

# TIGER TALK



The Voice of Valley's PTA

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## President's Message



### Teaching Positive Behavior

What do you remember about school rules from your childhood? What I remember is lists of "don'ts." "Do not run." "Do not chew gum in class." "Do not cheat." While there is nothing wrong with being clear on what children should not do, we have found that the students exhibit better behavior when we teach them what to do. We are clear about the kinds of behaviors we want to see in our students when in class, on the playground, in the library, etc. We then talk about what it looks like and sounds like when students are displaying these positive behaviors, and we practice them.

At Valley we have three main rules - and you'll notice that they're all stated affirmatively: "We work hard," "We take care of each other," and "We take care of our school." Everything else we expect from our kids falls under those broad headings, and the kids all know it. In morning meetings teachers talk specifically about what it looks like in the classroom when kids are working hard, taking care of each other and taking care of the school. On my morning messages over the PA I highlight specific positive behaviors also. Members of our support staff give Tiger Tickets to the kids on the playground and lunch area for these same three behaviors.

The result? Over the past three years our numbers of Character Referrals, trips to the principal's office and school suspensions are way down. The tone on campus is friendly, safe and productive, and the kids are doing excellent work in class each day. I'm very proud of our teachers, our staff, and our kids, and I hope you are too. Tonight, ask your child what he or she did to "work hard," "take care of each other" or "take care of our school." And thank you, as always, for your support of our Valley Tigers!

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Andy Johnsen, Ed.D.

Principal

Valley Elementary School

## PTA Present's Message



Dear Fellow Valley Parents

What a great start to 2014 we've had at Valley.

Valley's Got Talent was a great success! 50 student entertainers in 29 acts performed to a packed house. Thank you to Tammie Statler and Jessica Jones for coordinating this event. Thank you to Rigo Bustos (soundsystem), Christal Rodrigues (stage manager), and our decorating crew: Karen Morrison, Liz Collins Smith and Jennifer Gaut. You make Valley a great place to be!

The kids loved Jump Rope for Heart held on February 12th. This event encourages healthy exercise and models generosity for the kids (as ALL money raised goes to the American Heart Association). It also makes for some awesome photos and memories!

Our signature event--Art in the Valley-- was held on February 28th. It is an Art Show showcasing our students' artwork (in the MPR), a Silent Auction (in the library) that raises money for Valley programs, and a Dessert/ Coffee evening to connect with other parents and listen to wonderful musicians perform. We had about 330 Valley students and parents attend this year (despite the rain!) Many parent volunteers made this event successful including Megan Schirmacher and Sarah Adams (Art Show and Original Works), Carrie Shen, Shawna Hamon and Liz Collins-Smith (Silent Auction), Brittany Vaughn (Refreshments), Lili Husseman and Jennifer Gaut (decorations), Darcy Slansky (volunteers), and Naneth Sotic-Jose (music). This is a wonderful event for our kids and really showcases what makes Valley special.

The Valley PTA is currently accepting applications for positions for 2014-2015. Valley is an amazing school, with so many great programs and events. We can't do it without you! Please consider doing your part to continue the tradition of excellence! Please email [valleypta@yahoo.com](mailto:valleypta@yahoo.com) for more information.

The Valley PTA has more fun planned for March and April. The Jog-a-thon is scheduled for March 19th. Dia de los Niños is scheduled on April 26th. We can't put on these events without you! Won't you take a few hours out of your schedule to help make these events successful? Please email [valleypta@yahoo.com](mailto:valleypta@yahoo.com) to participate.

Working together we can accomplish great things for our children!!

Kimberly Floyd, Valley Elementary PTA President

# Counselor's Corner

A

B

C

s Of Student Success

K

is for KITCHEN.

Cooking with kids is a great way to spend quality time and teach lifelong skills.

- Toddlers make simple recipes as they count items and follow a sequence of steps.
- Young kids read recipes, follow directions, measure ingredients, and practice safety.
- Older children double or divide recipes and help plan for a party.

Cooking enables parents and children to work cooperatively and share accomplishments. For kid-friendly recipes, see <http://kid.allrecipes.com>.

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A

B

C

s Of Student Success

L

is for LISTENING.

*"God gave us two ears and one mouth for a reason: we should spend twice as much time listening as talking!"*

As parents, we can spend quality time in our children's world by...

- listening -- focusing on what a child is saying *and* on his or her body language.
- maintaining eye contact with the child.
- smiling and nodding, which will encourage the child to continue.
- paraphrasing what a child has said, and asking questions to be sure we understand.

