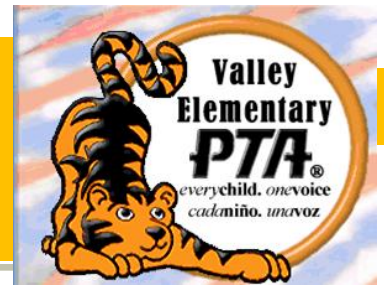


# TIGER TALK

*The Voice of Valley Elementary PTA*



October 2014 Issue 2 (2014-2015)



## From the Desk of Dr. Johnsen

~ *Andy Johnsen, Ed. D.*

### Building Mathematical Reasoning in our Students

What do you remember about 5th grade math? What I remember from my experience was a teacher standing at the board, explaining how to perform a mathematical calculation (like finding common denominators, for example) then sitting quietly at my desk filling out a worksheet with thirty or so problems like the one she showed us on the board.

While the Common Core standards require precision in calculations like this, they push for much more. Because a truly proficient math student is not just one who can fill out a worksheet correctly – it is a student who can reason, clearly communicate their reasoning to others, find mistakes in reasoning, explain where the mistakes come from and show how to fix them. In the Common Core this mathematical practice is called “Constructing viable arguments and critiquing the reasoning of others.”

Here’s a recent example of a problem Valley 5th graders had to work on: “Susan says that she knows that  $\frac{2}{3}$  is greater than  $\frac{6}{8}$  because she knows that the smaller the denominator, the greater part of a whole. Do you agree or disagree with her thinking and why?”

Much different from what we experienced as kids in school, right? And the work the kids did on this problem – in writing even(!) was amazing. I am so proud of our teachers and kids as we continue to push to higher and higher levels in their mathematical thinking. I hope you are too!

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If you are interested in learning more about the Common Core Standards for Mathematical Practice, they can be found here:

<http://www.corestandards.org/Math/Practice>



## PTA President’s Message

~ *Kimberly Floyd*

The PTA thanks the 110+ parents who have joined us to become PTA members. We are well on our way to making our voices heard in support of our children. Please continue sending in your membership, Bring What You Love to Valley forms, and Friends of Valley forms. Every parent counts!

September has been full of fun PTA events at Valley! Tiger Trackers got up and running! Thank you to all the volunteers who make this happen. The children have been running every Friday (weather permitting) and the joy on their faces is wonderful to see. The PTA has also announced our artwork contest for 4th and 5th-grade students to design our new Tiger Tracker shirts. Check Paw Prints for design requirements and contest rules.

*Continued: PTA President’s Message on page 4*

## TOSA TALK

~ Angelica Barragan

**"Extra homework" at home...**

Whether you have a child that rushes home to finish their homework on the day it is assigned, or have a child that you struggle with to finish at least one tiny part the day before it is due, finding educational moments during the day can be a struggle. Here are a few "tips" on how to turn everyday moments into a learning experience.

- **Read!** Reading is everywhere, from book baggies, to recipes, to directions. You can find reading all around.
- **Write!** Shopping lists, letters, directions on how to get to school, or better yet the frozen yogurt shop!
- **Money!** Money recognition, making change, and multiplying multiple amounts is BIG in elementary school. Work from where you child's level is, and go from there.
- **Talk!** Kids learn SO MUCH from talking. Conversations can get a boost if you turn it into a debate, or have your child try to persuade you into doing something you are against doing.
- **Technology and television:** Use with caution. Although it is a great teaching tool, be careful, too much of even a good thing can be bad. Limit screen time to 30-60 minutes a day.

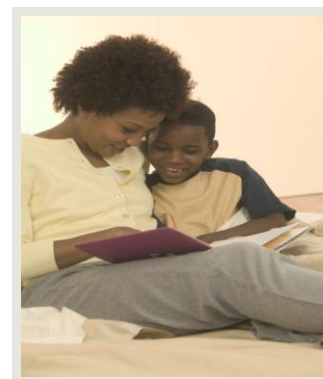
**2014-2015 GATE Testing Information**

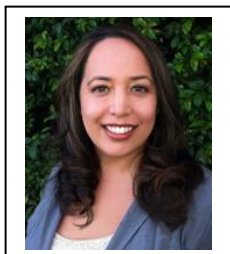
Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) involves services for students whose cognitive needs may require modified classroom curriculum and instruction to accommodate their learning differences and ensure their achievement. Parents may request GATE testing for students in grades 2-7.

