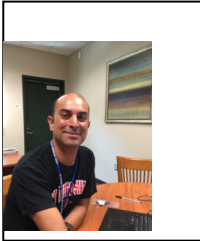


# TIGER TALK

*The Voice of Valley Elementary PTA*

February/March Issue IV (2017)



## The Principal's Desk

**Ricardo Ceceña**

### Inquiry Circles Lesson Study

This month we are excited to be launching our lesson study cycle in all of our classrooms at Valley. Grades 3-5 will begin on January 30<sup>th</sup> and grades Tk-2 will begin their lesson study cycle on March 7<sup>th</sup>. The focus of our lesson study will be on developing language arts lessons that are Inquiry based and centered on a social studies or science theme. Through the use of this highly collaborative professional development opportunity our staff will be putting into practice Inquiry Circles. Inquiry Circles is a teaching approach that provides experiences for our students that are question/ problem driven, centered on student choice, provide student responsibility, embeds collaborative work, and requires authentic investigation with a real purpose and audience. Our teachers will be following the lesson study cycle below to refine the launching of their Inquiry Circles.

1. Goal setting
2. Developing a research question,
3. Lesson Planning
4. Teaching and Observing in each other's classroom
5. Debriefing and Revising the Lesson

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As our classrooms begin to develop their lesson study cycle, I encourage you to ask your child about the work they have begun with their Inquiry Circle group. Have they selected a question or wondering that their group will focus their investigation? What are some of the resources they plan to use to further investigate their chosen topic/theme? How will they plan to go public with what they investigate?

The Valley staff looks forward to sharing the amazing work that will come from the lesson studies on Inquiry Circles. I'm certain that our Tigers will also be eager to share the projects they produce as they "go public" with their new learnings!



## PTA President's Message

Denise Anger

January has come and gone and our PTA has been busy planning programs for our students and preparing for our upcoming school year in August. Already? Yes! Our Nominating Committee is currently working to fill PTA Board positions for 2017-2018. We would love to have your energy and new ideas on the Board for next year!! Here is a glimpse of some of the Board positions that are in need of finding an interested candidate:

- **VP of Ways and Means** – this position is in charge of choosing and planning fundraising activities for the year like Charleston Wrap, Box Tops, Restaurant Fundraisers, and the Jog-A-Thon.
- **VP of Membership** – this position solicits and welcomes new members to our PTA and helps them feel a part of the community while collecting membership dues, processing membership cards and packets, and recording necessary data for our membership records.
- **VP of Arts** – this position keeps track of all art supplies for use by the PTA and Valley teachers and restocks necessary items as needed throughout the year. This position also helps coordinate art related programs such as the Reflections competition, Winter Craft Fair, and Family Art Night.
- **Corresponding Secretary** – this position supports the President by sending correspondence like meeting announcements, thank you cards, and board reminders.

There are also standing committee positions available. Some of the top committee positions are as follows:

- **Tiger Trackers Leads** – this position is in charge of our beloved Tiger Trackers program which occurs on Fridays. A team of three main contacts makes this position a good job-sharing role.

- **Afterschool Programs Coordinator** – this position reviews and decides what afterschool programs will be offered throughout the year. The coordinator also acts as liaison between our vendors and the office and provides details about the schedule and enrollments.
- **Newsletter Editor** – this is a page layout position in charge of putting together Valley's Tiger Talk newsletter.

There are many ways to get involved and help to ensure that Valley will be a vibrant community for years to come. Please contact any PTA Board member for more information or send an email to [valleypta@yahoo.com](mailto:valleypta@yahoo.com).

On January 27th, the PTA held **"Valley's Got Talent."** It was an inspirational night to appreciate what talented students we have at Valley. We were entertained by singers, dancers, musicians, magicians, and more! We had 24 acts in the show and each one was a treat. Thank you to our hardworking students, committed parents, and to our co-directors Carolina Barron, Denise Anger, Serena Arellano, and Shawna Hamon for all of their hard work!

We have more fun to look forward to in 2017! Our annual **Silent Auction and Art in the Valley** are coming up fast on Friday, February 10. Come and see your child's beautiful artwork, bid on great events and products, and enjoy musicians and dessert on a night that is always a crowd pleaser. We are also looking for two Committee Leads to run our **Family Dances** tentatively scheduled for March 10 and 11. Be on the lookout for volunteer sign-ups and announcements in Paw Prints coming out soon.

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

Valley's Got Talent!



