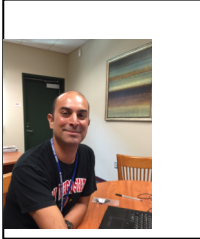


TIGER TALK

The Voice of Valley Elementary PTA

November Issue II (2016-2017)



The Principal's Desk

Ricardo Ceceña

Preparing for a Successful Parent –Teacher Conference

Studies have shown that children whose parents are involved in their education do better in school. **Parent- Teacher conferences scheduled for the week of October 31st– November 4th** are one way to get involved. Every time you attend a parent-teacher conference, you learn more about your child and strengthen the bond with your child's school. Getting to know the teacher and hearing his or her views of your child's progress actually helps your child succeed. So make parent-teacher conferences a priority and take the following steps to ensure that you and your child get the most out of them.

Talk to your child before the conference: Ask your child what they would like you to discuss at the meeting. One strategy is to say, "I'm going to be meeting with your teacher... What will they tell me?" Your child's response may give you ideas for what to discuss with the teacher.

Ask questions: Come to the conference with list of questions regarding your child's academic and social issues. Some good questions to ask may include:

- What are my child's academic talents and weaknesses?
- Does he or she consistently meet your standards for completing assignments?
- How does he or she interact and contribute to classroom activities and discussions?
- How much time should homework take?
- What specific things can I do to follow through at home?

If you need some teachers' answers clarified, ask for specific examples or more detail.

Keep an open mind: Some parents can get angry or defensive when teachers discuss trouble spots. Remember that these conferences are meant to help you understand your child's school performance. Working together with the teacher will help your child succeed.

Take notes: Taking notes during the conference so that you remember everything the teacher says. After the meeting review your notes. If something is unclear, schedule a follow up meeting with the teacher to clarify.

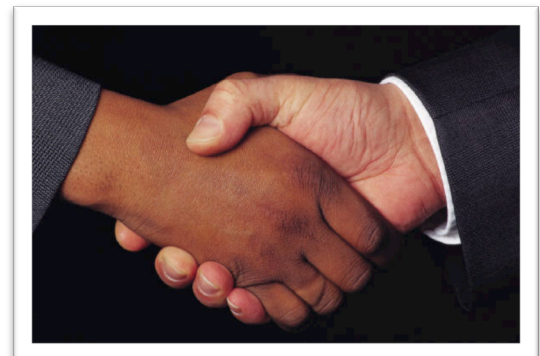
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Make the most of your time: Conferences are tightly scheduled for every 15-20 minutes. Parents need to be on time and stay within the allocated time. Remember that conferences are brief, so keep the conversation focused. Try not to bring babies or young children to the meeting, as they can cause distractions.

Tell your child: After the conference, meet with your child and discuss the teacher's comments. Remember to praise all the things your child is doing well and pass along the teacher's compliments. If you need to, talk about areas that you and the teacher will be working on with your child to help them improve. It is essential that your child understand that you and the teacher are there to support them and to make their school experience the best it can be.

Remember that schools and teachers welcome parent involvement year-round. Be sure to let the teachers know that you are following through on what was discussed and that you would like to hear about progress in class. Feel free to email your child's teacher and schedule a phone or in-person conference anytime you think there's a need.





PTA President's Message

Denise Anger

The PTA would like to thank the 220+ 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 in a single classroom ended on September 30. Congratulations to Srta. Galindo's class who won an ice cream party last month with 19 members! Even though the classroom contest is over, please continue sending in your membership forms as soon as you can. With your membership dues, Valley PTA is able to fund 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!

Family Art Night was a hit in mid-September with over 70 children and their parents joining us for an educational art lesson followed by a hands-on art activity. Thank you to Heather Schmalbach, VP of Art Programs, and Selena Pankretz for putting on a night to remember for our kids. **Eat with your Student Day**, also in September, was another fun day for the whole school. Many parents came to enjoy lunch with their child(ren) and had a great time. Thank you to Shawna Hamon, Elizabeth Hulterstrom, and their team of volunteers who made this day a great success.

