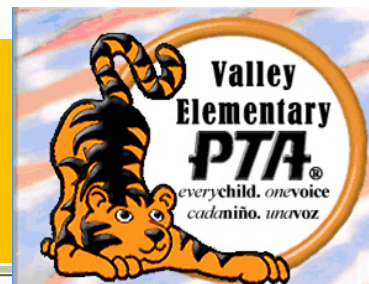


TIGER TALK

The Voice of Valley Elementary PTA

May/June 2015 Issue 9 (2014-2015)



From the Desk of Dr. Johnsen ~ *Andy Johnsen, Ed. D.*

Dear Valley Families ~

This is a tough message to write. What do you say to your community after eight very fulfilling years as principal of the best school in Poway? The first words that come to mind are "thank you." Thank you for the support you have always given me, our teachers and especially our awesome Valley students. During my time as Valley's principal I have enjoyed watching the children grow, laughing with them, supporting them and encouraging them to reach their dreams of college and beyond. I have also enjoyed immensely working with a teaching staff that is second to none. I acknowledge that PUSD has great teachers in all our schools, but nowhere have I seen the dedication, thoughtfulness and excellence that I have seen with our Valley teachers and support staff. You should know that our teachers say "No Excuses" to themselves before they ever say it to their students, and your children are in very good hands under their guidance. I will miss Valley and will cherish the years I have spent here. I wish you all the very best as we close the 2014-15 school year and get ready for 2015-16. Thank you for everything and best wishes!

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

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PTA President's Message ~ *Kimberly Floyd*

On Saturday, April 25 nearly 400 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. As this is my last year at Valley, I'm especially glad that we were able to overcome the few sprinkles and enjoy the celebration. We have so much to be proud of at Valley.

This year Dia del Niño included Baile Folklorico dancing, Mariachi music, piñatas, games, science, balloon animals and art for the kids. We had an inflatable obstacle course and a book fair in the library. Pala Taco Shop brought their Food Truck and sold delicious Mexican food (and donated 18% of sales to Valley PTA).

PTA Message – continued

Thank you to Karina Gonzales who chaired this event. Thank you to Sandra Garcia for coordinating Baile Folklorico Arcoiris. Thank you to Oscar Gutierrez for coordinating the science table. Thank you to Darcy Slansky for coordinating the book fair. Thank you to Yerika Tovey for coordinating Piñatas. Thank you to Karla Valenzuela and Yadira Terrones for coordinating Dessert. Thank you to Veronica Smaller for Decorations. Thank you to Shawna Hamon for Technical support and coordinating Volunteers.

We want to recognize Sweetwater Union School District for their Mariachi Band, Mt. Carmel High School Key Club, Kiwanis Club, Cub Scout Pack 625 and TJ Rotary Club for their volunteers, Ballet Folklorico Arcoiris for their dancers, Alice Grimes for her amazing balloon animals and Pala Taco Shop for the food.

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 this evening something for our children to remember.

Even as the year draws to a close, we have more fun to look forward to. Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week is May 11–15. Valley's Family Dances are happened May 15 and 16. Field Day is Wednesday, June 3rd. We need dedicated volunteers like you to make these events happen. Please watch for upcoming Paw Prints to learn when each committee is forming and choose one to be involved with!



TOSA Talk
~ Angelica Barragan

Summer Reading = Summer Fun!

Are you looking for ways to easily incorporate motivational summer reading into your family's busy lives? Here are three suggestions that might fit-the-bill for you and your children:

- We always appreciate suggestions for good books to read. You can find many grade-based and theme-based reading recommendations and page-turning activities and ideas at <http://www.ala.org/alsc/2014-summer-reading-list>.
- Would you like to be part of a summer reading program? Barnes and Noble is sponsoring "Imagination's Destination", a motivational summer reading program for elementary students. Students read any 8 books and record them in the Reading Journal (available in English and Spanish.) Students choose a FREE BOOK from the Barnes and Noble list when they turn in a completed journal at the local B&N. Fun activities are available online to support reading. Find more information about this program at www.barnesandnoble.com/summerreading/index.asp
- You can become a part of history if you join the Scholastic Summer Challenge. Go to www.scholastic.com/summer/ to find out how your child can help set a new world record for summer reading.
- In Summer 2014, students around the world logged over 52 million reading minutes. Would you like to try to help beat that record? Poway Library also has a summer reading program. Stop by the library to learn more about it!

★READ★LOG MINUTES★WIN PRIZES★ENJOY

~ Tiger Trackers ~

Denise Angers, PTA – VP of Health & Fitness

On Thursday, May 14th, we completed another great year for Tiger Trackers. We dodged rain, heat, and a torn up field to get our Tigers on the track as much as possible this year. We all had a great time and we absolutely couldn't have done it without our wonderful volunteers! Here are a few data points to let you know what our kids accomplished this year.

