

Pine Valley Middle School - A California Distinguished School



PUMA NEWS

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A publication of Pine Valley PTA

Jason Law, Principal

Collette Ricks, PTA President

Rachel Hurd, Editor

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Dates to Note:

Date	Event
June 1	PTA Meeting, 7:00 in the Library
June 8	Yearbook Distribution
June 9	Day on the Green, 11:30-2:30
June 10	8 th Grade trip to Great America
June 11	8 th Grade Promotion Ceremony 6:00pm at Cal High Promotion Party for 8 th Graders, 7-10pm
Aug. 10-11	Registration Packet Pick-up, 8:30am-3:30pm
Aug. 17	Walk-thru Registration, 9:00am-2:00pm
Aug. 18	Walk-thru Registration, 3:00-7:00pm

President's Message - by Collette Ricks & Lani Bari

Can you believe it's June? First of all, I would like to thank Kristen Holbrook and Laie Nelson for their hard work as Pine Valley's legislative representatives this year. Their hard work (along with countless others) paid off, as Measure C passed with 72.56% yes votes! Thank you also to Teresa DeHope and her helpers for putting on a wonderful Mexican fiesta-style staff appreciation luncheon for our Pine Valley staff in May during teacher appreciation week.

The Fuddrucker's BBQ preceding Open House was a success! The food was tasty and reasonably priced! Thank you to Vidhya Balaji, Lori Cade, Teresa DeHope, & Rachel Hurd for their help that evening. Although it was not a fundraiser, the convenience and sense of community we created by offering the BBQ dinner was well worth the effort involved. We served approximately 475 meals that evening.

I have a final plea for some volunteers. If you can help by volunteering at our annual "Day on the Green", please send me email. The fun & activity-filled day for our children will be on Tuesday, June 9th. We are looking for helpers from 11:30am-1:00pm (shift one), or 1:00pm-2:30pm (shift two). Please send email to

collettericks@comcast.net, if you can help. If you can help the entire time (11:30am-2:30pm) that's even better! Just let me know.

We also need some volunteers to work registration in August. Packet pick-up is August 10th & 11th from 8:30am-3:00pm (a handful of volunteers are needed to cover those 13 hours). We also need many volunteers to work registration. Registration will be Monday, August 17th from 9:00am-2:00pm, and Tuesday, August 18th from 3:00-7:00pm. If you are available to help out with packet pick-up or walk-through registration, please email Lani at lanibari@comcast.net. Even if you have just 2 hours to offer, please volunteer because we need you.

As the current school year comes to a close, we begin looking toward the next school year! This past school year was my 2nd and final year as Pine Valley's PTA President. I honestly have enjoyed many facets of volunteering for our school and our children as Pine Valley's PTA President. I will remain at Pine Valley for one more year in an advisory role, and as Pine Valley's Parent Education Representative. I will be handing the President baton over to the very capable Kristen Holbrook. Lani Bari will remain the Executive Vice President, for her second year running. I am confident they will be a great team and will carry on Pine Valley PTA's wonderful reputation. Have a nice summer break! The next PTA newsletter will come out in August/September.

Collette Ricks
collettericks@comcast.net

Lani Bari
lanibari@comcast.net

Principal's Message - by Jason Law

Since this is my last contribution to the PTA newsletter for the 2008-09 school year, I wanted to take this opportunity to personally thank everyone once again for welcoming me into your Pine Valley family. My transition into this community would not have been possible without the help and support of so many, but especially our PTA. PTA President, Collette Ricks and Vice President, Lani Bari have led a dedicated group of individuals who understand how important their role is in making Pine Valley a wonderful place for staff to work and students to go to school. Thank you, Collette for serving as President. You have served this community proudly.

As we have been preparing for the end of this year, it has given me time to reflect. Obviously, leaving the portable village and stepping into a \$24 million facility was quite the way to kick-off the year. Becoming a California Distinguished School and having one of our own, Joell Marchese recognized as the SRVUSD Teacher of the Year, was a tremendous honor. Science teacher, Jason Miller was also recognized as the Pine Valley Rotary Club Teacher of the Year. At Awards Night, over 200 students were recognized for their outstanding accomplishments. These honors do not happen by accident. It is through hard work and dedication that people are put in a position to be recognized. We must also not forget the efforts of the many that unfortunately do not always get noticed and acknowledged. For all of those efforts - thank you. Though the year offered tragedy and other obstacles to overcome, these life lessons brought us closer together and will further prepare us all for the future. After all, it is adversity that teaches us the most about ourselves.

