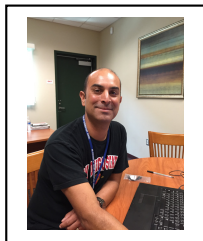
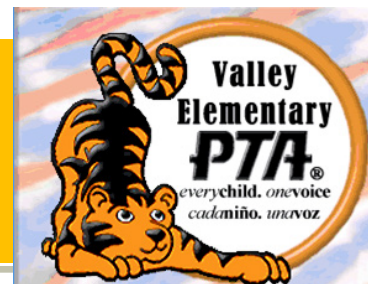


# TIGER TALK

*The Voice of Valley Elementary PTA*

May Issue 9 (2015–2016)



## The Principal's Desk

~ *Ricardo Ceceña*

About this time of year, minds begin to look toward summer and plans for the vacation, but for parents of school-aged children, the thought of getting just the right program for their child, come August, can be cause for reflection. Please be confident that each grade level designs class lists to provide balance, heterogeneous groups and that each teacher takes seriously their responsibility of providing every student with what they need to do their best. Therefore, the following criteria are used to create “balanced” classes:

- Balanced boy to girl ratios
- Balanced distribution of student abilities
- Balanced distribution of students with special needs
- Balanced number of native English Speakers to English Learners in our Dual Language program.
- The clustering of identified GATE, ELL, or RSP students into workable groups
- Equal class sizes
- The nature of the learner... their need for structure, routine, etc.
- Separation of students who have a history of not working well together
- The nature of the teacher, specialized training, skills, interests or presentation style

Parents are reminded that there are many factors and situations considered when placing students in classes. Some teachers will have clusters of specially identified students.... GATE, RSP, ELL. Some classes will need to be balanced with more boys or girls. Some students will need to be separated to more evenly distribute students with behavior issues. Some classes may be multiage/ multi-grade. **Due to the complexity of the process we are not able to accommodate parent requests.**

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

The Principal's Desk	1
PTA President's Message	2–3
Calling all Tigers – Volunteers Wanted	4
Monthly Reminders	4
Valley Student Services	5
PTA Board 2015–16	6

A great deal of care and time is taken by our professionals configuring classes each year. All of our teachers address the appropriate California Academic Standards for your child's grade level and modify and/or accelerate the curriculum to meet your child's individual needs. The two classroom configurations in Poway are based on sound educational research and help address our wide range of learners.

Because class sizes and configurations are based on number of students enrolled, we will not know until the beginning of the school year if there will be combination/ multi-grade classes. Possible classroom configurations your child could be assigned to at Valley:

- Single-grade classes have all students from the same grade level.
- Combination/Multi-grade classes are comprised of an approximate 50% – 50% split of grade levels. The goal is to have the younger students “loop” with their teacher to the next grade, providing a two-year continuity of learning.
- “Looping” with current classroom in a single-grade classroom would occur when the teacher changes the grade level he/she is teaching and moves to the next grade level with his/her students.

Thank you for your continued support. When parents and school work together it can only benefit your child.



## PTA President's Message

~ *Denise Anger*

April was another fun and busy month for our school. On Saturday, April 23 nearly 350 students, teachers, and parents joined Valley PTA to celebrate Día del Niño. This is a signature event for Valley as it is a celebration of the children and showcases the wonderful culture we have here. The day was gorgeous and couldn't have been more perfect for our festival. This year Día del Niño included Baile Folklorico dancing, Mariachi music, piñatas, games, a free book table, Letras sin Fronteras Book Truck, and an inflatable obstacle course for the kids. Pala Taco Shop sold delicious Mexican food (and donated 18% of sales to Valley PTA) and the PTA provided yummy desserts.

Thank you to Audra Rosati who co-chaired this event with me. Thank you to Carolina Barron for designing and distributing the beautiful flyers and posters. Thank you to Sandra Garcia and Karina Gonzales for coordinating the wonderful Baile Folklorico dancers. Thank you to Heather Schmalbach and Ms. Alice Grimes for coordinating the free book table. Thank you to Karina Gonzales for coordinating the inflatables and preparing the piñatas. Thank you to Kim Jones for coordinating and overseeing the dessert table. Thank you to Michelle Headley and Sara Langer for decorating. Thank you to Shawna Hamon for providing technical support and coordinating volunteers. Thank you to the Sweetwater Union School District for their Mariachi Band and the Valley Boy and Girl Scout troops for their volunteers and games. Thank you to Danilo Santos for providing facilities support and for always staying until the very end to make sure everything is well taken care of and clean.

Events like Día del Niño really resonate with our PTA mission of providing the cherished memories of elementary school that we all want for our children. I appreciate all the hard work that went into making these events something for our children to remember.



