

Mission Valley Parent Bulletin

Principal's Message

I wanted to start off this month's message with a big thank you for all your support over the first four months of the school year. So far it has been a great experience for me filled with opportunities for learning, working through challenges, and simply spending time getting to know you and our students.

One of my goals this year was to be involved with our students as much as possible in a positive light. With the support of the staff I implemented character assemblies. These assemblies happen once a month and each month highlights a different character trait (December was Respect). I do one assembly for each grade level 1st-6th (a total of six one-hour assemblies). Each teacher selects a student who exemplifies that trait and they receive an award and are also eligible for the Pizza with the Principal lunch that I will hold in early January. This not only allows me positive interaction with the students but it also helps to accomplish another goal that I set at the beginning of the year based upon feedback from the staff - giving more time to the teachers to collaborate as a grade level so that they can plan and adjust their teaching to better meet the needs of our students.

As a former classroom teacher I know that the teaching profession can be isolating. We have over 150 years of combined teaching experience at Mission Valley and I want us to share our ideas and experiences with each other as often as possible so that we can all continue to connect and grow as a learning community.

In addition to our assemblies, I have also instituted what I call Trivia Time for our staff. Each week I pose a trivia question to our staff and those who correctly answer the question qualify for a drawing. I then offer to take their class to the library or computer lab or cover a yard duty assignment for them. Again this helps to meet both of the previously mentioned goals; I get to spend time with the students and the staff receives some needed time as well. Please see page 7 for a list of our student winners so far!

Another change that we started this year in order to better communicate with all of our parents is an email and voicemail notification system. Hopefully you have received some of the messages that I have sent out over the last month. We will be using this system to help keep you informed of important information that affects you and your student. I hope that you find this system helpful.

For all of you who use the school driveway to drop off and pick up your students I wanted to remind you of some important policies that are designed to keep our students safe and to keep the line moving quickly. Most importantly **always pull your vehicle as far forward as possible**. This allows for more vehicles to be in the drop off area and helps to eliminate traffic problems out in the streets. **Make sure your students are ready** to get out of the car when you stop and **be patient**. I am doing the best I can to help the traffic flow but I need your cooperation to make it work.

Included in this newsletter is an important notice regarding the Curriculum and Instruction Committee and the need for parent volunteers. Please consider participating in this important process.

It is my hope that during the winter break you are able to spend your time with the people you care about most. I also wish you happiness, good health and prosperity in the coming year. Once again I thank you for your support of our students and staff and I will see you all in 2015!

Mike Pappas
Principal

Important Dates

- Monday, 12/22 - Friday, 1/2: Winter Break
- Tuesday, 1/6: 3:30pm, MV Basketball Games @ Chadbourne
- Wednesday, 1/7: Sibling Priority Registration Begins
- Thursday, 1/8: 1:30pm, Geography Bee, MUR
- Tuesday, 1/13: 3:30pm, MV Basketball Games @ CSD
- Wednesday, 1/14: 3:30pm, MV Basketball Games @ MSJE
- Monday, 1/19: MLK, Jr. Day, NO SCHOOL
- Tuesday, 1/20- Friday, 1/23: 6th Grade at Science Camp
- Tuesday, 1/20: 3:15pm, School Site Council, rm 6
- Wednesday, 1/21: 3:00pm, Sibling Priority Registration Ends
- Wednesday, 1/28: 3:30pm, MV Basketball @ Mission Valley
- Thursday, 1/29: 6:30pm, District Spelling Bee, at Gomes

Mission Valley Website

For up to date information on events, policies, and other communications, please go to our website:
www.fremont.k12.ca.us/mve

Emergency Information

Mission Valley is committed to providing a safe place for all staff and students. We conduct fire, earthquake, and lockdown drills on a regular basis to make sure that everyone on campus is as prepared as possible.

If there ever is an emergency, it is important to remember:

- **Do NOT call the school.** We have a plan to keep students safe and we will need the telephone lines open to speak with emergency personnel.
- **Check the District emergency posts** to see details of what is happening at Mission Valley during a lockdown or disaster and when it will be ok for you to pick up your child. Go to either the Mission Valley website or the District website and click on the “Emergency Information” link that is on the left hand side of the main page. You can also click on this link:

<http://www.fremont.k12.ca.us/site/default.aspx?pageid=31>

- **If we are on a lockdown do not come to the campus until the above website states that it is safe to do so.**
- **When the District says it is OK to pick up your child, please park away from the school and keep the parking lot and street in front of the school clear for emergency vehicles.**
- After a disaster there will be stations set up on the playground. **You must check in to take your child and you will be asked to show your ID—do not go directly to your child.** This is to keep students safe and ensure that only the adults listed on the disaster forms leave with a student.
- **Please make sure the information on your child’s emergency card is kept current and that you have listed ALL adults that pick up your child, including afterschool care drivers.**

TRAFFIC SAFETY

Please remember that the speed limit on neighborhood residential streets is 25 mph and the speed limit within the Mission Valley boundaries is 5 mph. Please do your part to make our school and neighborhood a safe place!!



