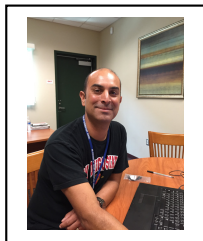
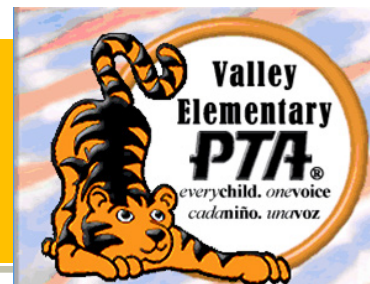


TIGER TALK

The Voice of Valley Elementary PTA

April Issue 8 (2015–2016)



The Principal's Desk

~ *Ricardo Ceceña*

Preparing For The CAASPP

When we return from our Spring Intersession Break all of our third through fifth grade students will be participating in the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress, or CAASPP, statewide testing program. These tests will provide important information for our teachers, students and parents about our schools and individual student's progress and their readiness for college and career.

The CAASPP system assesses English Language Arts and Mathematics for grades 3–5 through the Smarter Balanced state assessment. Smarter Balanced state assessments are based on the California Content Standards, for Mathematics and English Language Arts. In addition students in grades 5 will also take the California Standards Test in Science. Parents can use these results as one of many indications of their child's performance. The Valley staff also use these results to compare our schools' performance towards achieving our state standards. This year, we will have two years of results which will assist us in measuring the growth of our students toward the goal of career and college readiness for all students.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

The Principal's Desk	1
PTA President's Message	2
Valley Elementary Education Foundation	3
Calling all Tigers – Volunteers Wanted	4
Monthly Reminders	4
PTA Board 2015–16	5

Valley families can help their Tigers prepare for these tests by:

- Knowing their child's testing dates, (classroom teachers will be notifying parents of these dates)
- Ensuring your child gets a good night's rest
- Ensuring your child eats a nutritious breakfast
- Ensuring that your child arrives to school on time.
- Scheduling any family appointments outside the regular hours.

The California Department of Education (CDE) had developed several resources to help students and parents understand the expectations and format of the Smarter Balanced test.

The *Parent Guides to the Smarter Balanced Assessments* (in English and Spanish) are posted at

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

Practice and training tests, are found at

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

These resources help parents and students experience the type of test items that students will encounter on the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments.



PTA President's Message

~ Denise Anger

March was a great month at Valley! On March 10th, our dedicated office staff coordinated a fun **Family Science Night**. General Atomics put on a great show for the kids. Thank you to Laura Gonzalez and her vision for making this a night to remember. Our wonderful teachers coordinated another stellar event, **Family Math Night**, on March 17th. The kids were able to team up by grade-level and work on fun math games and puzzles which were also provided for every student to take home.

The Valley PTA hosted our annual **Jog-a-thon** on March 30th. We had over 800 Valley students participate (as well as a number of teachers and parents)! It is a favorite event for many of our Valley kids. We also raised a whopping \$11,000 to help pay for the events and programs the PTA sponsors. Thank you to Mark Backes from Ultra Fun Run and to my co-chair, Darcy Slansky, for helping to put on an amazing event for our kids! Thank you also to the 20 parent volunteers who helped at the water station, prize table, Otter Pop station, and in the classrooms getting the kids ready. You make Valley a great place to be!

The Valley PTA has more fun planned for April! Valley's **Día del Niño** celebration will be held on Saturday, April 23rd from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. We will have games, folkloric dancing, Mariachis, and a Mexican food truck. This is one of Valley's largest events and we are still in need of volunteers.

Please email valleypta@yahoo.com to volunteer an hour of your time on Saturday, April 23rd. On April 28th, we will hold our second annual **Spelling Bee** for qualifying 3rd through 5th graders. Please join us as we cheer on our next Spelling Bee champion! First thing in May we will have our **Spring Scholastic BOGO Book Fair** during the week of May 2nd. Be sure to stop by for some great deals on books. These are wonderful, memory-building events for our children and we can't make them happen without you! Please consider taking a few hours out of your schedule to help make these programs successful.

