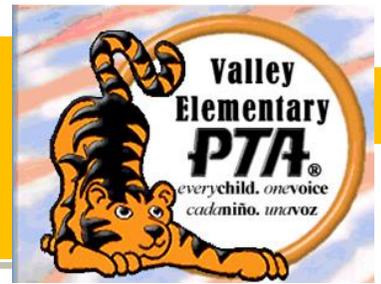


TIGER TALK

The Voice of Valley Elementary PTA



October 2015 Issue 2 (2015–2016)



The Principal's Desk

~ *Ricardo Ceceña*

Testing Performance & Student Progress California

Shortly before the last school year ends, your son / daughter participated in performance reviews and Student Progress California (California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress, CAASPP) 2015, also known as the Smarter Balanced test. These new computerized tests for Literature / English literacy and mathematics tests replaced the old paper for these subjects were called the California Standards Tests. We anticipate that parents will be receiving the results of these tests in late September.

As in the past, our teachers will use these scores to school-wide to evaluate where the educational program of our school is working well and where we can identify areas that need improvement. We are very happy that these results Smarter Balanced tests are aligned to the new state standards that focus more clearly on college and career preparation. The assessment helps to review how our students are progressing in communication, reasoning skills and application of essential skills to graduate ready for college and pursue a career.

These tests include a much wider range of questions than usual multiple choice variety, and replace the filling bubbles on tests. He asked the students to explain how problems are resolved, providing evidence to support their answers and write clearly and demonstrate performance in basic skills. The Student scores fall into four groups, with test results showing student performance on state standards. These groups are labeled "not met standard, just fulfilled standard fulfilled standard and exceeded standard" is also important to know that these tests also provide a rating scale, as our tests called Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) being used in our elementary and middle schools. This will allow us to give scaled score track the growth of your child and the whole school every year and to obtain a much more accurate picture of how well our students are progressing image.

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Students in grades 5, 8 and 10 also take a science test. This is science test paper and pencil, and is a remnant of our former California Standards Test. Some students with special needs will be provided with an alternative format of this test, called the CMA or CAPA.

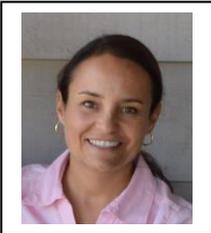
It would not be possible to compare the results of this test with scores from previous tests CST. These new tests are too different in content format to make a fair and accurate comparison. That's why this year's scores to be considered as a starting point - a baseline for progress that students do expect over time.

It is very important that we take these results as one of the measures of performance of their child and know that daily evaluations, work assignments and comments from their teachers provide the most important information about your child's progress. I have provided below some links to resources to help them understand the general tests and how to read the results of your child. Please contact me if you have any questions about this test, or contact Mr. Eric Lehw in our district office at 858-521-2732.

Guides to understand the Smarter Balanced Score reports (in English):

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/index.asp?tabsection=3#ssr>

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/caasppssreports.asp>



PTA President's Message

~ *Denise Anger*

The PTA thanks the 170+ 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. The contest for the most memberships ended on September 30 with Sra. Perucho-Green and Sra. Rivera in the lead. Please continue sending in your membership forms throughout October. The National PTA is making it even more worth your while with many opportunities to save on everyday purchases – just for joining your local PTA. Staples, Enterprise, Legoland, and many more companies are offering discounts to say thank you! Valley PTA also adds a ticket to one of our Family Dances in May (\$10 value) and gives your child a balanced education by funding the Arts Attack program, Tiger Trackers, PE equipment, educational assemblies, family night activities, after-school enrichment classes, CPR Training for our teachers, and so much more. If you think these programs are a benefit to your child and your family, please join Valley PTA today! Go to www.valleypta.com to join online or forms are available in the office. 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 and to Sharon Jones for chairing this popular program. The children began running on Friday, September 4th and the joy on their faces is wonderful to see. The PTA's Reflections Contest is going on now (deadline is October 2). The theme is "Let Your Imagination Fly!" Students had two weeks to complete their entries. For more information please visit: <http://capta.org/programs-events/reflections/>.