- The kids ran over 32,000 laps and about 7000 miles!
- 112 children earned Tiger Trackers t-shirts for running at least 100 laps in 3rd – 5th grade, 90 laps in 2nd grade, and 70 laps in 1st grade
- 49 total ice cream/popsicle parties were awarded to classes for completing 500 laps as a class

The following students will be receiving awards at our last Wednesday flag assembly on May 27th for placing gold, silver, or bronze in their grade level:

First Grade:

Gold Medalists: Teagan Anger and Brandon Sawyer

Silver Medalists: Catalina Husseman, Matthew DeVito, Steven Leon Hernandez, and Delonzo Wilkins

Bronze Medalists: Sara Toledano, David Martinez, Scott Johnsen, Anderson Jones, and Tennyson Pankretz

Second Grade:

Gold Medalists: Chanel Lucca, Cameron Berk, Sean Abrom, and Declan Danahy

Silver Medalists: Gabriella Garcia and Bryce Barrus

Bronze Medalists: Dylan Cassara and William Hovel

Third Grade:

Gold Medalists: Lydia Manly, Amanda McGhee, Javier Carrillo, and Danny Sawyer

Silver Medalists: Teya White and Jayson Starks

Bronze Medalists: Azulena Su, Daniel Alonso-Chamu, and Jacob Hulterstrom

Fourth Grade:

Gold Medalists: Anayeli Martinez, David Hulterstrom, and Pedro Gutierrez

Silver Medalists: Natalia Garza and Benjamin Amidei

Bronze Medalists: Morryll Overson and Owen Swaisgood

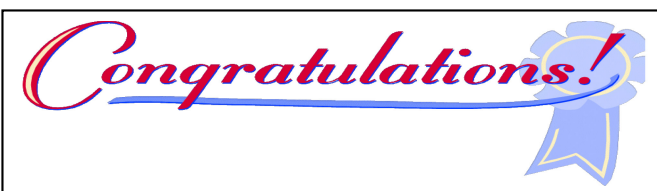
Fifth Grade:

Gold Medalists: Hailey Jose, Jesaid Villalobos, Maximilian Anger, and Sean Johnston

Silver Medalists: Alina Ruvalcaba and Grant Wass

Bronze Medalists: Angelina Belway, Tiana Belway, Drew Floyd, Juan Carlos Montano, and Sean Danahy

Congratulations to our medal winners and to all of our students who worked hard and had fun with us this year. We look forward to seeing everyone on the track again next year. Go Tigers!



Congratulations Laura Danahy, who received Valley's Volunteer of the Year 2014–2015 for her tireless efforts in the classroom, as the PTA's VP of Health and Fitness, and on the Foundation's Cinco de Mayo 5K Trail Run. Valley will miss her next year!



Foundation 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.



Thank You to Everyone Who Was Part of the Cinco de Mayo Trail Run! To All Those Who Blazed the Trails at this year's Trail Run, the dust has settled on the course, but the impression you left will last longer than the marks of your treads on the trails.

The water on the lake is once again calm and quiet, but the ripples you started today will go on — helping more students and teachers at Valley Elementary School.

The Cinco de Mayo Trail Run would like to thank our sponsors, exhibitors, volunteers, teams, collaborators and runners — as well as this year's inspiring Trailblazer Rhonda Martin — for what has turned out to be a record-breaking year!

At 1,139, we had more runners than ever before. And we're proud to announce that we brought in just over \$50,000 in gross revenue — completely obliterating all previous records!

We Broke All Our Records and Will Have More Impact Than Ever Before!

It's all about the students and teachers! Although final expenses are still being calculated, we can say — with absolute certainty — that you helped make it possible for us to bring more technology, professional development, educational experiences and other programming to students and teachers than ever before!

We heard from many runners today that they went up against the toughest courses they've ever faced. Congratulations to all who conquered the trails. To see your results, go to http://geminixnext.com/results/?event_id=3697

Others said the event was more organized than any they've ever attended. That's because of the more than 150 volunteers who woke up before the sun to raise canopies, drive shuttle buses, hang signs, staff parking lots, staff stations, pour coffee and serve food. Thank you to our early risers, our heavy lifters, our course managers, our cleaner-uppers and everyone who helped the event run as smoothly as possible for all involved.

Many of you said the event was just plain fun. Maybe it's because of the live music, the Folklórico dancers, the free food, the fun swag and, of course, the awesome street tacos!