Current Students: Reservation for Next School Year

Each FUSD student is required to prove residence every year. Reservation forms will be sent via US mail to each current student's home during the week of February 9. Reservation forms will be due back by March 2. Any current student that does not turn in their reservation form by this date will lose their spot at Mission Valley effective immediately, and will have to re-register at the district office.

A reservation form will be sent home to each current student. If you have multiple children at Mission Valley, you must turn in the reservation form and required residency documents for each child. We will not accept copies of the reservation form. You must turn in the form that was mailed to your home.



New Student Registration for 2015-2016

SIBLING PRIORITY ENROLLMENT: For new students with a sibling currently in grades K-5 at Mission Valley:

- Enrollment packets will be available in the Mission Valley office starting from January 7-14.
- Enrollment will take place in the Mission Valley office starting on January 7 and ending at 3pm on January 21. When you pick up your packet, you will get an appointment time to return your packet.
- Please note these are fixed dates. If you do not pick up a packet before January 14 and/or you do not return your packet before 3pm on January 21, you will miss out on the sibling priority enrollment.

NEW STUDENT ENROLLMENT: For non-siblings or siblings who missed the priority period:

- Enrollment for new families is no longer done at school sites. Go to www.fremont.k12.ca.us and click on "Online Enrollment". You must fill out the online application and make an appointment to go to the district office to finish your child's enrollment.
- Online enrollment for new TK and K students begins February 3—March 17
- Enrollment for all students TK—6 begins on March 18.
- All information about the documents you will need to bring to your appointment is on the FUSD website.
- Placement at Mission Valley will be contingent upon space available.

Curriculum & Instruction Parent Volunteer Needed

In order to guide the District on implementation of Common Core State Standards and the resulting shifts in classroom instruction, FUSD staff recommended to the Board of Trustees that we form a Curriculum and Instruction Committee. As stakeholders, the Committee's responsibility is to advise and give input into the District's Curriculum & Instruction planning, by reviewing/recommending curriculum and materials that are high quality and equitable and advising in relevant instructional matters. The committee will also oversee special task forces as commissioned by the Board of Trustees on specific topics of interest to the community, such as educational equity and health/sex education.

The members of the Curriculum and Instruction Committee will serve a two-year term. The membership of the Committee should reflect the diversity of the community and the student body.

The Governing Board is seeking 7 parents to serve on this committee. The members of the Committee will be selected from those who apply for the position by filling out an application and submitting it to Linda Anderson, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, by the de date.

Commitment: Members are required to attend meetings of the full committee on the third Tuesdays of the month from 4:00pm—6:00pm at the Fremont Unified School District Office. Additional time commitments may be necessary.

All applications must be submitted by 5:00pm, Thursday, January 15, 2015 to:

Linda Anderson, Director of Curriculum & Instruction
Fremont Unified School District, 4210 Technology Drive
Fremont, CA 94538

Or sent via email to lindaanderson@fremont.k12.ca.us

Paper copies of the Curriculum & Instruction Committee application are available at each school site. For more information and to access an online application, please visit the district's website at: www.fremont.k12.ca.us

FUSD Measure K Citizens' Oversight Committee

In November 2010, the voters of Fremont approved a local funding measure, Measure K, an annual tax of \$53 per parcel that will generate approximately \$3.2 million annually for five (5) years.

Measure K includes a requirement that Fremont Unified School District establish a Citizen's Oversight Committee to provide independent oversight to ensure that the Measure K revenue received by the Fremont Unified School District is spent in accordance with the commitment made to the voters of Fremont.

Measure K Citizens' Oversight Committee has 11 seats appointed by the Board of Education: two business/community members who live or conduct business in Fremont, six parents/guardians of current FUSD students, one student representative, and two seniors (65 years of age or older)

The Committee is inviting community members to send in their applications/nominations for the following:

No. of Vacancies	Category	Term
1	Business/Community Member	2 years
2	Parent/Guardian of current FUSD student	2 years
1	Student Representative	1 year
1	Senior (65 years or age or older)	2 years

Applications can be found on the Fremont Unified School District website, www.fremont.k12.ca.us/Page/173330. Your completed applications can be emailed to mnalamothu@fremont.k12.ca.us or mailed to:

Meira Nalamothu, Accounting Services
Fremont Unified School District , 4210 Technology Drive
Fremont, CA 94538.