These enriching events won't happen without dedicated volunteers like you. We have a full agenda of fun events for Valley families every month. In October we have scheduled Valley's fourth annual Read-a-thon (October 12-23), Eat with your Student Day (Oct. 27), Red Ribbon Week (Oct. 26-30), and the wildly popular Boogie Bash (October 30). We urgently need committee members to make these events happen. Email valleypta@yahoo.com to help.

MONTHLY REMINDERS

- *Wednesdays – Workroom Support & Spirit Day (wear your Valley or College T-shirts)*
- *Fridays – Valley Pride Day & Tiger Trackers*
- *Oct. 5-9 – No school*
- *Oct. 12-21 Read a Thon*
- *Oct. 26-30 Red Ribbon Week*
- *Oct. 27 – Eat with your Student Day*
- *Oct. 30 – Boogie Bash*



President
~ *Krystn Monroe*

Valley Elementary Educational Foundation

The Valley Elementary Educational Foundation is a nonprofit organization made up of parent volunteers. We 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.



Final Days to Make Your Dime a Day Donation

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 — and allow every family to participate.

There are 180 days in the school year. We ask that each student consider donating one dime per day. Thank you to the following family for sending in their contributions.**** To add your name to this list, go to the Foundation’s website at ValleyEEF.org and click on the DONATE NOW button.

The Abrom Family	The Lockyer Family
The Amidei Family	The Lucca Family
The Anger Family	The Manuelli Family
The Bear Family	The Martinez-Vizuet Family
The Bell Family	The McDonald Family
The Brintle-Franklin Family	The McGhee Family
The Carlson Family	The Medina Family
The Castelan-Baranda Family	The Monroe Family
The Castelan-Garcia Family	The Moya-Inzunza Family
The Cazares Family	The Murillo Family
The Cedillo Family	The Mycek Family
The Colin Family	The Newham Family
The Collins Family	The Nguyen Family
The Companioni Family	The Noonkester Family
The Crepeau-Boyd Family	The Ohta Family
The Cuevas Family	The Ornelas Family
The Culleton Family	The Ortiz Family**
The Davisson Family	The Pankretz Family
The Deleon-Ford Family	The Portales Family
The Doud Family	The Prather Family
The Doughman Family	The Pruginin-Jaramillo Family
The Dow Family	The Rath Family
The Dowd Family	The Roberts Family
The Estevez Family	The Rosas Family
The Falucho Family	The Rosati Family
The Familia Family	The Rose Family
The Frasor Family	The Ruiz Family**
The Gagnon Family	The Ruiz-Soto Family
The Galindo Family***	The Russo Family
The Garcia Family	The Sanchez Family
The Garnity Tsunoda Family	The Sandoval Family
The Gharst Family	The Sessoms Family
The Gonzalez Family	The Sidhpura Family
The Graham Family	The Sierra-Miller Family
The Gutierrez Family	The Silvestri Family
The Guzman Family	The Slansky Family
The Hamon Family	The Slocomb Family
The Harris Family	The Smeal Family
The Hashemi Family	The Smith-Earle Family
The Headley Family	The Tagulinao Family
The Hendricks Family	The Tardac Family
The Hunsicker Family	The Terrones Family**
The Javier Family *	The Thyagaraja Family
The Jimenez Family	The Tognetti Family
The Jones Family	The Traynum-Sears Family
The Khoa Vo Family	The Vasquez Family
The Krehbiel Family	The Vega Family
The Lamey Family	The Vinson Family
The Lapastora Family	The Visoka Family
The Lehrer Family	The Vo-Le Family
The Little Family**	The Widjaja-Harjanto Family
	The Zambrano Family

* Donor contributes monthly
 ** Donor obtained matching funds from employer
 *** Donor is a Valley teacher
 **** This list is current as of Oct. 1, 2015



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 go to <http://valleyeef.org/corporatematching.html> to see if your company matches. Thank you for your support!

