

Pine Valley Middle School - A California Distinguished School



PUMA NEWS

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A publication of Pine Valley PTA

Jason Law, Principal

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Dates to Note:

Date	Event
Oct. 1	7 th & 8 th grader Dance, 7-9pm in the MPR. The theme is Las Vegas. Buy tickets (\$6) at lunchtime
Oct. 2	Staff Development Day - No School for students
Oct. 5-9	Conference Week, 11:15 dismissal and special schedule - see bell schedule on www.pumapride.org
Oct. 5	PTA Meeting, 6:30pm in the school library
Oct. 7	Frantic Families, 6-9pm in the Commons at SRVHS
Oct. 11	Primos Run for Education
Oct. 16	Cal High Homecoming
Oct. 28	Organizational Strategies for Home & School, 7-9pm in the Iron Horse MS MPR
Oct. 30	City of SR Middle School Halloween Dance, 6-9pm at the Community Center at Central Park

President's Message - by Kristen Holbrook & Lani Bari

What a great start to the new school year! Thank you all for helping make it such a smooth beginning. Remember that Friday, October 2nd is a staff development day, so there will be no school.

Our next PTA meeting will be on Monday, October 5th at 6:30pm in the Pine Valley library. Please join us as we discuss the upcoming PTA activities. We have many new faces, and would love to add even more! Whether you can help a little, or a lot, we need you!

Don't forget to sign up for this year's Primo's Run for Education which will be held on Sunday, October 11th. Even if you aren't going to run, you can still sign up for Pine Valley and our school will get credit. Go to www.primosrun.com for more information, and to sign up today! We can earn money for our school through this community event! Please support us! Questions? Please contact Sheila Madrieres at madrieres@comcast.net.

The first dance of the school year is on Thursday, October 1st. (Remember, no school on Friday the 2nd!) This dance is for 7th and 8th grade students only. We need parent volunteers to sell the tickets, chaperone the dance,

and sell concessions. Please contact Amy White (semedo08@yahoo.com) or Chris Brady (Chrissymae@comcast.net) if you can help on October 1stth.

Thank you to all who supported our magazine fundraiser!, Thank you to our parent volunteers who have worked hard to make the sale successful, especially Dawn McQuiston and Nancy Steiger. You can still have friends and family go online to www.readingathome.com and use Pine Valley's ID number of **134691**, and we will receive the proceeds!

Please contact us with any questions, or if you would like to become more involved in our school!

Thank you,
Kristen Holbrook
K10holbrook@hotmail.com

Lani Bari
lanibari@comcast.net

Principal's Message – by Jason Law

As I sit and write this month's newsletter, I could not be more proud. As many of you know by now, our very own science teacher, Joell Marchese was recognized as the 2009-2010 Contra Costa County Teacher of the Year at an awards ceremony held September 24. For those of you who have had children experience the teaching of Ms. Marchese, you understand why she was recognized. As the Contra Costa County Teacher of the Year, Ms. Marchese will now represent teachers from the entire county at the state level. Ms. Marchese embodies the characteristics we want all our teachers to aspire to. She is the perfect blend of curriculum knowledge and compassion for kids. We know she will represent the county well. Congratulations Joell! We know you will continue to make us proud.

Not only do we have that to be proud of, but as promised last month, I have some other fantastic news to share with you about our Academic Performance Index (API) score. I am very proud to report to our community that Pine Valley Middle School had a +19 point jump, bringing our API up to a very impressive 914. Remember, 800 is the goal for California schools out of a possible score of 1000. This is the first time that Pine Valley has surpassed the 900 mark. We saw increases in scores across all subjects. Please see the percentages below that show the amount of increase (from the previous year) of students scoring "Proficient" or "Advanced" on the California Standards Tests (CST).

	2008	2009
6 th grade: ELA	74%	81%
Math	72%	78%
7 th grade: ELA	79%	84%
Math	70%	73%
8 th grade: ELA	75%	81%
History	70%	78%
Algebra I	79%	83%
Science	89%	90%

Though these scores do not ultimately define educational success here at Pine Valley, they do validate the hard work put forth by our entire community - students, teachers, and their parents. Everyone should share in the gratification of this achievement, but I want to publicly thank the teachers. Whether it is looking at data, working collaboratively with each other, or coming in early and staying late to help individual kids, the work that they consistently do out of sincere concern for their students is extraordinary! We will continue to work hard so each student can reach their individual potential.