With the conclusion of the school year come all the end-of-the-year privileges that students have earned. To kick-off the end of the year activities, yearbooks will be distributed the morning of June 8 in the MPR. Mrs. Grame's yearbook students worked so hard and are ecstatic to show off their dedication. The annual "Day on the Green" (June 9) is a wonderful way to culminate and celebrate the hard work put forth by everyone. Not to forget, the eighth graders are counting down the days to go to Great America on June 10. Don't kid yourself, the staff is equally excited for all the events, as well.

Finally, I know that parents are eagerly awaiting the Promotion Ceremony, scheduled for 6:00 pm. at Cal High on Thursday, June 11. All eighth graders are to report directly to Cal High on Thursday morning for practice from 8:45-10:30 a.m. Eighth graders are not to return to Pine Valley that day. The Promotion Party is scheduled to be

held at Pine Valley immediately following the Promotion Ceremony. The event ends at 10:00 pm. Information regarding all the eighth grade end-of-the-year activities was distributed to students on May 14.

Before signing off, I just wanted to give the community an update on the great new TRAFFIX transportation program that will be impacting Pine Valley students and some of its feeder schools in the fall. As a result of the Measure J program, an easier way to get to and from school is being offered to relieve traffic congestion around campus. Because of the program, the 2009-2010 school-day schedule will be changing. Unfortunately, at this time, I do not know by how much. I am estimating that the change will be 10-15 minutes. Therefore, a start time closer to 8:00 a.m. is anticipated. The end of the school day would also then change, ending around 2:30 p.m. I know that parents want to begin planning for the fall and a change in the school schedule will impact many decisions. As soon as I am able, I will notify the community via Lyris and our website of the new schedule. As always, look to www.PumaPride.org for updated information. For your convenience a link to TRAFFIX is provided on the website. A representative from the program can also be reached at 925.866.8739.

A year that began unlike most others will end somewhat routinely. Though a brand new facility won't greet us next fall... student, parent, and community expectations will. The transient nature of middle school allows us to welcome the new as we wish "good luck" to the others who will take their experiences and move on. On behalf of a very appreciative staff, thank you for allowing us to serve you and work with your kids. It has been a tremendous school year, and I want to sincerely thank you for your patience and support. Your children are amazing and it is our honor to work with them. Enjoy your summer and we look forward to the challenges and excitement of a new school year. Thank you.

Counselor's Corner - by Julie Damgen

8th graders: The drop-dead date this year is **JUNE 4th**. 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.

7th graders: If you earn a 2nd semester F, you will be required to attend summer school in order to be eligible for middle school promotion. Contact the school office for an application

6th & 7th graders: Completed Summer School Applications were already due. If a student needs to sign up for summer school, please contact the office. Summer School will be held at Iron Horse Middle school from June 19th-July 17th. Please turn in applications 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>.

Creating Lasting Family Connections: is a free, research-based curriculum program for middle school youth - incoming 6th-8th graders - to improve communication, raise self-esteem, gain new social skills, learn to positively cope with stress, and reduce the risk of alcohol and drug use. The course format includes peer group exchange, education and role-playing. It is divided into 3 modules: the first helps develop independence and improve self-esteem; the second develop a greater awareness of facts and feels about alcohol and drug use, abuse, and dependency; and the third helps improve communication to establish and maintain healthy relationships. The class meets on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 12:15-2:15pm, from June 23 to July 15. Availability is limited. For more information or to register, contact Discovery Counseling Center at 925-837-0505 ext. 305 or email: michelle@discoveryctr.net

Summer Institute for the Gifted: refer to this [brochure](#) or refer to their website, www.giftedstudy.com.

Pine Valley Ed. Fund Update – by Terry Monday

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. Thanks to all the parents who have already contributed to the Pine Valley Education Fund through its Spring Fundraising Campaign. Your contributions can be handed in to the office or mailed to Pine Valley at the school address anytime. We will also be collecting donations at registration.

We need your money to pay for smaller class sizes but we also need your time! Please consider becoming a member of the PVEF Board. The commitment is not overwhelming--we only meet every other month—and most of the real work is completed at registration.

Our Assistant Treasurer, Becky Mose, did a wonderful job for us but she couldn't stay on after her daughter graduated. So, if you have some experience with bookkeeping, accounting or finance, we could use you on the Board. We also need parents with marketing skills, organizational skills, graphic design skills or those who just want to stay involved with their child's school. Please contact our new Board President, Luz Teresa Alexander (Beba99@aol.com) if you can give a few hours of your time support this cause.

