promotion Party). Please keep this in mind as, students will not want to miss out on these activities.

**7<sup>th</sup> graders:** If you earn a 2<sup>nd</sup> semester F, you will be required to attend summer school in order to be eligible for middle school promotion.

**6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> graders:** Completed Summer School Applications are due back to me no later than **May 8<sup>th</sup>**. Summer School will be held at Iron Horse Middle school from June 19<sup>th</sup>-July 17<sup>th</sup>. We need to get students signed-up for Summer School now. Please turn them in ASAP!

**Middle School Summer Enrichment Programs:** Summer Courses for students currently in grades 5-8 have been expanding each year. This year, all enrichment classes will be at Iron Horse Middle School. The courses include: Math/Algebra/Geometry Camp, 3D Art, Computers/Web Design, Drama, Culinary Arts, PowerPoint Poetry, Write-On, and San Ramon CSI. Sign up now at <http://srvusd.cmiregistration.com/Programs.aspx/SummerEnrichmentPrograms>.

I wish you all the best of luck as we approach the end of the year. I will continue working closely with students, parents, and teachers to make sure PV students are as successful as possible.

## Incoming Freshman Sports Information Night

Is your incoming freshman interested in playing sports at Cal High? Please attend the Incoming Freshman Sports Information Night, Monday May 11 at 7 pm in the California High School Commons.

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion Update - Promotion Committee

The promotion party is Thursday June 11, 7to 10 pm.

The promotion committee is still in need of your child's photos for the commemorative CD. Please email 1-3 digital photos of your child during their middle school years to [pvmspromopics@gmail.com](mailto:pvmspromopics@gmail.com) There is also a box in the school office where you can also drop off photo CDs. The deadline is May 10<sup>th</sup>.

We are still taking donations of \$5 gift cards to be given throughout the evening as a drawing. We would also take a small amount of money to purchase gift cards for the event. Please contact Vicki at [vspink@sbcglobal.net](mailto:vspink@sbcglobal.net) for donations.

If you can help with decorating for the event and or clean up....please contact either Lori at [iblorbo@hotmail.com](mailto:iblorbo@hotmail.com) or Mary at [mary220c@pacbell.net](mailto:mary220c@pacbell.net).

There will be a general meeting on Thursday May 7<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the PV library. Thank you to everyone for their hard work to make this event so special!

## Attention 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents - Laura Stang

Your help is needed too! The 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion Dance Committee is looking for 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade parents to help chaperone Pine Valley's 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion Dance. Why volunteer?

1. It is a long honored tradition that the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade parents chaperone the dance so the 8<sup>th</sup> graders can enjoy their last dance at Pine Valley without their OWN parents as chaperones.
2. It gives you a peek into what to expect when your child attends his/her 8<sup>th</sup> grade Promotion Dance.
3. It is a fun night!!!!

No prior meeting to attend. Just shoot me an e-mail ([LSTA@comcast.net](mailto:LSTA@comcast.net)) to get your name on the list and then show up at Pine Valley on June 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00. Thanks in advance for volunteering,

## Teacher/Staff Appreciation - by Teresa DeHope

We are putting on the final luncheon of the year for the staff and teachers at Pine Valley on Thursday, May 7. (It also coincides with the national Teacher Appreciation Week.) In order to make this event successful, I am looking for some people to help me by bringing food (either a dish or even just an ingredient or two) or helping to contribute to the paper products. So far, only three people have offered to help. I have some very easy and specific items that I need. By helping out, you can show your appreciation to all the teachers and staff who make such a difference in our kids' lives each day at Pine Valley. You can contact me at: [tdehope@gmail.com](mailto:tdehope@gmail.com) Thank you for your help.

## Box Tops for Education - by Melinna Gershik

Thanks to all of the submissions from the Core Class Box Tops Contest in February, we raised \$477.30! That is money for our school that we were able to raise because all of our families took the time to cut, collect and turn in their Box Tops! Most of the products that have Box Tops are products that we all buy from time to time for our families, if not regularly. Students may drop-off Box Tops to the Box in the office or in the library.



Here's the list of products that have Box Tops -- please keep them in mind when you are shopping:  
<http://www.boxtops4education.com/Downloads/Coordinator/Clip/ParticipatingProductsFlyer2008.pdf>

In addition, you can sign up to use the Box Tops for Education online shopping portal and your purchases will benefit Pine Valley as well. The stores include Lands End, the Apple Store, Oriental Trading Company, Gap, and many others that you probably shop at already. If you do your shopping online through the Box Tops Portal, our school will get a contribution. Just remember to login to your Box Tops account, designate Pine Valley Middle School for your contributions and shop! <http://www.boxtops4education.com/Marketplace/Default.aspx>

If you have any questions about the Box Tops for Education program at Pine Valley, please email Melinna Gershik at [pinevalleyboxtops@yahoo.com](mailto:pinevalleyboxtops@yahoo.com) or call 828-9290.