For virtual swag, including coupons, promotions and other deals from our sponsors and partners, go to <http://www.cincomayotrailrun.org/virtual-swag/>. To check out event photos, go to <http://www.nlparks.com/2015-Cinco-de-Mayo-Trail-Run-L/>

Calling all Tigers ~ Thank you!!



Valley PTA Receives Legacy Award

On May 19 Valley PTA received the Legacy award from the Ninth District PTA. This award recognizes Valley PTA for continuously making a difference in children's lives for 50 years!! We could not have accomplished this without all of you...the amazing Valley parents who care enough to donate you time to your school and Valley PTA programs. Here's hoping for another amazing 50 years!



Our Volunteers Make Valley A Great School

Meet Valley's Top 10 Volunteers, who combined put in over 2000 total volunteer hours this school year. Thank you for your dedication and commitment to supporting the students, teachers and staff.

Judy Nemec, 400 hrs
 Carol Crafts, 308 hrs
 Emma Ramos Castaneda, 245 hrs
 Cathy Barger, 222 hrs
 Darcy Slansky, 173 hrs
 Sheri Mayer, 165 hrs
 Viviana Montiel, 146 hrs
 Megan Manlove-Smith, 146 hrs
 Cheryl Scarbrough, 144 hrs
 Lili Husseman, 140 hrs

CLASS COMPETITION

Artemisa Peruch-Green Wins a Pizza Party for Her Class! Thank you to all the teachers who participated in the class competition to register the most runners at the Trail Run and win a pizza party for his or her class. The winner was first-grade teacher Artemisa Perucho-Green! We'll contact you soon to arrange your pizza party!

Other top teachers included: Mrs. Kitts, Mrs. Araujo and Mrs. Wright — with Mrs. Serrano and Mrs. Flores rounding out the list of teachers who had 10 or more runners on their teams. Thank you to all the teachers and all the runners who were part of this fun and friendly competition.

Save the Date!

Save the date for next year and we'll do it all again on May 7, 2016! It will be our 10th anniversary and we expect it to be bigger and better than ever before!

Financial Contributions

To make a tax-deductible donation to the Foundation, or to learn more about the Foundation's initiatives and events, go to ValleyEEF.org.

MONTHLY REMINDERS

- *Wednesdays- Workroom Support & Spirit Day (wear your Valley or College T-shirts)*
- *Fridays - Valley Pride Day & Tiger Trackers*
- *June 3 - Field Day 8am-12pm*
- *June 11 - Last Day of School (12pm dismissal)*



Valley Service Awards

were presented on May 13 at the Valley PTA Appreciation Lunch. These individuals were especially recognized by their peers for their contributions to Valley PTA and their dedication to our children.



Lili Husseman truly goes above and beyond more than anyone I've ever met. She doesn't just take care of her child's teacher, but she takes care of all the Valley teachers, making sure to include them all so no one feels left out. She also has strengthened communication between the PTA and the room moms giving all the room mom's advance notice of what is coming up for Valley's events and disseminating information so it is readily available to distribute to the parents. She has been a jewel for Valley and is a loving, caring person with a lot of heart. I've seen her at every event I have volunteered for and she always has a smile on her face.



Lisa Jones has worked tirelessly for the past five years to establish and grow the Science Club at Valley Elementary for our 4th and 5th graders. She is, not only the head coach who organizes and runs the programs, she also has often times stepped up to also teach multiple events! She does all these above and beyond her already demanding teaching schedule and has spent countless hours unselfishly devoting her time to this program since its inception. The program has thrived under her guidance and has been a program that 4th and 5th grade students (and parents) are excited to be a part of and look forward year after year. Valley students have certainly benefitted by having an enrichment program that not only teaches them about science and engineering but fosters the love of science that will benefit them as they go beyond Valley.



Naneth Sotic-Iose is a person that you know of long before you actually meet her. From my first days at Valley, she seemed to be the person who was ALWAYS there, constantly volunteering, always a presence on campus. As I got to know her, I was surprised that her down-to-earth, unassuming demeanor masked a Mom who was uber-organized and could motivate those around her to get the job done. At the many events that I have been involved in with her, she is always willing to jump in wherever help is needed. Her sense of calm and professionalism always helped in those moments when things got a little bit crazy. I'm sure that I have no idea of the number of activities with which she has helped, both in the classroom and school-wide. I just know that whenever I'm on campus, she always seems to be there, too. Naneth is certainly the type of person who demonstrates what is great about Valley spirit!