<b><u>Test Date (only 1 test opportunity)</u></b>	<b><u>Request Submission Window</u></b>
<b>SCHOOL SITE /SCHOOL DAY TESTING</b> <b>Monday, January 12 – Thursday, January 15</b> @ each school site during the school day. <i><b>*Each school will determine their testing date(s) within this 4 day window.</b></i>	<b>Monday, September 8 through Friday, November 21, 2014</b>

To request GATE testing for your child, complete a *GATE Parent Questionnaire/Test Consent* form online through the PUSD GATE webpage <https://onlinereg.powayusd.com/GateSurvey/> If you have questions, please contact your child's school office.

**NOTE:** *Requests for GATE Testing will only be taken during the **request submission window dates.***





**Foundation President**  
~ Krystn Monroe

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.



### Donate a Dime a Day

Thank you to the Valley families who have participated so far in this year's Dime a Day campaign. The Dime a Day campaign is the Foundation's annual giving campaign. We know, during this difficult time in our economy, that every gift is a sacrifice. So when structuring our annual giving program, we were deliberate to create options that could fit every budget — that could allow every family to participate at the level that worked best for them.

One dime a day is \$18 for the whole year. There are 180 days in the school year. There are about 720

students at the school. If every student donated one dime for every day of school we could raise \$12,960 for Valley. That's a lot of computers or iPads for our students and teachers. But for each one of us, it's just a dime.

It's amazing what a dime can do. It's amazing what we can do when we work together. Thank you to the following family for sending in their contributions\*:

The Alonso Family	The Kraus Family
The Amidei Family	The Lapastora Family
The Barron Family	The Lehrer Family
The Barrus Family	The Lemm Family
The Bell Family	The Lizondo Family
The Berk Family **	The Lopez Family
The Black Family	The Mahtafar Family
The Brown Family	The Maurer Family
The Carlson Family	The Mayer Family
The Cazares Family	The McCullough Family
The Cedillo Family	The McGhee Family
The Collins Family	The Miller Family
The Culleton Family	The Monroe Family
The Danahy Family	The Moya Inzunza Family
The Deines and Wallace Family	The Nandola Family
The Dow Family	The Navarro Family
The Edwards Family	The Neil Family
The Endemann Family	The Nguyen Family
The Evonsion Family	The Onan Family
The Fann Family	The Palacios Family
The Floyd Family	The Pham Family
The Francisco Family	The Pioquinto Family
The Garcia Family	The Rivera Family
The Gastelum Family	The Rose Family **
The Gonzalez Family	The Sablan Family
The Gutierrez Family	The Seremet Family
The Gutzmer Family	The Silvestri Family
The Hamon Family	The Smeal Family
The Headley Family	The Sneed Family
The Hernandez Family	The Sotic-Jose Family
The Hero Garcia Family	The Swaisgood Family
The Hofmaister Family	The Terrones Family **
The Hovel Family **	The Tognetti Family
The Hungspreugs Family	The Tovar Family
The Hunsicker Family	The Tozer Whiteside Family
The Husseman Family	The Vassar Family **
The Huynh Tran Family	The Vega Family
The Javier Family	The Vinson Family
The Jones Family	The Vuong Le Family
The Jose Family	The Zavala Family
The Kepler Family	The Zlotnick Kepler Family

\*\* Donor obtained matching funds from employer.

\* This list is current as of Sep. 26, 2014.

*Continued: The Foundation on page 4*

*PTA President's Message from page 1*

In September the PTA sponsored basketball and Mad Science afterschool programs (Thanks to Kelly Kersey and Maria Cuevas for chairing these programs!)