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## Upcoming PUSD Parent Education Classes

Call the Caring Connections Center @ 858-668-4084 for more information or visit the district website at

[How to Talk So Kids Will Listen and Listen So Kids Will Talk Series](#)  
**#3 Tuesdays, 3/4, 3/11, 3/18, 3/25 from 6:00 – 7:45 p.m. in MPR @ Turtleback**  
Series is \$39/individual + \$15/book = \$54 total or \$69/couple + \$15/book = \$84 total.

[Active Parenting of Teens Series](#)  
**#8 Thursdays, 3/6, 3/13, 3/20, 3/27 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in LRC @ Meadowbrook**  
Series is \$39/individual + \$15/book = \$54 total or \$69/couple + \$15/book = \$84 total.

[Positive Parenting Program Series](#)  
**#23 Mon.-Wed.-Mon. 3/17, 3/19, 3/24 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. @ Valley**

Series is FREE with Free childcare for school aged children. In English and Spanish!

## Foundation News



The Valley Elementary Educational Foundation is a nonprofit organization made up of parent volunteers who bring other parents and community members together to raise money to enrich the educational experience so that every child at Valley Elementary School can succeed.



### What is the Foundation?

The Valley Elementary Educational Foundation was established in 2006 by three Valley parents who had a vision. Its mission is simple: to raise money to help bridge the gap between what shrinking district budgets can provide and what students need in order to have the best, most well-rounded education possible.



### Prices Go Up Next Month —

Register Today for the Trail Run!

The Trail Run is scheduled for May 3, 2014, at Lake Poway. Pricing is based on each participant's age, regardless of which race he or she chooses to run. Registration for runners 7 and under is \$10; ages 8-17 is \$25; ages 18 and older is \$40. Fees will go up on April 20 so register today for the best deal. We offer a special 50 percent heroes discount for 5K adult entrants who are active-duty firefighters, law enforcement or military. To become a sponsor or a benefactor, email race director Jeff Hernandez at [jhernandez@ValleyEEF.org](mailto:jhernandez@ValleyEEF.org).



### Double the Dollars, Double the Difference

The Foundation is grateful to an anonymous donor who pledged to match financial donations made by Valley parents or grandparents, families or friends.

If you become a benefactor of the 8th Annual Trail Run, scheduled for May 3 at Lake Poway, your \$10 donation will turn into \$20. Your \$25 will turn into \$50 and your \$50 will turn into \$100! The first \$2,000 in contributions will be matched and transformed into \$4,000. So make your tax-deductible gift today to help double the dollars and double the difference!

Check your child's backpack for the official flier or make your gift online. Go to [ValleyEEF.org](http://ValleyEEF.org) and click on the GIVE NOW button.



### Virtual Runners

The Foundation is offering the opportunity for people to register as "virtual" runners in the Cinco de Mayo Trail Run. This is perfect for grandparents or out-of-town friends and family, who want to support the event, even if they can't be at Lake Poway on race day. Virtual runners must register before April 20. The fee is \$40 and includes a race shirt. To register as a virtual runner, go to [CincoDeMayoTrailRun.org](http://CincoDeMayoTrailRun.org) today and click on the registration button.



### Volunteers Needed

Help spread the word about the Trail Run by distributing posters around the community and fliers at other local races. It takes about an hour and is a fun community service project that the entire family can do.

Here are some of the upcoming races:

Carlsbad 5000: March 30, 2014  
Xterra Run, Black Mountain: April 13, 2014  
La Jolla Half: April 27, 2014

To help, email Krystn Monroe at [kmonroe@ValleyEEF.org](mailto:kmonroe@ValleyEEF.org).

### Financial Contributions

To make a tax-deductible donation to the Foundation, or to learn more about the Foundation's initiatives and events, go to [ValleyEEF.org](http://ValleyEEF.org).

## Jog-A-Thon



Dear Parents,

It's that time of year again...Yes, our annual Jog-A-Thon! It's just around the corner on **Wednesday, March 19!** To make this year top the previous year, we need your help! This is another one of Valley's biggest fundraisers and it also raises awareness of fitness and fun for our children. One hundred percent of the money raised stays at Valley and the PTA uses the funds for fun programs for your children throughout the year. We cannot do it without our amazing Valley volunteers. If you would like to help with this event, please email Laura Danahy at lauracarmona@hotmail.com. If you volunteered last year, we would love to have you volunteer again this year!

