

# Pine Valley Middle School - A California Distinguished School



## PUMA NEWS

# August 2008

*A publication of Pine Valley PTA*

Jason Law, Principal

Collette Ricks, PTA President

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Teen Center for Pine Valley

### Dates to Note:

Date	Event
Aug. 11-12	Pick-up Registration Packets, 8:30 am - 3 pm
Aug. 18	Walk-through Registration: 9 am-2 pm, Gym*
Aug. 19	Walk-through Registration: 3-7 pm Gym* *please park in the lot off Broadmoor Dr.
Aug. 21	WEB (Welcome EveryBody) Day - orientation for 6 <sup>th</sup> graders and new 7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> graders, 9 am to Noon <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6<sup>th</sup> graders: arrive at 9:00 am</li> <li>• New 7<sup>th</sup> &amp; 8<sup>th</sup> graders: arrive at 11:30 am</li> <li>• Pizza Lunch: 11:45</li> </ul>
Aug. 25	1 <sup>st</sup> Day of School (minimum day, 11:35 dismissal)
Aug. 26	1 <sup>st</sup> regular day (8:15am-2:45pm)
Aug. 27	Faculty Collaboration every Wed. afternoon - 1:45 dismissal
Aug. 29	Pictures taken during P.E. classes
Sept. 1	Labor Day holiday (No school)
Sept. 4	Back to School Night - gather in gym at 6:30pm, classroom visits begin at 7:00pm
Sept. 8	PTA Meeting, 7 pm in the school library

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

Our new school is nearly ready! Prior to school starting, please take note of the dates (listed below) for packet pick-up & walk-through registration. Packet pick-up is scheduled for two days next week - near the gym off the Broadmoor parking lot. If you are not able to pick-up your student's packet, then you may arrange for someone to pick it up in your absence. These packets have necessary forms & information you need to register your child for school. There are also two different dates & times for Pine Valley's walk through registration. Please make a point to come on one of the registration dates. Walk through registration will be held in the gym, as usual.

### Packet Pick-up

Monday, August 11<sup>th</sup> 8:30am - 3:00pm  
 Tuesday, August 12<sup>th</sup> 8:30am - 3:00pm

### Walk through Registration

Monday, August 18<sup>th</sup> 9:00am - 2:00pm

Tuesday, August 19<sup>th</sup> 3:00pm - 7:00pm

Attention parents of 6<sup>th</sup> graders and New 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders - School photos are not taken during registration. They will be taken in the first week-or-so of school, during your child's scheduled P.E. period. Speaking of P.E., you will be able to purchase your child's P.E. clothes at registration. Also, WEB (**W**elcome **E**verybody) day orientation for 6<sup>th</sup> graders and new 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders is August 21<sup>st</sup>. They won't want to miss it!

**Help! We need more helpers for registration!** If you are available to help out either day (even for a 2 hour block of time), please email me at [collettericks@comcast.net](mailto:collettericks@comcast.net). See dates & times listed above for walk through registration.

We still have some PTA positions that need to be filled for the upcoming 2008-2009 school year. Please consider joining our PTA board and making a difference for our children's middle school.

#### OPEN PTA POSITIONS

Parliamentarian

Cross County School Partner Program Chairman

Dance Coordinator

Yearbook Liaison

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion chairpersons

Our first PTA meeting of the school year will be held on Monday, September 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm. If you are interested in becoming involved in Pine Valley's exciting future, please plan to join us!

Thank you,

Collette Ricks

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

Lani Bari

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

## Principal's Message - by Jason Law

It is with great excitement and humility that I introduce myself to the Pine Valley community. The warm wishes and show of support that I have already received has been welcomed and very much appreciated. I come to the San Ramon Valley Unified School District from Fremont Unified where I spent the first 12 years of my career in education. As a middle school teacher and a secondary administrator, I bring a new perspective and different experiences with me that will complement the great things already going on at Pine Valley.

As you can see, the two years of ongoing construction are finally coming to an end. Unfortunately some of the exterior work is not finished yet, so we are still a construction zone. Everyone will need to be patient for just a little longer. I assure you, we are working closely with the builder to maintain a safe campus when students return. Classrooms will be finished, and students will have everything they need to kick-off an amazing experience.