I know it is hard to believe, but Parent Conference Week is upon us. For those of you new to Pine Valley, parent conferences are for those students struggling and in danger of failing. You were/or will be contacted if there are concerns, and we believe a conference is necessary. All conferences are scheduled by appointment and will be held October 5-9. The school bell schedule that week is 8-11:15 am, everyday, including Wednesday. For those of you using the bussing program, TRAFFIX is aware of the conference schedule and will be adjusting transportation schedules accordingly.

I also wanted to thank everybody as we still get use to our new drop-off and pick-up procedures in the morning and afternoon. Please continue to use the back lot (off Broadmoor) whenever possible. It is the safest place to drop-off or pick-up your children. However, if you must use the front of school, you are never to enter the front Pine Valley driveway when busses are present. For safety reasons, a new crosswalk was painted across Pine Valley Rd. at the entrance of our driveway (West side of campus). If you are dropping off on this side of the school, please have your child cross in this new crosswalk rather than walking across the grass and then in front of busses to get to the front entrance. Also, the staff parking lot in front of the school is not to be used by parents to drop-off students or pick them up. In addition, students arriving at school too early on Wednesdays continues to be an issue. Remember, your child will not be supervised until 15 minutes prior to the beginning of school. The reason for this is that the staff is in their collaboration meetings, which is the purpose of the late-start schedule. As the mornings grow colder and we begin to get some inclement weather, students will not be allowed in any buildings early. Thank you for your help. We really need your support on this.

Finally, I want to thank all of the PTA volunteers who helped out with our annual Magazine Sales Drive. Again, it was a big success that will benefit our kids. Also, don't forget about the Primo's Run on Sunday, October 11. If you have not registered, please go to www.Primosrun.com ASAP. Be sure to select Pine Valley Middle School so we get credit for all our participation. The more Pine Valley community members that register, the more participation dollars we will receive. Though the extra money generated by our participation is nice, it is especially important to me that our students get involved in community events. This annual event raises thousands of dollars to support education throughout our district. Thank you to parent Sheila Madrieres for all your hard work as you have done an outstanding job publicizing the event and getting the Pine Valley community involved. I will see everybody there!

From a County Teacher of the Year, a tremendous increase in API, as well as the many other less public accolades that happen at Pine Valley every day, I hope you appreciate, like I do, this amazing community where your child attends school. As always, feel free to contact me with any concerns. Enjoy the month of October. The month of September has been pretty special.

With much Puma Pride,
Jason Law

Pine Valley Ed Fund Update - by PVEF Board

Thank you to all the families for responding to our "Call to Action" during Back to School Night. However, we still need more families to participate. Please remember that a donation to the Pine Valley Education Fund can be made anytime during the school year. Donations can be dropped off at the Pine Valley office or mailed to the attention of the Ed Fund at the school's address. Or, you can log on to RevTrak at <http://pvef.revtrak.net/tek9.asp> to make a donation.

Another great way to support Pine Valley's Ed Fund efforts is by logging on to eScrip at www.escrip.com and updating your status. Verify your cards are linked to Pine Valley Middle School. You can register your Macy's, Target, Visa or MasterCard. It's free and it brings in funds.

Together, as a Pine Valley community, we can make the difference in our children's education.

Counselor's Corner – by Julie Damgen

Fall is approaching and the school year is off to a quick start. 1st Quarter Progress Reports are already updated and available on School Loop. (Paper progress reports will not be mailed home this year.) Parent/Teacher Conferences start the week of October 5th. It is the perfect time to catch dropping grades before it is too late. Studies have shown time and again that excellence in student achievement is closely linked to active parent participation. Children of involved parents have better grades, better attitudes, and better behavior.

Please stay connected to your child's academic and personal lives, and never hesitate to utilize any of the available resources here at Pine Valley. The best way to monitor your student's assignments and grades is with <http://www.pvms.schoolloop.com/>. Please register and log-in on a consistent basis to stay up-to-date with your student's academic progress. Missing assignments, low test scores, and failing grades will not be your student's best kept secrets any longer. All of this information will be right at your fingertips. Middle school is a critical period - please do not underestimate the value of your contribution and support!

Library News – by Gerri Peterson, Librarian

Thank you to all of the families who made donations to our library this year. Our new library is a vibrant learning center because we continue to be able to provide new books, databases and other learning resources for our students because of your generosity.

Our **Battle of the Books book club** has begun. This club meets once a month during lunch and is free to interested students. Students may pick up a list of book club titles and other information about this group in the library.