Yearbook Distribution – by Gina Arieta

Yearbook distribution will take place before school on Monday, June 8th, from 7:45-8:15 am in the multi-purpose room. *Student I.D. cards must be shown for students to receive their yearbooks.*

If you did not purchase a book at the beginning of the year, and would like to do so, please bring a check for \$55.00, made out to Pine Valley Middle School, to the office by Friday, June 5th. The office will hold a lottery for any remaining yearbooks on Tuesday, June 9th. If your student is not selected, checks will be returned immediately.

8th Grade Promotion Update - Promotion Committee

The promotion party is Thursday June 11th, 7 to 10 pm at Pine Valley Middle School.

We are still in need of \$5 gift cards as raffle prizes. Thanks to everyone who has donated so far. Contact Vicki at vspink@sbcglobal.net

Could you possibly help us "set-up" on Thursday at noon before the ceremony? Let us know by emailing Lori at ibelorbo@hotmail.com. Thank you!!!

TRAFFIX is Coming! – by Aram Boyd

You won't have to fight traffic to get your kids to school this fall thanks to TRAFFIX, a new program funded by Contra Costa County Measure J for Traffic Congestion Relief. Pine Valley is lucky to be one of only seven schools in the District that will be receiving this service. This is to reduce the traffic along Pine Valley, Broadmoor and Davona, and to improve student safety at the school site.

The TRAFFIX service is completely different than busing run by the District in the past:

- A private bus operator is providing a fleet of new buses with seat belts and state-of-the-art safety features.
- Routes are short so your kids will spend less time on the bus.
- TRAFFIX is subsidized by Measure J - you'll pay less than half the cost of the previous program.

Annual passes for the 2009-2010 school year will go on sale in June through the TRAFFIX website at www.ridetraffic.com. If you sign up for TRAFFIX before August 24, 2009 you will get the \$250 annual pass for **only \$200 dollars**. That works out to **just \$0.55 per trip, much less than the cost of driving**. Look for an email announcement from the District when the program is officially launched. Please support TRAFFIX and help us reduce traffic congestion around Pine Valley and the surrounding area.

PV Library News – by Gerri Petersen

It's hard to believe this year is already over, it seems like yesterday we were just moving in all the books and computers to this beautiful new building. Even more exciting is that our library media center continues to enrich our learning environment even in these financially challenging times. A special thank you goes out to Joell Marchese and Larissa Meyers who secured a grant that has provided us with an interactive white board for our computer lab. They are also providing professional development to our staff on how to integrate this new technology into our lesson plans. We hope you will join us next fall at a PTA meeting where we will demonstrate these new tools. We also received a grant from the San Ramon Valley Education Fund to purchase Play Away books for next fall. Thank you to everyone who supports this foundation's endeavors.

Congratulations to our Pine Valley Battle of the Books Competition teams. On May 19th, eleven students from Pine Valley participated in our second annual district wide literacy event held at California High School. This year's seventh and eighth grade team was represented by Mischa Fritz, Marnie Lowe, Samvika Mehra, Diana Shanahan, and Alex Chung. Our sixth grade team was represented by Briana Anderson, Chloe Chan, Amanda Chun, Sam Gershtik, Ye Rim Park, and Shashank Rao. This sixth grade team placed second district wide. We are proud of all of the great readers here at Pine Valley.

The San Ramon Library is offering a wonderful reading event for teens this summer called Express Yourself @ Your Library. Nancy Kreiser, teen services librarian for the San Ramon library, will be visiting our library this week to encourage our students to read twenty hours over ten weeks and record their reading on new cool pocket-size reading logs. We encourage students to come by the library this week and fill out a summer reading list of titles with new interests, ideas and authors they haven't read before.

Finally, an additional thank you to my terrific volunteers; Julie Graham, Sandy Jow, Norma Oslund and Kathy Fong, who come each week to help during our lunch breaks and afternoon research times. I look forward to next year, and if you are interested in helping in the library please let us know at the fall registration. Our library is fortunate to have such a wonderful parent community.

A Word about Magazines – by Dawn McQuiston

Please remember to save your magazine subscription renewals over the summer and renew them during the PTA fundraiser in the fall. Also, save any special offers or coupons, as the magazine company we use will honor them as well!