The Foundation Needs a Volunteer Coordinator

Every year, the Foundation is on the lookout for other parents to join the board — to continue the tradition that our founders started when they established the Foundation in 2006.

Our biggest need this year is to find someone who can be our **Volunteer Coordinator** to help rally the troops for the 10th Annual Cinco de Mayo Trail Run, scheduled for May 7, 2016.

To help out, email Krystn Monroe at 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. 13, 2015. For more information about the Foundation's mini grant program, email our grant coordinator, Gabriela Dow, at gdow@ValleyEEF.org.

Learn More

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



Register Today for the Foundation's Inaugural Golf Tournament

The inaugural Valley Elementary Educational Foundation Golf Tournament, sponsored by Future Champions Golf, owned by Valley parents Chris and Robin Smeal, is just around the corner!

The tournament is scheduled for **Spring 2016**, at the Carmel Mountain Ranch Country Club, 14050 Carmel Ridge Road, San Diego, CA 92128.

Carmel Mountain Ranch Country Club is one of the premier semi-private golf clubs in the greater San Diego area. The course has hosted U.S. Open qualifying, the San Diego Open qualifying and many local events.

The tournament will begin with an 8 a.m. shotgun start and will feature a four-player scramble format. All proceeds will benefit the Valley Elementary Educational Foundation.

The tournament is open to 120 players. The fee is \$100 per player or \$400 per team. Each player's fee includes a Burger Bar lunch after the round, followed by an awards ceremony.

Guests who don't golf, but still want to be part of the fun, can join us for lunch. Lunch tickets are \$30 per person. The festivities will also include a raffle and the chance to purchase a second chance, known as a mulligan package.

"A mulligan is a second chance to perform an action, usually after the first chance went wrong through bad luck or a blunder. Its best-known meaning is in golf whereby a player is informally allowed to replay a stroke (though this is against the formal rules of golf)."

How Can You Help?

Be a Sponsor: Sponsorship opportunities include the Title Sponsor, Hole Sponsor, Lunch Sponsor and Awards Sponsor.

Donate Raffle Items: We are seeking raffle items, including golf-related items, experiences or memorabilia.

Be a Volunteer: We need volunteers to sell raffle tickets, collect score cards, tabulate scores, assist with the awards ceremony and help with lunch.

Event Photographer: We also need someone to shoot the event.

To register, go to FutureChampionsGof.com/Valley. For more information, call Chris Smeal at (619) 339-2377.



~ Calling all Tigers ~

Our Volunteers Make Valley a Great School

Volunteer Spotlight

Research shows that when parents are involved in their children's education, the children are more likely to:

- have better social skills.
- show improved behavior.
- be more positive in their attitude toward school.
- complete homework assignments.
- graduate and continue their education.

There are many ways to volunteer at school. Parents can volunteer in the classroom, help out the teachers by participating in Workroom Wednesdays or fill one of the various open positions with the PTA. Please contact valleypta@yahoo.com, if you would be a good fit for any of our open PTA positions. We'd love for you to join our team!

DO YOU THINK OUR TEACHERS SHOULD BE CPR CERTIFIED?

We all know that funds raised by the PTA bring fun programs to Valley like the Boogie Bash coming up on October 30th, but there are many other things the PTA does that don't get publicized. This month the PTA Board voted to fund classes for half of our teachers (15) to become CPR certified. As a result of our fundraising efforts, including membership dues, our PTA is able to meet important needs for our school. Thank you to the almost 200 parents who have joined Valley PTA this year! If you haven't already become a member of the PTA, there are forms and envelopes in the front office or you can go to www.ValleyPTA.com to join online. You will be happy with the knowledge that the money is going not only to bring the fun to Valley, but also to making it a safer place for all of our children.

BOOGIE BASH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Valley kids love coming dressed up in costume, getting to dance with their friends and playing lots of fun carnival games at our annual Halloween Boogie Bash coming up on Oct 30th. We cannot make this event happen without you. We have many small jobs (45 min – 1 hr) that need filling.