Mark your calendars now for our annual **Fall Scholastic Book Fair**. This year's event will be held the week of October 26th - 30th. Check our school website and school loop for upcoming hours and daily events. This year our fair will be open until 6:30 p.m. on October 28th and 29th. Come shop at the fair and attend our school play that same evening. If you would like to volunteer to help at the fair please e-mail me at gpeters@srvusd.net. It is a week of great fun and a wonderful opportunity to preview many new books chosen for middle school readers. I look forward to seeing all of you at the fair!

Have you signed up for the Primo's Run on October 11th? Our library has benefited from numerous grants from this foundation which has helped us provide books on tape, playaways and other library resources for our students. Thank you to all of the volunteers who work hard to coordinate this event and the families who participate. The library truly appreciates the grant opportunities this event provides to our school community.

Also don't forget to take a moment to clip those Box Tops for Education. We have a cookie jar in the library at the drop box just waiting to be filled with them. Students can bring them in anytime or drop them off in the office. This is another way to support our school community.

Teen Read Week, sponsored by the Young Adult Library Services Association is being celebrated nationwide on October 18th-24th. Take a few moments to talk with your child about what they are reading and share with them a few of your favorite titles when you were their age. Remind them to spend time reading for pleasure. It's free, fun and can be done anywhere. Encourage them to visit our library and the community library often. There's always something new at the library. **Come Check It Out!**

Game Day Coming to PV – by Shirley Convirs, School Psychologist

Pine Valley librarian, Mrs. Peterson and I have been working on developing a Game Day one day a week at Pine Valley. It will take place in the library on Fridays during 4th, 5th and 6th lunch periods. All children are welcome.

Over the next two weeks, we are asking educators and parents to contribute new or recycled games for use at game day throughout the year. We are looking for Legos, chess sets, checkers, Connect 4, Pictionary, charade games, cards, arts and crafts materials for jewelry making, art books, markers and other art materials, puzzles, dot to dots, mazes, labyrinths, and any other interactive games that middle schoolers enjoy. Please, no electronic games. If you have contributions, please send them to the Library. Thank you!

If we are able to find the necessary materials/games, we hope to begin on October 16th. We are also hoping to incorporate specialty days on Fridays (e.g., garage band, designing the best paper air plane, chess or checkers match, etc.). It should be fun!

Top 5 Reasons to Register for Primo's Run – by Sheila Madrieres

1. You will be Mr. Law's new BFF.
2. Your registration fee is tax-deductible (less the value of the T-shirt)
3. You don't even have to show up for the race to help our school.
4. It's for a great cause - Primo's Run proceeds fund grants that benefit our school.
5. It is the easiest fundraiser you will ever do.

Pine Valley really needs your support. Please register at www.primosrun.com. October 8 is the last day to register online and for our school to get participation credit. If you have any ideas or questions please feel free to email me at madrieres@comcast.net

News from eScrip – by Luz Teresa McKinney & Montse Barr

Safeway shoppers: From **September 18th to October 9**, a redemption code will be printed at the bottom of your grocery receipt. You can support our school by redeeming your receipts. To do this:

1. Go to www.escrip.com and click on the logo that says "10% goes back to schools" with a picture of a school bus
2. Identify Pine Valley Middle School
3. Enter the redemption code on the register tape (See example). That's it!



10% Back-To-Schools

Thanks for your continued support of the 10% Back-To-Schools program.

Bring in this reward receipt to your local school, or process your donation at www.backtoschools.escrip.com
ENTER THIS NUMBER 0000000250035869843
Must redeem by 10/13/2009.

You may return to this site as often as you wish, until October 13 to enter additional register receipt tape codes. If you'd rather have us do this for you, you're welcome to turn your receipts into the Pine Valley office by October 12, and we'll do them for you.

If you are already registered with escrip (which we hope is the case!) your receipts will automatically be redeemed for the schools you are registered. Check your receipts to make sure. Thank you for your participation!

Box Tops for Education- by Melinna Gershik

Keep clipping Box Tops for Education on hundreds of General Mills products and bring them to the school library and place them in the Box Tops for Education collection box or give them to your core teacher! Our school will receive 10¢ for each box top returned. You'll find Box Tops on many brands that you use every day, including Ziploc bags, General Mills cereals, Cottonelle toilet paper, and many, many more products. The entire list can be found at: <http://www.boxtops4education.com/AllAboutBoxTops/products.aspx>.