Teacher/Staff Appreciation – by Teresa DeHope

It is with mixed emotions that I write this final article on behalf of PTA's Teacher/Staff Appreciation Committee. (My youngest son is an 8th grader and will be moving on to Cal High next year.) It has been a real joy and privilege to coordinate the various breakfasts and luncheons that have been put on for the staff over the last several years. It takes so many helpers and behind-the-scenes people to pull off each and every function. I feel so fortunate to have worked with some really great women and have made lots of new friends.

As of now, there is no one to head up this committee for next year. We **desperately** need someone to step up and take over this position (hopefully, before the end of the school year). It is a fun and rewarding job. There are several ladies who are very willing to be active helpers, they just don't want to be "the one in charge". It is a fun

and rewarding job and it is so satisfying to see the smiles on the faces of those who partake of the delicious meals!

The recent Mexican Fiesta Feast that was held on May 7th was another banner event, and I would like to thank the following women who helped make it such a success and what a feast it was:

Vidhya Balaji	Kathy Gyulai	Melody Kelly	Kathy Ramsey
Lani Bari	Ann Haley	Phyllis Looney	Collette Ricks
Lori Cade	Kathy Harkins	Laurie Lund	Teri Ryan
Kim Carlson	Lynn Heinz	Sheila Madrieres	Vicki Sigl
Jennifer Chan	Kristen Holbrook	Chitra Manohar	Phyllis Trieu-Ko
Ann Charzuk	Nina Hsing	Shannon Maser	Leslie Will
Mary Cummings	Denise Huey	Sherry Massimino	Pat Wing
Annamarie Day	Alllean Husted	Becky Ortego	Susan Wong
Jamie Gehring	Fiona Jones	Raji Pingali	

Box Tops for Education – by Melinna Gershik

Once again, thanks to all of the submissions our Pine Valley families, we raised almost \$500 for our school from Box Tops! Box Tops keep getting turned in to the library and they will be submitted in the Fall so keep them coming!



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, <http://www.boxtops4education.com/Marketplace/Default.aspx>, 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 log in to your Box Tops account, designate Pine Valley Middle School for your contributions and shop!

Please keep collecting Box Tops over the summer and turn them in when school starts again. If you have any questions about the Box Tops for Education program at Pine Valley, please email Melinna Gershik at pinevalleyboxtops@yahoo.com or call 828-9290.

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

Summer Camp/Program Information

We have been asked to share information about various summer camps for middle school students. We gladly share this information opening because it will be of interest to some of our families, but we are not making any kind of endorsement.

- **Jr. All American Lacrosse Camp** - [click here for the flyer](http://www.srvcouncilpta.org/Public/teacherimages/unitimages/jrlacrosscamp2009.pdf)
(<http://www.srvcouncilpta.org/Public/teacherimages/unitimages/jrlacrosscamp2009.pdf>)
- **Girls Golf Camp** - [click here for the flyer](http://www.srvcouncilpta.org/Public/teacherimages/unitimages/2009_cal_high_girls_golf_camp.pdf),
([http://www.srvcouncilpta.org/Public/teacherimages/unitimages/2009 cal high girls golf camp.pdf](http://www.srvcouncilpta.org/Public/teacherimages/unitimages/2009_cal_high_girls_golf_camp.pdf))

San Ramon Library Programs – by Nancy Kreiser

Express Yourself @ the Library - Summer Reading for Teens 2009

Monday, June 8- Monday, August 17

Dougherty Station Library & San Ramon Library

The library invites teens to participate in our popular summer reading program and earn some fun prizes. Reading records will be available at San Ramon libraries and at [ccclib.org](http://www.ccclib.org) beginning June 8.

Express Yourself with Henna

Thursday, July 9, 7:00 – 8:30pm at San Ramon Library

Discover the art and multicultural traditions of Henna. Darcy from *Henna Lounge* presents a hands-on exploration of this ancient art form. Learn about henna history, cultural traditions, and how henna is made. Then you'll have an opportunity to express yourself by applying designs. Permission slip required. *Due to the nature of this program, attendance is limited.* Sign-up at www.ccclib.org or at one of our libraries beginning Monday, June 29.

City of SR Programs for Teens – by Adam Chow

The City of San Ramon Parks & Community Services Department offers a variety of programs and classes. Visit www.SRTeen.org for a complete listing of what's going on for teens in San Ramon. To register for classes or other programs stop by the San Ramon or Dougherty Station Community Centers or you can register online at www.SanRamonRecGuide.com. If you have questions or need more information please call 973-3200.