Frequently Asked Questions about Smarter Balanced Results

As a parent, how do I use these results?

It is important to remember that these tests are best used by schools to measure overall performance of the school's educational objectives. As individual scores, these assessments are very broad measures of performance and are on only one of many ways to view your child's academic growth. These new tests are best viewed along with classroom assessments, individual work samples and teacher feedback which will give a more comprehensive view of your child's abilities.

What should I be looking for in these results?

The results show overall performance in two academic areas: Mathematics and English Language Arts/Literacy. These tests scores are divided into two groups. First each student receives a scaled score. This score ranges from just above 2100 at grade three to around 2800 at grade 11 is a good way to compare a student's score from year to year to see how much growth they are making. Another way to view the scores is in one of four "bands". These represent a general understanding of the student's standard when compared to their grade level content. Student scores can fall into either:

1. Standard Not Met
2. Standard Nearly Met
3. Standard Met
4. Standard Exceeded

Can I see how my student did on specific items or areas of the test?

Information on specific items is not available. However, both English Language Arts/Literacy and Mathematics have sub tests scores that give a general indication of student and school's performance in areas of the curriculum. Unlike the overall results, which are reported in four areas, these sub tests have only three ways to view results. Results are reported by: 1. Standard Not Met; 2. Standard Nearly Met or Met; 3. Standard Exceeded.

The results are divided into three areas for mathematics and four sub areas English Language Arts:

Mathematics	English Language Arts
Problem Solving, Modeling and Data Analysis	Reading
Concepts and Procedures	Writing
Communicating Reasoning	Listening
	Research and Inquiry

These scores are different than the previous test, The CST, how come?

This is a completely new test, based upon a very different set of academic objectives (the academic standards). This test is presented with a completely different set of test questions. It is so different that the comparison to previous scores is not fair to students or schools. This test blends the assessment of essential skills by applying them through writing, problem solving and challenging reading. The score your child receives is best viewed on a year by year basis to measure growth toward achieving standards or maintaining scores demonstrating work above the standards

What can I do to improve my child's scores?

Please remember that the day to day school work, tests and grades are the best measure of your child's progress in these areas. Also, the new state standards reflect a shift to more writing and communication skills, asking students to find evidence to support arguments about a piece of reading or to support a position, promoting student's abilities to solve challenging problems and directing students to communicate their processes and reasons for their solutions. Our teachers are focusing instruction in support of these objectives. Reviewing work being sent home, expanding opportunities to read areas of interest and report on their learning, and reading and writing in areas of interest are always good strategies to promote learning. If particular areas of study are causing problems for your student, please work directly with your child's teacher and school to determine the best course of support for your child's academic growth.



A MESSAGE FROM THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR Veronica Flores Tapia

I'm on campus the following days: Monday, Tuesday, and Friday.
858-748-2007 Ext. 2114 vtapia@powayusd.com

During the month of September we started the classroom lessons on *Digital Citizenship*, and *Rude vs. Mean vs. Bullying*, for 3rd–5th graders. *Digital Citizenship* includes digital responsibility, internet safety, and cyber-bullying. *Rude vs. Mean vs. Bullying*, includes the following definitions:

Rude – saying or doing something to hurt someone on accident. Some examples may be, jumping ahead in line, burping at the lunch table, or using another students pencil without asking.

Mean – saying or doing something to hurt someone on purpose. It may happen once or twice. Some examples may be, excluding someone from a game, saying “you are not my friend!”, or criticizing someone’s clothing, appearance, intelligence, etc.

Bullying – is unfair and one–sided, it happens when someone keeps: hurting, frightening, threatening, or leaving someone out on purpose.

The definition of rude and mean come from the article written by a licensed therapist, Signe Whitson, titled, *Rude vs. Mean vs. Bullying: Defining the Differences*. The definition of bullying comes from the *Steps to Respect* curriculum. Please continue to use the same definitions when teaching your children at home.