On September 3 we held our volunteer training for Workroom Wednesday. Parents were trained on copiers, die cut machines, spiral binder and much more. These parents help the teachers with projects and preparation so they can spend more time planning learning activities for our kids.

On September 8-17 the PTA held our third annual Read-a-thon (thank you to Cathy Barger for chairing this!). All students were challenged to read for 10 nights. The teachers and principal modeled reading to inspire our Valley Tigers to read. Our two most well-read classes are: Sra. Flores' class with 8,055 minutes and Sra. Wright's class with 25,992 minutes. They will each win an ice cream party. The students could also get pledges (60% of which goes to the students to buy books and 50% goes to the teacher to buy books for the classroom). Students who obtained pledges will redeem their vouchers at the Usbourne bookfair Sept 29-Oct 3. Sra. Ruvalcaba's class collected the most pledges at \$578 (they win a cupcake party). We are so proud of our Valley Tigers for putting in the effort.

The PTA's Reflections Contest is going on now (deadline is Oct 3). The theme is "The World Would Be A Better Place If..." Students had two weeks to complete their entries. For more info: <http://www.capta.org/sections/programs/reflections.cfm>

These enriching events won't happen without dedicated volunteers like you. We have a full agenda of fun events for Valley families. In October we have Eat with your Student Day (Oct. 23), Red Ribbon Week (Oct. 20-24), and the Boogie Bash (Oct. 24). We urgently need chair people and committee members to make these events happen. Email [valleypta@yahoo.com](mailto:valleypta@yahoo.com) to help.

*The Foundation from page 3*

*\*This list is current as of Sept. 26, 2014. Every effort has been made to assure that it's accurate. If you made a Dime a Day donation and don't see your name on this list, please email [Krystn Monroe](mailto:Krystn.Monroe). If you want to add your name to this list, please click [here](#).*

Our goal is to reach 100 percent participation from every child. Look for your orange Dime a Day fliers and remittance envelopes. Fill them out and return them to the front office or donate directly through the Foundation's website. Go to <http://ValleyEEF.org> and click on the Donate Now button on the right-hand side. For additional information, e-mail Foundation President Krystn Monroe at [kmonroe@ValleyEEF.org](mailto:kmonroe@ValleyEEF.org).

**The Foundation Can Grant Your Wishes**

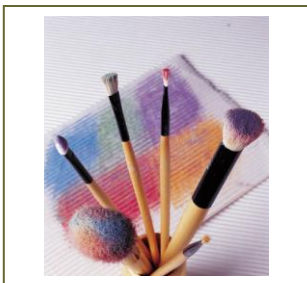
The Foundation is accepting grant applications from Valley teachers looking for funding for classroom projects or needs. To apply, go to <http://valleyeef.org/applyforagrant.html> to apply for a grant. The deadline for applications is Nov. 14, 2014. For more information about the Foundation's mini grant program, email our grant coordinator, Gabriela Dow, at [gdow@ValleyEEF.org](mailto:gdow@ValleyEEF.org)

**Get Your Money Matched!**

Thank you to everyone who has made a donation to the Foundation! Don't forget to see if your company, or that of your spouse, matches charitable donations made by its employees. We encourage you to take that extra step to double your donation — and double the difference you're making for the students and teachers at Valley. "Please visit <http://valleyeef.org/corporatematching.html> to see if your company matches. Thank you for your support!

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

## Calling all Tigers – Volunteers Wanted



### Interested in helping with Art?

Experience not necessary! I'm Lisa Black, and I'm the PTA VP of arts. We are looking for people to help teachers with art lessons in class. Here's the happy part of that – you don't need to be good at art. I'm not artistic, but I'm willing to show up and get a little messy and have a lot of fun. We have lessons, supplies, and resources available at Valley to make it easy for you to help.

Please contact your child's teacher or Lisa Black to find out more. [ljkendiq@rocketmail.com](mailto:ljkendiq@rocketmail.com)

### Play Ground Help

Parents, if you are interested in working at Valley as a playground supervisor please contact Colette Bradley at [858-748-2007 ext. 2126](tel:858-748-2007) Thank you!