Our Valley PTA **Spring General Association Meeting** will be held on Wednesday, April 27th at 9:15am in the MPR. We will be electing our board for next year and are still in need of people to fill the following positions:

- **Executive Vice President** – Serves as the primary aide to the president and performs the duties of the president in the absence or disability of that officer to act.
- **Corresponding Secretary** – Sends notices of meetings to executive board members and/or association members and writes/sends letters on behalf of the president, as directed.
- **Historian** – Assembles and preserves a record of the activities and achievements of the association and presents this to the board in an album at the end of the school year; acts as custodian of records and other materials pertinent to the history of the association.

If you are interested in serving in any of these roles, please email valleypta@yahoo.com. Nominations will also be taken from the floor. We hope to see you there!





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.



Register Today for the Trail Run!

The 10th Annual Cinco de Mayo Trail Run is scheduled for May 7, 2016, 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 9 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 our sponsorship chair Gabriela Dow at gdow@ValleyEEF.org.



Double the Dollars, Double the Difference

The Foundation is grateful for the financial donations made to the Trail Run by Valley parents, grandparents, family and friends.

If you become a corporate or family benefactor of the 10th Annual Trail Run, scheduled for May 7 at Lake Poway, your \$10 donation will turn into \$20. Your \$25 will turn into \$50 and your \$50 will turn into \$100! So make your tax-deductible gift today to make the most of the matching opportunity. Double the dollars and double the difference! Go to ValleyEEF.org and click on the DONATE NOW button.

Calling for Team Captains From Each Classroom!

Each Valley teacher is having a classroom completion and we need a team captain from each classroom. The teacher with the biggest team will win a pizza party for his or her classroom! Join your teacher's team today! Ask your parents, siblings, classmates and friends to join too!

Register for the race at CincodeMayoTrailRun.org. Click on Registration. Team names are listed under Valley Elementary Tigers — and then alphabetically under each teacher's first and last name. Select your teacher's name from the drop-down menu.

Each family's name will be posted on the banner outside the front office and each student's name will be posted on his or her classroom's window. Thank you to the teachers who provide homework passes and other fun incentives to their students who register! We encourage all teachers to find creative ways to inspire their students to be fit, to have fun and to get involved in this event, which raises thousands of dollars for Valley! For information please email team coordinator Hilda Soto at hstoto@ValleyEEF.org.



~ Calling all Tigers ~

Our Volunteers Make Valley a Great School

Día del niño Volunteers needed

We have a very fun event planned for Día del niño on April 23rd from 3 – 6 PM. If you can spare an hour to help with running games or piñatas, please send an email to valleypta@yahoo.com.

PTA General Assembly Meeting April 27th

Wednesday, April 27th marks the last PTA General Association meeting of the school year. This brief meeting will start at 9:30a in the MPR and should be done 9:45a at the latest. This is an important meeting as we will be electing next year's executive board (the slate of nominees is attached). We are also still looking for an Executive V.P. and Historian (see below) and will be open to taking nominations from the floor. We look forward to seeing you there!

PTA Board Spotlight Position: Historian

The PTA is looking for a person with a keen eye for detail and a love for scrapbooking! With the help of various photographers and contributors throughout the year, the historian assembles a record of the activities and achievements of the association and presents this to the board in an album (electronic or physical) at the end of the school year. The historian shall act as custodian of records and other materials pertinent to the history of the association (awards, certificates, etc.). Please contact valleypta@yahoo.com if you are interested in helping with this fun role next year.

Support the Cinco De Mayo Trail Run



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. It's also perfect for people who want to participate in the day's festivities — without having to break a sweat on the trail!

Virtual runners must register before April 8. The fee is \$40 and includes a race shirt. To register as a virtual runner, go to CincodeMayoTrailRun.org today and click on the registration button.



Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed to assist with every aspect of the event. Team up with your friends or family and make this an experience you won't forget! Helping out is a great opportunity for local high school students to earn credit for community service. To volunteer, go to CincodeMayoTrailRun.org and click on Volunteer. For more information, email volunteer chair Jackie Silacci at jsilacci@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 <http://ValleyEEF.org>.

MONTHLY REMINDERS

- *Wednesdays– Workroom Support & Spirit Day (wear your Valley or College T-shirts)*
- *Fridays – Valley Pride Day & Tiger Trackers*
- *April 4–8 NO SCHOOL for Intersession Break*
- *April 11–15 NO SCHOOL for Spring Break*
- *April 23 – Dia del Nino*
- *April 27 – PTA General Assembly*

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	Karen	Manueli
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	Kim	Jones
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.