### Volunteers Needed on Wednesday, March 19, 2014:

- 10 people to mark the colored popsicle sticks with a black Sharpie.
- 10 people to help set up the field at 6:30 am on March 19.
- Clean up crew from 11:20-12:00pm.
- A runner (This person takes the marked sticks to the middle of the field to be counted.)
- 2 people on Water sprayers.
- 3 people to work at the water table.
- 3 people at the Otter Pop table - cutting the tops off and handing them out to kids.
- Photographer for the event
- MC for the event



### Jump Rope for Heart

Jump Rope for Heart was held on February 12th and is an event that our Valley Students LOVE to participate in. One hundred percent of the money raised goes to the American Heart Association. This event raises awareness and teaches our students about the benefits of eating healthy, being active and how those two components of our daily lives can make a big difference to prevent heart disease in young children, adolescents, and adults. They also learned that smoking can damage their heart and lungs and prevent them from living an active and healthy life. If you have any pledges that you have not turned in yet, I can still take them. Please hand them to your teacher and I will send them to the American Heart Association.



Thank you so much!

Laura Carmona Danahy  
VP of Health & Fitness

## Art in the Valley



Art in the Valley was amazing! This is very ambitious event for Valley to host and we couldn't do this event without all our great parents. We had about 330 Valley students, teachers and parents attend this year (despite the rain!) I love that this event provides an opportunity for our Valley community to connect, have dessert and coffee and listen to some great young musicians. It also allows our children to proudly show off their artistic talent. And it allows Valley to earn money to fund the PTA programs that make our school so special. Really a win-win-win!

The Student Art Show in the MPR was beautifully arranged. Thank you to Megan Schirmacher and Sarah Adams for coordinating the Art Show and Original Works orders. Thank you to all you parents who helped do the art in the classrooms, hang it in the MPR and worked at the event! The variety and number of items to bid on for this year's Silent Auction was wonderful. Thank you to Carrie Shen, Shawna Hamon and Liz Collins-Smith for soliciting the donations, organizing the baskets and bid sheets and pulling off a great Silent Auction. The refreshments were delicious and plentiful! Thank you to Brittany Vaughn, LaMar Raboteau and Kim Jones for coordinating the refreshments (and being flexible with the layout due to the rain!) The decorations really pulled the event together and I got many compliments on how pretty the library and MPR looked. Thank you to Lili Husseman and Jennifer Gaut for their amazing decorating talents! The talented musicians from Meadowbrook provided just the right ambiance for our event. I really enjoyed listening to them play all evening. Thank you to Naneth Sotic-Jose for coordinating the musicians. We had over 30 highschool volunteers for this event (and really couldn't have done it without them). Thank you to Darcy Slansky for coordinating our volunteers (Key Club, AVID and Valley alumni). Thank you to Chris Jones at Mission Federal for bringing his team to help us count out the Silent Auction winners. Thank you to Nicole Rose (our PTA Historian) for taking photos at the event (see a few of my faves attached). Thank you to Tammie Statler whose expertise at chairing this event was so valuable. I truly don't know what we are going to do without her next year. And a big thank you to all the parents who donated items to the Silent Auction!!

This is a wonderful event for our kids and really showcases what makes Valley special. I am proud to be a member of such a strong community!

Kim Floyd  
PTA President

## Valley Elementary Reflections Winner

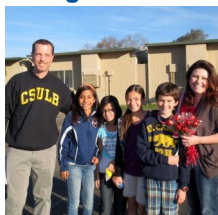


Valley recognized our 2013-2014 PTA Reflections winners at the February 26th assembly. This is a Nation-wide competition with six categories (dance, film, literature, music, photography and visual arts.) The following students received honorable mention from Palomar Council: Christopher Shen, Larry Tovey, Brandon Shen, Sashi, Chuckravanen, Azulena Su, Dinah Tovey, Kieran Niehans, Sunshine Tovey, Easha Ashraf, Giovanni Russo, Emma Langer-Weida. Two students received Awards of Merit from Palomar Council and will have their artwork displayed at the May 7th Reflections Banquet; Easha Ashraf for her poem "Believe, Dream, Inspire" and Enoch Oh for his painting.

Congratulations to all our winners! They each received a certificate from Palomar Council, free admission to Art in the Valley and a sketchbook and pencils. Thank you to Kim Niehans for coordinating the Reflections program. Valley PTA hopes to inspire our Valley students with art and encourage all to participate next year. The 2014-2015 theme will be "The World Would Be a Better Place If..."



## Congratulations and Thank You's



Congratulations to Valley's Classified Employee of the Year 2013-2014...Tara Appling! She kindly takes care of our children when they get hurt or sick. And of course, her organized, professional manner and welcoming smile makes the Front Office a very pleasant place to visit (TOP LEFT).