## Congratulations Super Pumas! – Miss deSilva & Mrs. Fleshman

The following students have earned the distinction of being named Super Pumas for the 2008-09 school year. Each student listed earned a total of 25, or more, volunteer hours of community service by donating their time and efforts to helping others.

Kassie Kochan	Jessica Gonsalves	Brianna Buck
Brooke Slanec	Jenna Beadle	Alisa Lego
Drew Dudley	Rachel Tungol	Kimberley Pagano
Hannah Skrentny	Kristyn Fudge	Kristina Pagano
Kylie Stang	Jacob Rubio	Makaala Santos
Erica Tablizo	Rachel Will	Jake Ryan
Rachel Huey	Kellie Wald	Michael Didio

Some of the volunteer activities Super Pumas participated in this year were *International Holiday Boxes*, *Paintball for Charity*, *Coins for Crisis*, *the Canned Food Drive*, and *Holiday Trim a Tree*. Student volunteers also spent hours donating time to independently selected projects around the community.

An especially wonderful highlight of our year was the collection of gift boxes gathered for needy children around the world. With an amazing total of 175 boxes created, packaged, and delivered by Pine Valley students and their families, this was our most successful year of giving yet!

*Paintball for Charity* raised over \$500 that was sent to an international relief organization that brings aid to people all over the world. Most of this money was earmarked for a remote village in Hooper Bay, Alaska that was devastated by a fire. An additional \$100 was collected and counted during the *Coins for Crisis Drive* with the money being sent to the Bay Area Rescue Mission to help the homeless.

This note comes with a heartfelt thanks to all the families that have encouraged their children to reach out to help others. Not everyone earned a documented 25 hours, but the minutes, hours, and days spent in lending a hand by everyone that participated made a difference in many lives. Thank you!

## Pine Valley Teen Center – by Jennifer Hemstad

### Do you know where your middle schooler is after school?

The City of San Ramon has re-invented its Teen Centers with a **new, low introductory price** (\$895 for the 2008-09 school year). The Teen Centers will be a place for homework, learning and filled with fun, social activities your kids will love. Activities include: Quiet Homework Time Everyday! On-site Tutors Available, Asset Development Including Community & School Projects, Leadership Opportunities, Fun Outdoor Recreation Focusing on Health & Fitness, Rock Band and Other Video Games, Computer Access, Connection to On-site Enrichment Classes (additional fees apply) Sign-up today! The Teen Center will be open during Open House, May 14 – so stop by and take a look. For more information please visit [www.srteen.org](http://www.srteen.org). **Reserve your spot today as spaces are limited!**

## Cal High Registration Dates

For those of you that plan far in advance, the dates for Cal High registration are:

Packet Pick-up:

8/11 - 8/12                      8am - 3pm

Walk-thru Registration

8/18 (Alpha A-K)              1pm - 7pm

8/19 (Alpha L-Z)              1pm - 7pm

## Host Families Needed

Center for Cultural Interchange (CCI) is a non-profit international education exchange organization dedicated to the promotion of academic development, cultural understanding, environmental consciousness, and world peace. CCI has placed over 1,000 students annually for the last 24 years. If you have thought about hosting an exchange student in the past or know of someone who might be interested, please email the area representative, Candace Morton at [candace94549@yahoo.com](mailto:candace94549@yahoo.com)

## San Ramon Library Programs - by Nancy Kreiser

### Teen Mystery Night: The Pharaoh's Curse

Friday May 8 6:30 pm, San Ramon Library

Something has gone terribly wrong at the prom! Amara was Queen of the Nile and Princess of the Prom, until the accident...or was it attempted murder? Join your fellow detectives at the library in solving this mystery.

Detectives and prom goers in middle and high school are invited to attend. Feel free to be "formal" and dress up in recycled or reusable prom wear. Snacks provided. Teen Mystery Night is part of Reading Festival 2009. For information about the festival, visit [www.ccclib.org](http://www.ccclib.org).

### Teen Volunteers Needed for Summer Reading Program

San Ramon Libraries need your help! Summer reading is an exciting time at the library. Thousands of people come to the library to enroll in the program and earn prizes. Teen volunteers work directly with the public and make a real contribution to the success of this important program. Teens entering 8<sup>th</sup> grade and above this fall are invited to apply for volunteer positions. Volunteer training begins mid-May. Pick-up your volunteer application at one of the libraries today!