## A Message from the School Counselor

Veronica Tapia

*Happy New Year Valley Tigers! I hope you all are doing well and are ready to finish off this school year strong and with lots of fun memories.*

*Here's an article I would like to share with you. It's from one of my colleagues, and a school counselor in the district.*

"It is not what you do for your children, but what you have taught them to do for themselves that will make them successful human beings." – Ann Landers

### CHORES

Oftentimes, when I teach a class lesson on responsibility, I ask students what their chores are at home. Too often I hear children say that they don't have chores. While not expecting kids to do their share in the family may be an easier way to go, it is not helpful for children not to participate in working for the good of the family. Those children who are given chores often fight against them. Here are some tactics which increase the odds the chores will be done.

- Make sure the chore is appropriate for the age of the child.
- Make sure the child understands how to complete the task.
- Rotate the chores.
- Make a game of it. An example might be: "For the next 15 minutes we are going to pick up the kitchen and do the dishes." Etc.
- Have an award attached: "As soon as the room is picked up we can play a board game, watch T.V., play ball in the back yard, etc.
- Stay away from arguments. Parents rarely win these with children. They outlast us. Restate what you want the child to do.
- Help your child to understand that increased responsibility builds character and trust. It leads to increased freedom.

Children need to understand that they are significant in the family's well-being. Chores enable them to do this. It's helpful if children have some input or choice on what chores they do.

By: Jackie Cardinale



**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. 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.

**Where the money went...**

Brain Pop license renewal, Raz Kidz license renewal, NEWSELA, field trips, videography club, completion of iPads for the classroom plan, and the next technology plan – Chromebooks for every 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grader (\$35,500).

**The Trail Run Can Help You Keep Your New Year's Resolution**

This is that time of year when people want a clean slate, a fresh start. They resolve to lose weight, get into shape, enjoy the outdoors, get back to nature or spend more time with their families. The Cinco de Mayo Trail Run can help you keep any and all of those resolutions.

Mark your calendar now. The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Cinco de Mayo Trail Run is scheduled for May 6, 2017, at Lake Poway. Pricing is based on each participant's age, regardless of which race he or she chooses to run. Registration for runners 10 and under is \$10; ages 11-17 is \$25; ages 18 and older is \$40. Fees will go up on April 16 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 An Medina at [amedina@ValleyEEF.org](mailto:amedina@ValleyEEF.org).

**Be a Part of the Great Race!**

The Cinco de Mayo Trail Run is a family-friendly event that's fun for kids and adults of all ages. **There are so many ways you can help!**

*Register Today:* Recruit your friends, neighbors and members of your family to register for the Trail Run. The bigger the turnout, the more money we'll bring in for students, teachers, classrooms and programs.

*Form a Company Team:* Build a company team and encourage fellow employees to participate. It's a great way to model your company's dedication to education, promote fitness, health and wellness, encourage involvement in the community and gain exposure to more than 1,000 runners, families and other members of the community. Teams of 25 or more receive a complimentary space for an exhibit booth at the event. Teams of 50 or more receive a race shirt featuring your team name.

*Become a Sponsor:* Sponsorship dollars help underwrite the cost of the event so that the money raised can go directly to teachers and students. Sponsorship opportunities are available at many levels for companies. Individuals and families can also show their support of Valley. Every donation, no matter what size, makes a difference.

*Volunteer:* Hundreds of volunteers are needed to do jobs large and small to help the event come off without a hitch. 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.

*Double Your Donation:* We'd love to have you contribute financially. Your gift, no matter what size, makes a difference to our children and their school. Many employers offer matching gift programs and will match the charitable contributions made by their employees. Find out if your company has a matching gift program and double your donation.

This is our chance to help the teachers and students at Valley! This year's goal is to purchase more technology for our teachers and their classrooms. We need you! For information about how you can help, go to our newly designed race site at <http://CincodeMayoTrailRun.org>.

#### **Recruit Virtual Runners**

Not a runner or a walker? Don't sweat it!

Sign up to be a virtual runner! It's also the perfect option for grandparents or out-of-town friends and family members who want to make a difference at Valley but either can't be there on race day or would rather cheer from the sidelines than hit the trails, to register as a virtual runner. Virtual runners even receive a race shirt!

#### **Calling for Kids to be Team Captains For Their Classroom**

We're calling for a team captain from each classroom! If your student wants to be a team captain and classroom ambassador, please email our team coordinator, Hilda Soto, at [hsoto@ValleyEEF.org](mailto:hsoto@ValleyEEF.org). The classroom with the biggest team will receive a pizza party! 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!

#### **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>.

## 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	Erica	Fandino
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	Gretchen	Snyder
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.