Our amazingly beautiful and state-of-the-art facility is ready to withstand the challenges that a middle school with 900+ students can produce. It is my hope that this new facility serves as a symbol of a new perception that we want to create here at Pine Valley. As a community, we all have an opportunity to see this school and what it represents in a whole new light. Gone are the old stereotypes, and with it, any negative perceptions of what it was. As we move forward, we carry with us all the positive things that were going on and remember and celebrate those accomplishments. We look forward to setting new goals and creating new traditions on our new campus that will reinvent Pine Valley Middle School and what it represents. Opportunities like this don't come along too often within a community, and it is our responsibility to take advantage of this one.

After listening to many individuals within the Pine Valley community, a validated sense of school pride seems to be something that is longed for. Personally, I believe that middle school has the potential to be a highlight of a young person's life. It is not just a period of time that exists between elementary and high school. It should be acknowledged as a destination, not a corridor from one challenge to another. The young people that come to Pine Valley deserve more than that. Being proud to be a Puma and understanding the concept of "Puma Pride" is something that all stakeholders in the Pine Valley community should aspire to live up to. I need your help with truly connecting students to this campus and creating an amazing middle school experience.

As we get to know each other this year, let's remind each other why we are involved in the lives of this tremendous group of young people. The students of Pine Valley are the common denominator in this challenge before us. The physical, emotional, psychological, and academic needs of middle school students are different than any other group of students. They are special and need to be treated as such. Expectations will be placed upon all of us and we will all be held accountable for our actions. It is with our support that each child will reach their potential.

I look forward to being your principal and your liaison to the Pine Valley Middle School community. The relationships that we will develop are extremely important to me. Never hesitate to contact me with questions or concerns. Together we will support students in their quest to achieve amazing things! I look forward to our many conversations as we set expectations, achieve goals, and create new traditions.

## New Pine Valley Website

Along with our new facility and new principal, Pine Valley has a new website: [www.pumapride.org](http://www.pumapride.org). Please look to it has another great source of ongoing, current information, in addition to the monthly PTA newsletter. Bookmark it today!

## Reflections Fine Arts Program – by Yukiko Egawa

The Reflections Program Theme is "Wow!" Each student may enter in any of the six art areas: Literature, Musical Composition, Photography, Visual Arts, Dance Choreography and Video/Film Production.

For more information go to [www.capta.org/sections/programs/reflections.cfm](http://www.capta.org/sections/programs/reflections.cfm)

The deadline to submit art work will be in October and the exact date will be announced by the September newsletter. If you have any questions, please e-mail me at [eyukikosr@hotmail.com](mailto:eyukikosr@hotmail.com).

## Annual Magazine Sale in September – by Elaina Jurecki

Our annual magazine sale fundraiser will be held during the first few weeks of September when our students are returning from school after a wonderful summer vacation. Please hold off renewing your magazine subscriptions until that time. The magazine sale is the only fundraiser to support Pine Valley's PTA, so we really count on everyone's participation. Orders can be made online, which makes it easy for friends and family to renew their subscriptions on behalf of Pine Valley, so encourage them to renew them this fall for the fundraiser. We will also be looking for some parent volunteers to help collect and tally orders, so please consider signing up at registration.

We thank you in advance for your support! Have a great rest of the summer!

## Staff Appreciation Breakfast – by Teresa DeHope

We're putting together a breakfast for the staff and teachers the last day of summer vacation (Friday, Aug. 22) to help them transition back into the new school year. I could use lots of help, so if you're interested, please contact me at [tdehope@gmail.com](mailto:tdehope@gmail.com) or 551-8747 (home) or 548-7224 (cell).

## New After-School Program – by Adam Chow, City of San Ramon

The City of San Ramon is pleased to introduce a new Teen Center for students at Pine Valley in the fall. The Teen Center will provide supervised and structured academic and recreational activities from school dismissal time until 6:00 p.m. every school day. The city is very excited to offer this new program for the Pine Valley Community. For more information on registration, fees, and policies please visit contact Adam Chow at 973-3362. Registration is now open!