The PTA collected artwork submissions throughout September for this year's **National PTA Reflections Art Program** and would like to thank Heather Schmalbach and Sara Langer for running this artistic event. Congratulations to all of the students who answered the question, "What is your story?" and submitted wonderful works of art. We had 40 total entries this year in literature, dance choreography, music composition, and visual arts. We have so many talented artists here at Valley! Special recognition goes out to our 14 finalists, whose artwork will advance to the next level of competition at the Palomar Council. This year's finalists are:

Jared Hamson, K/Plascencia-Contreras – Visual Arts – Yo juego afuera
Elizabeth Martinez, K/Plascencia-Contreras –

Adelaide Gharst, K/Plascencia-Contreras – Visual Arts – Yo y mi familia
Alura Herriman, K/Plascencia-Contreras – Visual Arts
Asher Tovey, K/Sanchez – Visual Arts – My Family
Jett Rath, 1/Perucho-Green – Visual Arts – Deep Sea Fishing
Diederich Garrity-Tsunoda, 1/Galindo – Photography – Fish Kamo
Dinah Tovey, 3/Caro – Visual Arts – Air Ballon
Leela Sessoms, 3/Caro – Visual Arts – Wishes can come true
Nathan Tognetti, 3/Caro – Photography – Happiness
Tennyson E. Pankretz, 3/DeLeon – Visual Arts – My Story, My Life
Jude Calvin Del Mundo, 4/Hsieh – Visual Arts – The tower of my dream
Ava Russo, 5/Wright – Visual Arts – Who am I?
Larry Tovey, 5/Ruvalcaba – Visual Arts – Love of Life

October was another fun and busy month for Valley Tigers! The PTA organized four major events. On October 12-23 the PTA held our fifth annual **Read-a-thon**. Just over 300 students participated and read a total of 113,353 minutes over 10 days. That is 78 straight days worth of minutes! The teachers and principal modeled reading to inspire our Valley Tigers to read. Our most well-read class this year in K-2nd is Sra. Perucho-Green's class with 6,462 minutes and in 3rd-5th grade was Sra. Wright's class with 12,125 minutes. They will each win an ice cream party. The students could also collect pledges for their efforts (50% goes to the students to buy books and 50% goes to the teacher to buy books for the classroom). At the close of the read-a-thon we had received over \$6800 in pledges! Students who obtained pledges were able to redeem their vouchers at the **Scholastic Book Fair** from October 24 through October 28. We are so proud of our Tigers for their commitment to reading. Thank you to Cathy Barger for chairing this motivational event.

Red Ribbon Week was another fun-filled week with spirit days ranging from “Teaming Up Against Drugs” and wearing our favorite team jerseys to “Saying No from Head to Toe” and wearing crazy hair and socks. The kids all recited pledges to be drug-free, signed a red ribbon for their doors, and watched an educational and fun magic show assembly on Monday. The festivities ended on Friday, October 28th, when parents were invited to “run away from drugs” with their kids at school during Tiger Trackers. A great big thank you to Emilie Koford for her vision and hard work making Red Ribbon week so fantastic this year!

We ended October with a bang at our annual **Boogie Bash!** This was an event not to be missed! We had music and dancing, food, desserts, games, and prizes in the lunch area. The kids participated in a fun costume parade, decorated cookies, and won tickets at various games to be redeemed at our prize table. A big thank you goes out to our Boogie Bash co-chairs Serena Arellano, Isa Evonsion, Shawna Hamon, and an additional 25 volunteers who did an amazing job of decorating, setting up, running our food and cookie-decorating stations, playing various games, and cleaning up. It was another amazing Boogie Bash!

With the holiday season in full swing, get ready for more PTA fun and mark your calendars for our **Winter Craft Fair** scheduled for Saturday, December 3rd, from 8:00 to 11:00 a.m. in the MPR. Also, be on the lookout in your child's backpack for permission slips and audition forms for the PTA's annual talent show, **Valley's Got Talent!** The deadline for entry is Friday, December 9th, and late submissions will not be accepted.

As always, please read your PTA Paw Prints newsletter for volunteer sign-ups in the next few weeks or email us at valleypta@yahoo.com and get ready to be inspired and have a great time planning with your fellow Valley volunteers at one of our upcoming events. These enriching events won't happen without dedicated volunteers like you. Thank you for your support!