The Fremont Unified School District Board of Education appoints all members. District employees are excluded from membership.

GATE

Gifted and Talented Education (G.A.T.E.) provides differentiated instruction for students with superior ability and high-level academic performance.

This year all 3rd grade students will have the opportunity to take the GATE test. Testing information was presented to 3rd grade parents during the month of September.

Students in grades 4 or 5 who have not been tested in Fremont automatically are offered testing. Those students will be assessed with an ability test during March. A letter will be mailed to the student's home address with an assigned testing session and for parental written permission. Nomination of those students is not necessary. If your child is new to the district this year and you have not received any information regarding testing by the end of February, please contact Mr. Schroeder at 510-657-2350 ext. 12325 or at jschroeder@fremont.k12.ca.us.

For those students in 5th and 6th grade who have been tested, Teacher and/or Parent Nomination forms are accepted for review under other identification criteria. Additional information and forms are available in your child's school office or may be downloaded from the Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) Department's website. If you believe that your child may require GATE services and is in the 5th or 6th grade, submit a completed nomination form to the GATE Office, 4210 Technology Drive, Fremont, CA 94538, **between November 1, 2014 and January 15, 2015. Faxes will not be accepted.**

Student Absences

It is that time of year when many students are absent from school, either from sickness or because of a family vacation.

Absence Due to Illness:

If your child will be absent from school, please report it as early as possible on the day of absence by dialing 510-656-2000 and following the prompts. Leave a message that includes your child's name, grade, teacher's name, and the reason for the absence. Parents must notify the school on each day the student is absent.

If your child has a fever, he/she must be fever free without the use of medicine for 24 hours before returning to school. If your child has vomited, he/she must stay home for 48 hours after the vomiting has stopped. Illness is considered an excused absence and students will have the number of days missed to make up work.

Absence Due to Vacation:

Please notify the office as soon as you know you will be going on vacation. Please note that these types of absences are unexcused. This means that you will be getting an automated call from the District every day your child is absent. We can not turn these off even if you have notified us of the absence. When a student is absent for more than 10 continuous school days (other than illness), the student will be withdrawn, and his/her seat may be given to another student. Upon return the student may be transferred to another school if classrooms at the school of original enrollment are full.

A parent's knowledge and/or approval of a student's absence without a valid excuse does not necessarily excuse the absence. For more in-depth information about the District's attendance policy, please see pages 5 and 6 in the Parent/Guardian & Student Handbook that was handed out to every student on the first day of school.

Spelling Bee Winners

Congratulations to Kaushik M. in grade 5 and Akhil D. in grade 6. They won our school Spelling Bee and will compete in the district Spelling Bee on January 29, 6:30pm, at Gomes Elementary.

Change of Address/Residency

It is the responsibility of parents under Board Policy 5111 to notify the school office within five (5) days of moving to a new address. Any move, even if it is within the attendance area, still requires proofs of residency to verify the new address. Failure to do so will result in the revocation of the student's placement at the school. Forms and instructions can be obtained in the school office.

Informational Flyers

The office is continually receiving information on activities and programs being offered in the community. We do not send all flyers home with students, but we do keep a supply of flyers inside the office on a literature rack for you to select those of interest to you and your child. Please be aware that Mission Valley does not endorse any of these programs; we are simply making this information available to you as a service.



FUSD on Facebook and Twitter

Stay up to date with all the news and happenings throughout the Fremont Unified School District. Visit and like FUSD's official Facebook page at **Fremont Usd** and follow the District on Twitter at **@USDFremont**. Updated daily, FUSD's Facebook and Twitter pages are great resources for the latest information from all 42 schools, District departments, and even news from around the Fremont community.

Mommy and Me Classes

The Parent Education Department at Fremont Adult School offers classes for parents to attend with their toddlers and/or preschoolers. Each parent will participate with his/her child in activities provided in a preschool setting to develop skills in the following areas: creative art, pre-math, reading readiness, science and sensory exploration, social circle time and cultural awareness. Classes are offered Monday-Thursdays. For registration information please call 510-793-6465 or visit www.face.edu.