Valley's fourth-grade teachers went above and beyond to show appreciation for all of the amazing Valley volunteers on Wednesday, April 27, at our annual **Volunteer Appreciation Tea**. A wonderful breakfast was provided along with a beautifully decorated MPR. The tables were adorned with flowers and personal notes of thanks from many of our students. The PTA thanked all of the volunteers and in particular honored those with greater than 110 hours of service. They are: Juvelyn Montes (112 hours), Sara Langer (113), Emma Ramos Castañeda (116), Kristen Culleton (121), Heather Schmalbach (131), Darcy Slansky (143), Lili Husseman (190), Shawna Hamon (200), Selena Pankretz (236), Cathy Barger (323), Judy Nemec (324), and Carol Crafts (346). During the tea, the PTA was able to present a commemorative check to Mr. Ceceña totaling \$208,000 representing what it would have cost Valley to pay our many volunteers for their time and service.



We also held our **Spring General Assembly meeting** at the Volunteer Tea and elected the PTA Board for the 2016–2017 school year. Congratulations to Denise Anger – President, Adriana Gonzalez – VP Ways and Means, Audra Rosati – VP Programs, Lili Husseman – VP Membership, Heather Schmalbach – VP of Art, Sandie Sears – Treasurer, Veronica Camarillo – Recording Secretary, Kelly Tognetti – Financial Secretary, Kelly Kersey – Auditor, Serena Arellano – Historian, and Kim Jones – Parliamentarian.

On Thursday, April 28, 24 of our dedicated Valley students participated in the second annual **Valley Spelling Bee**. It was a great night watching our students demonstrate their knowledge after months of studying and hard work. Thank you to Lili Husseman for organizing not only the Spelling Bee, but also running Spelling Club at lunch for the last two months to help our students prepare. In the end the three finalists who will be representing Valley at the **Inter-school Spelling Bee** on May 19<sup>th</sup> are fourth-grader Justin Lopez (1<sup>st</sup> place), fifth-grader Elliott Husseman (2<sup>nd</sup> place), and fifth-grader Easha Ashraf (3<sup>rd</sup> place). We wish our brave and studious Tigers the best at their next big event!





## ~ Calling all Tigers ~

### Our Volunteers Make Valley a Great School

#### Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week!

Even as the year draws to a close, we have more fun to look forward to. **Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week is May 9–13.** Our students and PTA will be providing an amazing week full of gratitude for our wonderful Valley Teachers and Staff. The schedule is as follows:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Student	Wear your teacher's favorite color	Bring a piece of fruit to create a fruit basket	Compliment your teacher	Bring a flower from home or buy one at school	Thank teachers and staff with a card or letter
PTA	Dream Dinners Lunch	Coffee and Tea Bar	Out to lunch	Massage Chairs	Dessert Bar

#### 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!

Go to [www.CincodeMayoTrailRun.org](http://www.CincodeMayoTrailRun.org) today and click on the registration button.

##### 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>.

#### VOLUNTEERS NEED for FIELD DAY

**Field Day** is Wednesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> and we are looking for two volunteers to help run this fun event and many additional volunteers per grade level to help the classes. Please email [valleypta@yahoo.com](mailto:valleypta@yahoo.com) to participate!

#### *MONTHLY REMINDERS*

- *Wednesdays– Workroom Support & Spirit Day (wear your Valley or College T-shirts)*
- *Fridays – Valley Pride Day & Tiger Trackers*
- *May 9–13 – Teacher Appreciation Week*
- *May 10 – Student Council Spirit Day*
- *May 16 – Coffee with the Principal (in MPR)*
- *May 30 – No School, Memorial Day*



## 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*

Every year I have the opportunity to teach college and career lessons in all the fifth grade classrooms. During the weekly lessons, students learn about: what it takes to receive a high school diploma, A–G Subject requirements, options after high school, the value of a college education, careers and much more. Then in May, we plan a fieldtrip to the University of San Diego (USD). Valley students are led on a tour by current USD students. During the hour tour, the 5<sup>th</sup> graders get to hear about the college life experience, from living in the dorms to working hard, organization, time management, classroom expectations, and participating in extracurricular activities. Thank you Parents for making this trip possible for the 5<sup>th</sup> graders, with your donations, we are able to pay for the cost of the buses to get us there.

In a few more weeks the 5<sup>th</sup> graders will be transitioning from Elementary School to Middle School, Wow! Congratulations 5<sup>th</sup> graders, I wish you all the best for many more years to come. Enjoy each year and embrace the kind and helpful friendships along the way. Remember even though you will not be at Valley next year, continue to work hard, take care of each other and take care of your school.



## 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.