If you have any questions, please email me at pinevalleyboxtops@yahoo.com.

Frantic Families – by Collette Ricks, Parent Ed.

Thursday, October 7, 6-9pm in the Commons at San Ramon Valley High School

This fantastic family and community building event is designed for the on-the-go family that wants to get some "handles" on how to balance the frantic pace of raising a family without sacrificing family priorities. It includes a working family dinner, a choice of breakout sessions, and a keynote presentation. Attendance by the whole family is encouraged, as there are breakouts sessions for children and youth ages 10 and up, and childcare for children ages 2-9. [View the flyer](#). A \$30 donation is requested at check in. Sign up www.discoveryctr.net, or for more information call (925)837-0505.

October Special Needs Program – by Kristen DeLaGardie

The San Ramon Valley Council of PTAs Special Needs Committee presents:

Organizational Strategies for Home and School

Wednesday, October 28, 7-9 PM at Iron Horse Middle School MPR

Explore the answers to the following questions with SRVUSD's Carolyn Miller, who will share her experiences and ideas. Ms. Miller was the SRVUSD and Contra Costa County Teacher of the Year in 2002-2003, and is currently Curriculum Specialist for all SDC classes in the SRVUSD. What goals do I have for my child?

- How can I structure the home environment to influence my child's ability to focus, communicate and work independently?
- How can both home and school work together for the success of my child?
- What is a structured classroom and why is it important?
- How can I help my child be successful during recess and lunch at school?

Registration will begin in early October at www.srvcouncilpta.org.

San Ramon Library Programs – by Nancy Kreiser

Pokémon Party

Saturday, October 10, 1:00pm at the San Ramon Library

Hey Pokémon players, have you got the skills to catch them all? Bring your Nintendo DS and your copy of Pokémon Diamond, Pearl, or Platinum. You'll play against other kids and we'll also have Pokémon Battle Revolution on the Wii. Don't miss this chance to meet other Pokémon fan-atics!

Teen Read Week 2009 – October 18-24: Read Beyond

Drop by the libraries and vote for your favorite title in our Teen's Top Ten Contest. Get inspired to read something from our list of nominees. Then join us for the Teen Read Week party!

Game Night @ Dougherty Station Library - Our Teen Read Week Party!

Friday, October 23, 6:00 -8:00pm at Dougherty Station Library

Join us for a loud and lively evening when teens take over the library and we celebrate Teen Read Week. The library will be open only to teens and it will be all about games and gaming with over 40 computers and console games like the Wii on our big screens. Bring your friends and play the night away! Refreshments will be served.

Tea and More for Teens

Saturday, November 7, 6:00 -8:00pm at the San Ramon Library

Have you ever wondered what fork to use at a formal dinner or if it is okay to send a text message instead of a thank you note? Life can be complicated and the finer points of social graces can be confusing! But help is here! Just in time for the holidays, Rebecca Black, etiquette consultant, teacher and image coach, will cover the basics including table manners and teen etiquette. And just to prove how much we've learned, we'll enjoy a "formal" tea and have fun too.

Flicktion Book Club for Middle Schoolers

Tuesday 10/20, 11/17 and 12/15 3:15-5:00pm Dougherty Station Library

Wednesday 10/21, 11/18 and 12/16 2:30-4:00pm San Ramon Library

You can't judge a book by its cover...or by its movie! San Ramon Libraries would like to invite all teens to join our newest book club! We'll explore some great stories together. Read the book ahead of time, and then come watch the movie. Stay around afterwards for a brief discussion of how the book and movie compare and which one was better! Everyone is welcome, even if they haven't read the book! Upcoming titles are:

October - *Stormbreaker* by Anthony Horowitz

November - *The Princess Bride* by William Goldman

December- *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* by Dr. Seuss

Programs for Teens - by Adam Chow, City of San Ramon

The City of San Ramon Parks & Community Services Department offers a variety of programs, classes and events. Visit our teen website, www.SRTeen.org, for a complete listing of what's going on for teens in San Ramon. To register 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.

Upcoming Classes

Babysitting for Beginners

The class you have been looking for to develop all the skills needed to be a trusted and responsible babysitter. Learn about child development, bedtime strategies, discipline, how to get jobs, and ways to make babysitting fun for you and the kids. Basic first aid, general safety, and what to do in an emergency will also be covered.