Character Assembly Winners

Teacher	Caring	Planning	Respect
Aidun	Rohan R.	Meghna G.	Callie Y.
Bond	Kym T.	Anirra K.	Mariam S.
Brahaney	Mariana Z.	Robin L.	Amirtha G.
Cooper	Esha K.	Sabornia K.	Aditi C.
Cowan	Ashwika J.	Anmol P.	Zara M.
Denton	Aadi H.	Ryan L.	Fernando G.
Hoefler	Aishi R.	Andrew W.	Nouha H.
Howard	Harris T.	Christian B.	Shivam P.
Ilag	Veda C.	Saanvi C.	Sumeet S.
Lopez	Chris W.	Chloe W.	Moyna B.
Lotz	Ananya A.	Roshan B.	Laya B.
MacDonald	Abdul M.	Harlan S.	Ahmed Z.
Maryman	Diya K.	Arav S.	William W.
Pastrana	Nathan B.	Katlyn S.	Jayden T.
Pesek	Siyona V.	Mikail M.	Nisheet P.
Rivera	Michael H.	Anoushka S.	Yohan K.
Shanteau	Rochelle L.	Inimai S.	Shaunak R.
Smith, C.	Ameya C.	Anusha S.	Josiah M.
Sonoda	Megan L.	Renee K.	Audrey L.
Treichler	Sanaa S.	Rahul P.	Yeji J.
Wittmer	Jiya C.	Avni G.	Guillermo G.
Wong	Julissa R.	Arush B.	Vaishnavi T.
PE Winners	Aaron B. Sriram M. Troy H. Kaushika K. Robin L. Moksha R.		

Mission Valley Elementary

41700 Denise Street
Fremont, CA 94539

Contact Information:

Absence Line:
656-2000

Lunch Account Info:
656-2000 ext.34182

Website:
www.fremont.k12.ca.us/mve

Principal:
Mike Pappas

Secretary:
Cara Madden-Watson

Attendance Clerk:
Chris Richardson

****Fremont Unified School District is part of a culturally and linguistically rich community. Our policies embrace a discrimination and harassment free environment. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 protects people from discrimination based on sex in education programs or activities which receive Federal financial assistance. Title IX states that: No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.****

Important Campus Reminders

CELL PHONES:

Students in grades K-6 are not allowed to carry cell phones and/or pagers at school unless the principal has given that student specific written approval. Applications for students to carry cell phones are available in the office. A new application must be submitted EACH year. Student and parent(s) must sign the application form AND attach a letter stating why the phone is necessary. Phones must be turned off during the school day.

CLASSROOM ACCESS:

Classrooms can only be opened by the teacher. Classrooms will not be unlocked by school staff after school for ANY reason. Items left behind will have to wait until the next school day to be picked up.

DROPPING OFF ITEMS:

All homework, projects or other materials forgotten at home must be delivered to the office. These items will be placed in the teacher's mailbox.

We DO NOT allow parents to interrupt class to deliver homework or other forgotten items.

LUNCHES:

School lunches are \$3.00. Please make checks payable to "CNS" and make sure your child's name AND room number are written on the "Memo" line at the bottom of the check. On-line payment is now available and this can be accessed by going to the FUSD homepage Quicklinks and clicking on "My Nutrikids On-Line Meal Payment".

Please refrain from sending glass containers in your child's lunch. Glass bottles and bowls can accidentally break and injure students.

Emergency Meals are always available for students who lose or forget their lunch or lunch money. Payment is expected the next day. Only two (2) consecutive meals may be charged to your student's account. Students will then be offered a cheese sandwich and milk until payment is received.

Forgotten Lunches should be brought directly to the office. Please make sure they are labeled with your child's name and room number and leave it in the large blue basket just inside the office.

ALL STUDENTS SHOULD COME TO THE OFFICE TO CHECK FOR FORGOTTEN LUNCHES BEFORE GOING TO THE CAFETERIA.

MORNING AND AFTERNOON PROCEDURES:

Kindergarten students meet in the corridor on the side of the office facing the K playground. They are dismissed from class to the corridor for after school pick up. Parents are asked to wait in the corridor. Please check with the kindergarten teachers for more information on procedures.

Grades 4-6 can arrive on campus at 8:10am and grades 1-3 can arrive at 8:20am. Students should not be on playground until adult supervision begins. After the bell rings, all students line up behind their classroom number on the playground. All teachers meet their classes on the playground daily. **On rainy days students will report to the Multi Use Room until school begins. FOR THE SAFETY OF ALL OF OUR CHILDREN, PARENTS MAY NOT FOLLOW STUDENTS/CLASS TO THE CLASSROOM.**

RESTROOMS:

Only Mission Valley students are permitted to use the student restrooms on campus. Adults who wish to use the restrooms need to go to the office and use the restroom in the nurse's room.