### ***MONTHLY REMINDERS***

- *Wednesday Spirit Day – wear your Valley or College T-shirts*
- *Friday Tiger Trackers (weather permitting)*
- *Oct. 6–10 – No School Intersession Break*
- *Oct. 23 – Eat Lunch with your Student Day*
- *Oct. 20–24 – Red Ribbon Week*
- *Oct. 24 – The Boogie Bash*

### Foundation Volunteers

It only takes one person to make a difference to a student. We think you're the one. Whether your student is just starting preschool or kindergarten or is about to go into fifth grade, it's never too early, and certainly never too late, to be part of something big.

Are you:

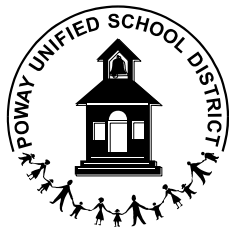
- an organizational freak?
- good at keeping the books?
- able to rally the troops?
- the ultimate event planner?
- a born salesperson?
- part of the in-crowd at the Chamber of Commerce?
- a techie or a wiz on the web?

You don't need to be faster than a speeding bullet. You don't need to leap tall buildings in a single bound. You just need to be you. We'll think you're super just the way you are — and your kid will know you're a hero! For more information about how to help us — with jobs large and small — email Jennifer Berk, our volunteer coordinator, at [jberk@ValleyEEF.org](mailto:jberk@ValleyEEF.org).

To learn more about the Foundation's initiatives and events, go to <http://ValleyEEF.org>.







## Valley Student Services

The **Student Services** department at Valley Elementary consists of a School Counselor and two Student Services Assistants. I am grateful to have the opportunity to work with our Student Services Assistants, Mrs. Colette Bradley and Ms. Rachel Daniel's. This year we have already hit the ground running by presenting classroom lessons on *Digital Citizenship* in the third through fifth grade classrooms. Digital Citizenship includes digital responsibility, internet safety and cyber-bullying. Then we jumped into the following lesson, *Rude vs. Mean vs. Bullying: Understanding the Differences*. During the end of September and through December we will begin the *Second Step* curriculum focusing on: skills for learning, empathy, emotion management, and problem solving. Not only do the students see us in the classroom, but we're also out on the playground ensuring that students are putting into practice what they have learned. If students need more one-on-one support, then that's when they can stop by to see me (the school counselor) or be referred by the teacher, staff or parents. I'm only on campus Monday's, Tuesday's and half day on Friday's. In order for a student to receive continued counseling support, a consent form will need to be signed by a parent/guardian.

The Assistance League from Inland North County, provided school clothes and shoes to a few of our Valley Families in need. This program is known as **Operation School Bell**. We thank them for their continued support throughout the years and for making a difference for our Valley students.



Thank you for visiting our **Back to School Night Booth!** Sra. Laura Gonzalez-Garcia, our Parent Liaison and I, Veronica Flores, the School Counselor, decided to set up a booth to provide a variety of resources. We also registered parents for the Positive Parenting Program and answered questions in regards to the Second Step curriculum that will be presented in each classroom this year.

The three day, **Positive Parenting Program**, presented by Jewish Family Services, was another success! We had over 50 parents from Valley and across the district who attended the English and Spanish program. The next class will be at Meadowbrook Middle School, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in attending this class, please contact the Caring Connections Center at, 858-668-4084.

Another FREE Parent Education class coming up is **What is Internet Gaming Disorder?** This class is presented by Sean O'Hara Psy.D. on Tuesday, October 14<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8:00 p.m. in the library at Del Norte High School. Please see the attached flyer for more information.

## ARE YOU PREPARING YOUR KIDS FOR THE FUTURE?

*Set Your Child Up For Success!*



### Parenting with *Second Step*!

*Second Step* is a research-based curriculum your elementary level child will participate in this year. "... kids learn the empathy, emotion-management, and problem-solving skills they need. Plus we've added self-regulation skills to all grades and executive-function skills to K-3, which will prepare your children to learn whatever they need to—from social emotional skills to math and science."