Upcoming Events

Event	Date
Adopt-a-Family	11/14-12/2/2016
Thanksgiving Break	11/21-11/25/2016
Winter Craft Fair	Saturday, 12/3/2016
Coffee with the Principal	Monday, 12/5/16
Valley's Got Talent Audition Form Deadline	Friday, 12/9/2016

2016 Red Ribbon Week & Boogie Bash



Second Step: Empathy and Skills for Learning

A Message from the School Counselor

Veronica Tapia

Empathy is a key ingredient in the development of prosocial behaviors and interpersonal problem-solving skills. It is necessary for social-emotional competence and contributes to academic success. Being able to identify, understand, and respond in a caring way to how someone is feeling provides the foundation for helpful and socially responsible behaviors, friendships, cooperation, coping, and conflict resolution, all of which help children succeed in school.

Students with higher levels of empathy and its related skills and behaviors are more likely to be:

- Academically successful
- Accepted by peers
- Socially skilled
- Less aggressive
- Emotionally supportive to others

Students with lower levels of empathy and its related skills and behaviors are at greater risk for:

- Lower academic achievement
- Peer rejection
- Classroom discipline problems

The *Second Step* program explicitly teaches *Skills for Learning* to ensure that all students develop the foundational self-regulation skills necessary for successful participation in learning. Most importantly:

- Listening with attention
- Being assertive

For more information, please go online to www.secondstep.org and enter your grade and school specific activation key. Click on the Families tab for research, games, activities and videos!

Please take a look at the PUSD website for upcoming Parent Education courses.

<http://www.powayusd.com/en-US/Departments/Student-Support-Services/Active-Parenting>

2016–2017 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.

2016– 2017 GATE Testing Information

<u>Test Date (only 1 test opportunity)</u>	<u>Request Submission Window</u>
SCHOOL SITE /SCHOOL DAY TESTING Valley - Thursday, January 19	September 6 through November 30, 2016

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/>

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



SUPPORT VALLEY WHILE YOU SHOP

If you love to shop online, take advantage of the Foundation's Amazon Rewards link. Go to the Foundation's website at ValleyEEF.org and click on the green Amazon icon, which will take you directly to the Amazon Smile website. Then shop 'til you drop! Once you're done, Amazon will donate up to 10 percent of your total purchase price back to the Foundation. Promote the program among your friends and family so Valley can benefit from everyone's holiday shopping.

Donate today to the Valley Foundation's Dime-a-Day Campaign!

The Dime-a-day Campaign is the annual giving campaign for Valley's Foundation. The money the Foundation raises provides resources directly to Valley students and teachers, such as ipads and chromebooks in the classroom, technology training for teachers, subscriptions to programs such as RazKids and BrainPop, and grants to teachers for special classroom programs. Please help us continue to bridge the gap between what the school district can provide and what our students need to have the best, most well-rounded education possible. If every Valley student can donate just one dime a day (\$18), then we could raise \$12,960 for our school. If you haven't had time to donate yet, please visit <http://www.valleyeef.org/> and click on Donate

Valley Elementary PTA Board 2016-17

Elected Officers	First Name	Last Name
Principal	Ricardo	Ceceña
President	Denise	Anger
Executive V.P.	OPEN	
1st V.P. Ways and Means	Adriana	Gonzalez
2nd V.P. Programs	Audra	Rosati
3rd V.P. Membership	Lili	Husseman
4th V.P. Art Program	Heather	Schmalbach
Recording Secretary	OPEN	
Treasurer	Sandie	Sears
Financial Secretary	Kelly	Tognetti
Auditor	Kelly	Kersey
Historian	Serena	Arellano
Parliamentarian	Kim	Jones
Committee Chairs		
Character Counts	Emilie	Koford
Corresponding Secretary	OPEN	
Hospitality	Sara	Langer
Newsletter	Kim	Niehans
Website Administrator	Shawna	Hamon
Room Parent Coordinator	Emilie	Koford
School Admin Assistant	Cris	Rollins
Teacher Liaison (ENG)	Gale	Caddell
Teacher Liaison (DL)	Maribel	Martinez
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.