During the end of September and through December we will begin the *Second Step* program, a research based curriculum that focuses 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 their 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.

Your continued support in teaching, modeling, and role playing ways to use helpful words and actions at home, is greatly appreciated! Remember Valley Tigers, We work hard! We take care of each other! And, We take care of our school!

Please take a look at the PUSD website for upcoming Parent Education courses.
http://www.powayusd.com/depts/student_support/activeparenting.shtml

HELP YOUR CHILD MANAGE STRONG FEELINGS!

Set Your Child Up For Success!



Only as parents do we expect that love will be enough. Often it just isn't. Parents also need skills! Sign up for our fun, highly acclaimed parent workshops. No boring lectures, not just theory, but fun learning. Get results you can see immediately!

*Reserve your space online today at
www.theparentworkshops.com!

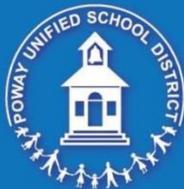
Each series is \$29/individual or \$49/couple.
Cash or checks made out to PUSD only.
Books available for purchase at class.
Sorry, no refunds.

Helping Your Child Manage Strong Feelings and Engage Cooperation! *Learn how to get your child to do what they need to do even though they don't want to! (ex: morning, homework and bedtime)*

Wednesdays: 11/18 and 12/2
6:00-7:45 p.m.
@Painted Rock

Wednesdays: 3/16 and 3/23
6:00-7:45 p.m.
@Stone Ranch

**Call 858-668-4084 for childcare!*

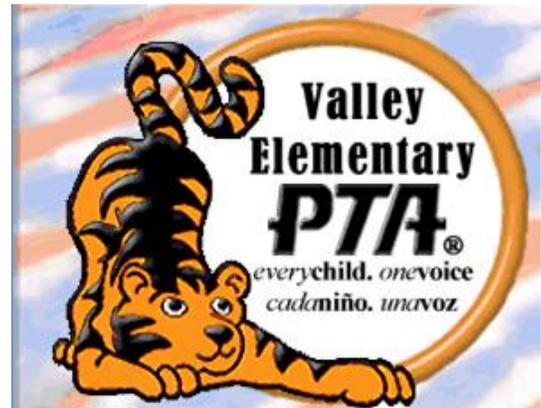


FOR MORE INFORMATION:

www.powayusd.com/depts/student_support/
www.theparentworkshops.com

Valley Elementary PTA Board 2015-16

Elected Officers	First Name	Last Name
Principal	Ricardo	Ceceña
President	Denise	Anger
Executive V.P.	Sandie	Sears
1st V.P. Ways and Means	Darcy	Slansky
2nd V.P. Programs	Audra	Rosati
3rd V.P. Membership	Yerika	Tovey
4th V.P. Health and Fitness	Preston	Betts
5th V.P. Art Program	Heather	Schmalbach
Recording Secretary	Kim	Jones
Treasurer	OPEN	
Financial Secretary	Kelly	Tognetti
Auditor	Veronica	Alvarez
Historian	Nicole	Rose
Parliamentarian	Kelly	Kersey
Committee Chairs		
Character Counts	Diana	Aldrete
Corresponding Secretary	OPEN	
Hospitality	Sara	Langer
Newsletter	Carolyn	Lemm
Website Administrator	Shawna	Hamon
Room Parent Coordinator	Lili	Husseman
School Admin Assistant	Cris	Rollins
Teacher Liaison (DL)	Marisa	Contreras
Teacher Liaison (DL)	Suky	Romero
Translator	Elizabeth	Hulterstrom
Volunteer Coordinator	Shawna	Hamon
Workroom Wednesday	OPEN	
Spirit Wear Sales	OPEN	
After School Programs	Jennifer	Berk
VEEF Liaison	OPEN	
Assemblies	Liz	Collins-Smith
Facebook Administrator	OPEN	



GET INVOLVED & JOIN VALLEY PTA

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