**Come Hear Daniel Handler (aka Lemony Snicket)** as he attempts to answer the question, "Who is this Lemony Snicket and why does he keep following me?"

Saturday, May 9, 7:00 pm at Civic Park Community Center, 1375 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek, CA 94596

Limited seating will be available on a first come first serve basis.

## City of SR Programs for Teens - by Adam Chow

### Summer at The Attic

If you're in middle school and want to have some fun this summer, then join your friends at The Attic at the San Ramon Library. There's something for everyone! Every week we will go to the Dougherty Valley Aquatic Center and take a trip to places like the movies or Q-Zar. Other daily activities may include wacky games, contests, movies, video game tournaments, sports, and cool crafts. If you sign up for the entire summer you can save over 10% off the total cost! Get more information on this Teen Summer Camp at [www.SRTeen.org](http://www.SRTeen.org).

### Fall Teen Centers

Please see the article on the Pine Valley Middle School Teen Centers earlier in this newsletter. For more information visit our website at [www.SRTeen.org](http://www.SRTeen.org) or contact Jennifer Hemstad at 925-973-3375 or [jhemstad@sanramon.ca.gov](mailto:jhemstad@sanramon.ca.gov).

# Ever wanted to be in the Danville 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade?

This year's theme is *Celebrating our Youth* and Kiwanis of the San Ramon Valley are looking for 1,000 or more kids to be among the first people in the parade. Everyone 17 years and under is WELCOME to participate!

- Children under 10 must be accompanied by an adult
- Dress up and ride your decorated bike, razor scooter, roller blades, skateboards, hee-lies, or any other NON-motorized transportation
- Must wear a Helmet!
- Sorry no pets
- Put together a group / get creative

For more information and to sign-up go to <http://www.kiwanis-srv.org/parade.asp>.

This event is sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of the San Ramon Valley in partnership with *Street Smarts*.

## Student of the Month – by Shannon Maser & Wendy Pomeroy

Each month Pine Valley Middle School focuses on a life skill, such as caring, organization, effort, and respect. The Student-of-the-Month program recognizes students who exemplify the particular month's life skill. Teachers nominate one student from any of their classes. The students are rewarded with an ice cream sundae or other special treat during their lunch period on the last Friday of the month. A professional photographer takes their pictures, which are sent home in a keepsake folder.

Congratulations to the April Students of the Month who are recognized for exhibiting the life skill of **Sense of Humor**. The featured life skill for May is Perseverance.

<b><u>Student</u></b>	<b><u>(Selected by)</u></b>	<b><u>Student</u></b>	<b><u>(Selected by)</u></b>
Fernando Aguila	(Mrs. Rowland)	Anthony Maldonado	(Ms. Charles)
Collin Alexander	(Mr. Bellomo)	Jonathan Massimino	(Mr. Miller)
Melissa Benik	(Miss Meredith)	Kyle Oldham	(Mrs. Johnston)
Connor Box	(Miss Clarkson)	Andrew Peng	(Mr. Wulff)
Brianna Buck	(Miss deSilva)	Jaycee Peters	(Mrs. Knudson)
Jessica Clouse	(Mr. Cepeda)	Erin Phillips	(Miss Ciriaco)
Nick Cocannouer	(Miss Pappas)	Abigail Radermacher	(Miss Martin)
Sean Companeetz	(Mrs. Marohn)	Ravid Reif	(Mrs. Loughery)
Kyle Costamagna	(Mr. Vespi)	Maxine Reyburn	(Mrs. Irvin)
David Crinnion	(Ms. Huff)	Oscar Robertson	(Mrs. Schluntz)
De Hope. Lewis	(Mr. Munson)	Alyson Rolita	(Miss Damgen)
Shayda Haddad	(Mrs Barks)	Grant Sherrod	(Mrs. Shivitz)
Eric Hu	(Mr. Boyd)	Calvin Smith	(Mrs. Marchese)
Andrew Jurecki	(Miss Myers)	Ekaterina Solofnenko	(Mrs. Peterson)
Kyle Kao	(Mrs. Nair)	Michelle Tatum	(Mrs. James)
Austin Keller	(Mrs. White)	Alex Van Iderstine	(Mr. Cooley)
Kyle Kubota	(Mrs. Moore)	James Walters	(Mrs. Rosenberg)
Jake Lepere	(Mrs. Hegarty)	Mary Weber	(Mrs. Locke)
Richard Lujan	(Ms. Phillips)	Spencer Wood	(Mrs. Svoboda/Gross)