- Ages 10-18: 1 Class \$60(R)/\$75(N). Saturday, Oct. 10 or Sunday, Nov. 8, 9am-2:30 pm at the Community Center at Central Park.
- Grades 6-8: 4 Classes \$60(R)/\$75(N) Wednesdays, Oct. 14-Nov. 4, 2:45 - 4:15pm at PVMS

Hip Hop Dance

Come get your groove on! The class will include a warm-up, stretching and strengthening exercises and the latest moves of the most popular street dance today, hip-hop. Popular, age-appropriate music will be used. Please wear comfortable/stretchy clothing and tennis shoes, no jeans. No class 10/7 & 11/23. Grades 6-8. 5 Classes \$45(R)/\$56(N). Mondays, 10/26 - 11/30, 3:05-3:50pm, at the Diablo Valley College San Ramon Campus.

Upcoming Events

Middle School Halloween Dance

Put on your Halloween costume and come have a howling good time at the Halloween Middle School Dance Friday, October 30, 6:00-9:00pm at the Community Center at Central Park. All 6th, 7th, and 8th graders with a valid

school ID are invited to attend this fun event. Tickets will be sold for \$7 at our middle school Teen Centers and San Ramon Community Center beginning October 19. Tickets will only be sold at the door if available for \$10. The last dance sold-out so get your tickets early! Visit www.SRTeen.org for dress code and parental permission form.

Visit [SRTeen.org](http://www.SRTeen.org)

Visit San Ramon's all new website, www.SRTeen.org, to get information on teen events, concert information, classes, and other programs. You can sign up for email updates and participate in contests that can make teens eligible for free prizes and discounts on programs and events. Check out www.SRTeen.org to get the 411 on teen programs.

Students of the Month Program - by Wendy Pomeroy

Congratulations to the September Students of the Month. They have been chosen by their teachers or other staff members for exemplifying the life skill of **Responsibility**.

Student	(Nominated by)	Student	(Nominated by)
Jack (Aaron) Ackerman	(Mrs. Rowland)	Cristina Hill	(Mrs. White)
Rylee Akins	(Mr. Wulff)	Joey Holden	(Mr. Bellomo)
Vidhi Amin	(Mrs. Marchese)	Glynnis Houston	(Ms Bramle)
Sean Anderson	(Mr. Erbez)	Colin Huey	(Mr. Miller)
Jefferson Armanini	(Miss Meredith)	Madeline Hurd	(Mrs. Shivitz/Jones)
Athena Bach	(Mrs. Kontilis)	Hannah Johnson	(Ms Herrera)
Sean Barnard	(Mrs. James)	Nicolas Kauffman	(Mrs. Nair)
Nicole Beauchemin	(Miss Damgen)	Jessica Kroeckle	(Mrs. Moore)
Luke Campopiano	(Mrs. Irvin)	James Legrama	(Miss Krummes)
Sam Canter	(Mr. Reeves)	Lacee Lewis	(Miss deSilva)
Daniel Cox	(Mr. Boyd)	Samvika Mehra	(Mrs. Hegarty)
Ryan Day	(Mrs. Knudson)	Sarah Noble	(Dr. Grame)
Mathew DeLaGardie	(Ms Holstrom)	Alexandra Nunes	(Mr. Munson)
Valerie Fong	(Mrs. Marohn)	Piper Pontrelli	(Mrs. Johnston)
Leah Fournier	(Ms Barks)	Shashank Rao	(Ms Schrakampa)
Kristyn Fudge	(Mr. Liebow)	Hannah Robbins	(Mrs. Schluntz)
Marissa Gallego	(Mr. Law)	Chelsea Rodriguez	(Miss Ciriaco)
Sean Gibson	(Mrs. Fleshman)	Ethan Tessman	(Miss Pappas)
McKenna Gin	(Miss Martin)	Jenna Valbuena	(Mrs. Rosenberg)
Jessica Gonsalves	(Ms. Phillips)	Caitlyn Weber	(Ms. Huff)
Akul Goyal	(Ms. Charles)	Heather Wong	(Mrs. Loughery)
Brandon Graham	(Miss Gault)	Chris Zabaneh	(Mr. Vespi)

The Pine Valley Students of the Month program honors students who exemplify the featured life skill of the month. The selected students are rewarded with a professional photograph and an ice cream sundae during their lunch break on a pre-determined day of the month and recognized in the next newsletter. This program is sponsored and supported by the PTA. The featured life skill for October is Sense of Humor.