Fall Pine Valley M.S. Teen Center

Parent's... know where your child is after school! The City of San Ramon has re-invented its teen centers with a **new, low introductory price**. The Pine Valley Teen Center will be a place for homework, and learning as well filled with fun, social activities your kids will love. With a new lower price and flexible payment options how can you say no? Visit us at www.SRTeen.org for more information on our new improved Middle School Teen Centers and sample schedules! Reserve your spot today as spaces are limited!

Summer Camps

The Attic Teen Summer Camp:

If you're in middle school and want to have some fun this summer, then join your friends at The Attic. 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. For more information on field trips and schedules visit, www.SRTeen.org.

Skate Camp:

Are you up for an intense week of skateboarding? Whether you're a beginner or skated for years, our skateboarding camps will teach you what you want to know! You'll learn the basics or master new tricks to show off. Robert Ferguson and his 4141 Skateboard Staff are here for you. Choose from 8 weeks of camp for beginning, intermediate or advanced riders. Camps run from 9:00am-12:00pm weekly starting June 22nd at the San Ramon Skate Park. Cost is \$169 per week for San Ramon Residents or \$211 for non-residents.

Check out www.SRTeen.org to get the 411 on teen events, programs, classes, and other programs. Click on the Survey tab and complete our online surveys to be eligible for free prizes such as gift cards to Jamba Juice or Regal Cinema.

Ever wanted to be in the Danville 4th 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-ies, or any other NON-motorized transportation
- Must wear a Helmet!
- Sorry no pets

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

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.

As your Student of the Month representative I would like to take this opportunity as I leave for California High School to thank the people that have helped to make this such a successful program for me these past 3 years. Thank you to everyone who was involved in some way (Photographer, PTA, PVMS staff) and especially to the following people: Mrs. Gina Arieta, Ms. Katie Martin, Mrs. Rachel Hurd, Janitor Eduardo, Wendy Pomeroy, and Gwyn Wright.

Congratulations to the May Students of the Month who are recognized for exhibiting the life skill of **perseverance**.

<u>Student</u>	<u>(Selected by)</u>	<u>Student</u>	<u>(Selected by)</u>
Vidhi Amin	(Ms. Charles)	Tiffany Jow	(Mrs. Loughery)
Casey Applegate-Williams	(Mrs. White)	Taylor Leal	(Dr. Grame)
Taymur Azimi	(Mr. Vespi)	Jenny Litvinchuk	(Mrs. Locke)
Garrett Balthasar	(Miss Clarkson)	Elizabeth Madrieres	(Mrs. Kontilis)
Chloe Bingham-Reinke	(Miss Ciriaco)	Abby Major	(Mrs. Svoboda/Gross)
Nikki Bridges	(Ms. Phillips)	Sasha Malowitz	(Mrs. Marohn)
Alex Bru	(Mrs. Knudson)	Jenna McNaughton	(Mr. Miller)
Chris Cade	(Mrs. Schluntz)	Anand Patel	(Mr. Boyd)
Sam Canter	(Miss Krummes)	Nick Prewitt	(Mrs. Hegarty)
Liam Companeeetz	(Miss Gault)	Cynthia Razo	(Miss Myers)
Julia Druker	(Mrs. Fleshman)	Chelsea Rodriguez	(Mrs. Irvin)
Valerie Fong	(Mrs. James)	Maddie Schenck	(Mr. Cepeda)
Eric Forseth	(Mr. Liebow)	Kaitlyn Schimberg	(Mr. Erbez)
Alex French	(Mrs Barks)	Diana Shanahan	(Mrs. Peterson)
Nikhil Furtado	(Miss Meredith)	Wyatt Slanec	(Mr. Reeves)
Sam Gershik	(Mr. Cooley)	Nicole Turman	(Mrs. Moore)
Elisabeth Han	(Mrs. Rosenberg)	Jose Vasquez	(Mr. Wulff)
Holly Hart	(Mrs. Marchese)	Anthony Velasquez	(Mrs. Nair)
Brett Higbee	(Mr. Munson)	Kellie Waldo	(Miss deSilva)
Tim Hoffman	(Mrs. Rowland)	Sarah Walsh	(Mrs. Johnston)
Colin Huey	(Miss Martin)	James Watts	(Miss Pappas)
Ryan Jensen	(Mrs. Shivitz)	Cori Zierott	(Miss Damgen)