**A minimum of 20 participants is required to hold this class!**

**WHEN:** Wednesdays from 6-7:45 p.m.  
10/22, 10/29, 11/5 and 11/12

**WHERE:** Park Village Elementary Library  
7930 Park Village Road

**HOW:** Call 858-668-4084 or register online today at  
[www.theparentworkshops.com](http://www.theparentworkshops.com)!

*The entire series of four evenings is just:*

\$39/individual + \$15/book = \$54 total and  
\$69/couple + \$15/book = \$84 total!

**\*Sorry, no refunds.**



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

[www.powayusd.com/depts/student\\_support/](http://www.powayusd.com/depts/student_support/)  
[www.theparentworkshops.com](http://www.theparentworkshops.com)





## What is Internet Gaming Disorder?



*Join us for a free parent education opportunity!*

*Tuesday, October 14th 6:30-8:00 p.m.*

*Del Norte High School Library  
16601 Nighthawk Lane*

*"The studies suggest that when these individuals are engrossed in Internet games, certain pathways in their brains are triggered in the same direct and intense way that a drug addict's brain is affected by a particular substance. The gaming prompts a neurological response that influences feelings of pleasure and reward, and the result, in the extreme, is manifested as addictive behavior."*

▶ ▶ ▶ **RSVP Today! 858-668-4084**

<http://www.dsm5.org/Documents/Internet%20Gaming%20Disorder%20Fact%20Sheet.pdf>

*POUSD Parent Education  
A proud service of  
Student Support Services Department  
Caring Connections Center*

[www.powayusd.com/depts/student\\_support/](http://www.powayusd.com/depts/student_support/)



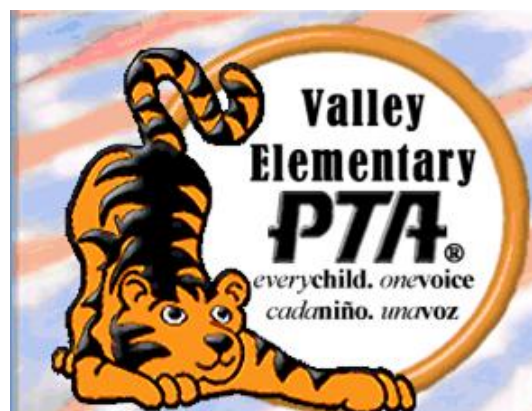
Sean O'Hara Psy.D, NCAC I, SAP is a Board Certified Licensed Psychologist living in San Diego, California, with over 26 years experience with psychiatric, mental health, dual-diagnosis and crises intervention health problems. Sean has presented numerous times in POUSD and we thank him for his continued support!

[www.seanohara.com](http://www.seanohara.com)



## Valley Elementary PTA Board 2014-15

Elected Officers	First Name	Last Name
Principal	Andrew	Johnsen
President	Kim	Floyd
Executive V.P.	Denise	Anger
1st V.P. Ways and Means	Darcy	Slansky
3rd V.P. Membership	Elizabeth	Reyes
4th V.P. Health and Fitness	Laura	Danahy
5th V.P. Art Program	Lisa	Black
Recording Secretary	Kim	Jones
Treasurer	Sandie	Sears
Financial Secretary	Naneth	Sotic-Jose
Auditor	Veronica	Alvarez
Historian	Nicole	Rose
Parliamentarian	Kelly	Kersey
Committee Chairs		
Newsletter Editor	Carolyn	Lemm
Website Administrator	Rindy	Barnes
Character Counts	Diana	Aldrete
Room Parent Coordinator	Lili	Husseman
Volunteer Coordinator	Shawna	Hamon
Translator	Elizabeth	Hulterstrom
Spirit Wear Sales	Dana	Boll
After School Programs	Maria	Cuevas
School Administrative Assistant	Cris	Rollins
Teacher Liaison (DL)	Marisa	Contreras
Teacher Liaison (EC)	Alice	Grimes



### GET INVOLVED & JOIN VALLEY PTA

- Visit the Valley PTA website  
<http://www.valleypta.com/>
- Contact Kim Floyd if you are interested in any of the open PTA board positions.