Kim Floyd has been our tireless PTA president for the last two years. She stepped into the role without hesitation upon realizing in 2013 that there would be nobody to take over the role and that the Valley PTA would be dissolved. Since that time she has worked very hard to create a spirit of unity among parents at the school. She emphasizes our goals at every meeting and protects other PTA volunteers from taking on too much and burning out. She leads by example and is always there to help by answering questions and offering her time and expertise. She is also happy to step aside and enable others to lead as well. She is diplomatic, fair, efficient, and insightful. She has made an amazing contribution in her ten years at Valley and she will be greatly missed.

~ Valley Team at Science Field Day ~

Lisa Black, PTA

On May 9, 2015 Valley Elementary sent a team of 15 to compete in SDCOE's Science Field Day (along with about 50 other elementary schools). The San Diego County Office of Education Science Field Day is a wonderful district wide competition dedicated to teaching science and engineering and fostering the love of science to last a lifetime.

Fourth and Fifth grade students trained for 14 weeks in their subjects to compete in 15 science related events (Structures, Changing Earth, Starry Starry Night, Mirror Magic, Don't Bug Me, Circuit Wizardry, Catapult Competition, Triathlon Relay, Perplexing Powders, Rocking Out, Simple Machines, Tin Can Racers and Anatomy). The event has a festival atmosphere with many "day of" science demonstrations and competitions. Valley students learned so much about their subjects and working as a team. Valley earned 13 awards (including 4 first place medals).

First Place

Starry, Starry Night: Elizabeth Hendricks & Capriss Mahtafar.

Mirror Magic: Isa White & Hailey Jose

Don't Bug Me: Owen Swaisgood & Grant Wass

Catapult Competition: Josie Headley & Janae N. Serrano

2nd Place

Structures for Success: Janae N. Serrano & Evan Barnes

Perplexing Powders: Alex Black & Capriss Mahtafar

3rd Place

Circuit Wizardry: Drew Floyd & Juan Valenzuela Montano

4th Place

Changing Earth; Hailey Jose & Alex Camarillo

Triathlon Relay: Jaleal Taguliniao & Grant Wass

Tin Can Racers: Drew Floyd & Kristian Chamian

Anatomy: Elizabeth Hendricks & Elliott Husseman

Fifth Place

Barges: Jaleal Taguliniao & Kristian Chamian

Rocking Out: Grant Wass & Easha Ashraf





Elementary School Counseling Program Student Support Services Department

Veronica Flores, School Counselor
Colette Bradley and Rachel Daniels, Student Services Assistants



Thank You Ms. Daniels for all your help this year!

As many of you may know, Ms. Daniels will not be returning to Valley next year as our Student Services Assistant. She will be moving out of the state with her family. We appreciate all the help she has brought to our Student Services Department. She assisted with classroom lessons, on empathy and problem solving, to running small groups, and providing structured activities out on the playground. If you noticed a crowd of students gathered around the playground, it was usually Ms. Daniels leading activities such as, cup stacking, sidewalk chalk, bop-it, capture the flag, board games, etc. She was a great fit for our school and she will be missed. Below are a few comments from our Valley students:

"Ms. Daniels made recess fun!"

"I really enjoyed the games."

"I learned about fairness and kindness."

"Ms. Daniels was nice and helpful when we had a problem."



The Valley 5-minute check-in

Please continue to ask your children positive open-ended questions when they return home from school. Some examples of the Valley 5-minute check-in include:

- What did you do today to work hard?
- How did you take care of others?
- What did you do to take care of your school?
- How did you help your teacher?

Having this conversation with your child teaches them to have empathy, and it provides them with the opportunity to develop solutions.

Valley Elementary PTA Board 2014-15

Elected Officers	First Name	Last Name
Principal	Andrew	Johnsen
President	Kim	Floyd
Executive V.P.	Denise	Anger
1st V.P. Ways and Means	Darcy	Slansky
3rd V.P. Membership	Elizabeth	Reyes
4th V.P. Health and Fitness	Laura	Danahy
5th V.P. Art Program	Lisa	Black
Recording Secretary	Kim	Jones
Treasurer	Sandie	Sears
Financial Secretary	Naneth	Sotic-Jose
Auditor	Veronica	Alvarez
Historian	Nicole	Rose
Parliamentarian	Kelly	Kersey
Committee Chairs		
Newsletter Editor	Carolyn	Lemm
Website Administrator	Rindy	Barnes
Character Counts	Diana	Aldrete
Room Parent Coordinator	Lili	Husseman
Volunteer Coordinator	Shawna	Hamon
Translator	Elizabeth	Hulterstrom
Spirit Wear Sales	Dana	Boll
After School Programs	Maria	Cuevas
School Administrative Assistant	Cris	Rollins
Teacher Liaison (DL)	Marisa	Contreras
Teacher Liaison (EC)	Alice	Grimes



GET INVOLVED & JOIN VALLEY PTA

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