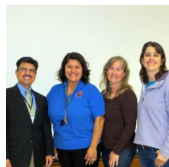
Congratulations to Valley's Teacher of the Year 2013-2014...Melissa Orellana! She is a third grade Dual-Language teacher at Valley. She is a kind and caring teacher (a favorite of many a Valley student!) who really makes her class fun (MIDDLE LEFT).

Poway Unified School District recognized last year's (2012-2013) honorees at an awards dinner February 25th. It was a wonderful evening at Rancho Bernardo Inn sponsored by Mission Federal as well as other businesses. Valley's honorees were Classified Employee of the year Colette Bradley, Teacher of the Year Gale Caddell, and Volunteer of the year Jeanette Candelaria were honored. Principal Andrew Johnsen, PTA President Kim Floyd and Foundation President Erin Tozer were there to cheer them on (TOP RIGHT)!

A big thank you to Derek & Marie Nelson for donating their refrigerator to our Valley Teachers for their lounge. And thanks to Kim Floyd our PTA President for coordinating the donation!

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## Coffee With the Principal



On February 10th Valley hosted Coffee with the Principals with guest Dr. Miguel Carrillo, proud principal of Meadowbrook Middle School. The PTA sponsored breakfast and parents of fourth and fifth graders were invited to learn about Meadowbrook. Parents received a great deal of useful information about the Gate Program, the Academy Program, opportunities for continuing Spanish education and application deadlines. Thank you to Dr. Carrillo for taking his time to educate the next batch of prospective middle school parents.

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## Box Tops for Education

13,500 Box Tops Collected!

Thank you to all those that cut and contributed their Box Tops for Education and Labels for Education. We also collected over 2,200 Labels for Education.

Congratulations to Mrs. Kitts class for turning in 2,677 Box Tops and Labels. They won the ice cream party.



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## Spring Book Fair



Join us in sharing a love of reading  
with our students at  
Valley's Scholastic Book Fair.

Monday thru Friday, March 24 to 28  
7:45 am to 3:00 pm  
(Wednesday open to 1:00 pm)

*This year, you can order online. Let your family out of town know – send them your wish list! Go to [www.ValleyPTA.com](http://www.ValleyPTA.com) or the website below.*

“One For Books” – A cash collection will be available for our Valley Library. You can donate a little or a lot to help our library grow. Scholastic will match each dollar raised and contribute to Toys for Tots and other youth charities.



*See you at our Book Fair!*

Darcy Slansky  
Book Fair Chairperson

<http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/homepage/valleytigers>

Valley Elementary  
**PTA**  
everychild.our voice.®



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## Upcoming Events

Spring Photos 3/18/14  
Jog-a-thon 3/19/14  
Volunteer Thank You Breakfast 3/27/14  
Spring Intercession/Break 3/31-04/11/14  
Dia del Niño 4/26/14  
Spring Book Fair 4/24-4/28  
Cinco de Mayo Trail Run 5/3/14

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2013-2014 PTA Board



Back (Left to Right): Dr. Johnsen, Melissa Orellana, Nicole Rose, Darcy Slansky, Sandy Sears, Brittany Vaughn, Dana Boll, Lisa Black, Elizabeth Hulterstrom, Lisa Jones

Front (Left to Right): Shawna Hamon, Laura Danahy, Kim Floyd, Carrie Shen, Karla Valenzuela

Elected Officers

Principal-Andrew Johnsen  
PTA President- Kim Floyd  
Executive V.P.- Darcy Slansky  
1st V.P. Ways and Means- Carrie Shen  
2nd V.P. Programs- Lamar Raboteau  
3rd V.P. Membership- Karla Valenzuela  
4th V.P. Parent Education and Outreach- OPEN  
5th V.P. Health and Fitness- Laura Danahy  
6th V.P. Art Program- Lisa Black  
Recording Secretary- Dana Boll

Treasurer- Sandie Sears  
Financial Secretary- Naneth Sotic-Jose  
Auditor- Shawna Hamon  
Historian- Nicole Rose  
Parliamentarian- Kelly Kersey

Committee Chairs

Hospitality- Brittany Vaughn  
Newsletter Editor- Dana Boll  
Volunteer Coordinator- Darcy Slansky  
Corresponding Secretary- Tara Harrison  
Teacher Liaison (DL)- Melissa Orellana  
Teacher Liaison (EC)- Lisa Jones

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Valley Elementary PTA  
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