

Mission Valley Parent Bulletin

Principal's Message

I'd like to start off this month's message with an answer to a question I often receive related to my position as the school administrator. The question I get asked most often from students, parents, teachers, friends and family is simply, "what do you do"? It may sound like an easy question to answer but I really had to put some thought into it. So I started by looking back at my February calendar and here's some of what I did this past month:

Attended 3 basketball games, ran 4 character assemblies, interviewed 8 candidates for our night custodian position, met twice with my mentor coach and twice with my supervisor, took 2 classes to our library, participated in 9 IEPs and 2 504s, visited Oliveira elementary school with my "new" principal cohort and also met with my attendance area cohort. I also spent time working the morning and afternoon drive through, monitoring lunch periods, visiting with parents, staff members and students, and of course an occasional game of wall ball or four square when time permitted.

Now depending on your perspective this may seem like a busy month and it was. However I'm not looking for any sympathy here. The fact is I enjoy the variety of challenges that I face each day and thrive on taking care of our community. Some have equated my position of school principal to that of the CEO of a corporation but I don't totally agree. We are definitely a large organization with many employees (teachers, custodians, secretaries, lunch servers, aides, etc.) and a diverse group of clients (students and parents). I see my position more as the CEO/Head of Customer Service because my main charge is to serve our students and our community at large while working hard to lead our staff in the same direction. So I guess I can't say exactly what I do each day, but I can say that I sure enjoy doing it.

I know I put these dates in last month but I'll leave them in until they have expired as they are important.

The SBAC testing window will be from May 4th through May 29th. All 3-6 grade students will participate in these tests.

The STAR testing window for science will be from April 20th-May 1st. Only 5th grade students will participate in these tests.

If you have specific questions regarding any of these tests please feel free to contact me for assistance.

Last month I mentioned that we were currently planning an intervention program for any students that are in need of extra support. I polled our teachers and with their help and that of some data we came up with a list of students that we felt would benefit from the program. (continued on page 2)

Important Dates

- Tuesday, 3/3: Mission Valley Basketball Game vs. Gomes, in MUR
- Friday, 3/6 - Saturday 3/7: Mission Attendance Area Basketball Tournament in MUR
- Monday, 3/9: Spring Pictures
- Tuesday, 3/10: MVSA Meeting, 7pm, room 6
- Tuesday, 3/17: School Site Council, 3:15pm, room 6
- Saturday, 3/28: MVSA Campus Clean-up Day
- Monday, 3/30: Jog-a-Thon

Principal's Message Continued...

The program started two weeks ago and about 25 students are participating. Our resource para-educator met with each teacher and created a plan that is designed to focus on the individual needs of each particular student. We will monitor progress as we work our way through the year.

The end of the second trimester will be March 6th. What this means is that you can expect your students' grade reports on Friday March 20th. This gives our teaching staff sufficient time to input all grades that have been earned up to the 6th as well as time to give meaningful comments on the report.

We are currently promoting our annual FUSD Parent Survey and are hoping that you will take time to give us your feedback. Your input is important and does help us make decisions. Please click on the link that is embedded in this newsletter...thank you.

Next Friday and Saturday (3/6 & 3/7) we will be hosting the Mission Attendance Area Basketball Tournament for our boys' and girls' teams. This is a fun event and we would love to have your support at the games. Come by if you have some time.

Today ends our Pennies for Patients campaign and I'd like to thank everyone who participated in this cause. I will have a total after we collect all of the remaining donations from this week.

I also want to remind you that if you have a K-5th grade student, make sure that you turn in your student registration information for next year. We want to make sure that we have space for your children.

As always, thanks for your support.

Mike Pappas
Principal

Parent Satisfaction Survey

Please take a moment to take FUSD's Annual Parent Satisfaction Survey. The information you provide gives us invaluable feedback on what we are doing well and in what areas we still need to improve. To take the survey, go to:

<http://bit.ly/fusdparent2015>

You can also find a link to the survey on our website. A version in Mandarin will be available shortly and we will post the link on our website.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to all the students who competed in the District's Science Fair. Rishi S. won second place in the 2nd grade competition and Tanisha G. won third place in the 6th grade competition.

Parent Meetings for Health & Sex Education

Fremont Unified School District will be holding preview meetings for parents on the Health & Sex Education curriculum at the District Office, which is located at 4210 Technology Drive in Fremont. Please see below for meeting details:

Grade	Date & Time	Location
4th Grade	3/10, 5:30pm -7:30pm	District Office, Magnolia Room
5th Grade	3/25, 4:00pm - 6:00pm	District Office, Professional Development Center
6th Grade	3/24, 3:30pm—5:00pm	District Office, Professional Development Center

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 with required proofs of residency attached will be due back by March 2. Any current student that does not turn in their reservation form by this date will not be placed on a class list for next year.

A reservation form will be mailed to the home of each current student in grades K-5. 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.

Important Information for 6th Grade Students

Tdap Immunization Required for Entry into 7th Grade:

Per California Law AB 354, students are required to get a Tdap immunization in order for your student to enter 7th grade. The adolescent whooping cough/pertussis booster shot (Tdap) must be given on or after age 7 to meet this requirement. Valid proof must show: 1) type of shot given, 2) date, 3) provider's signature/stamp. **You can provide proof to your Elementary School site up until the last day of school. If proof is not provided by the first day of school, your student will NOT be allowed to attend junior high.**

Music Parent Info Night for Students Entering 7th grade in 2015-16

Did you know that Hopkins Junior High School has one of the best middle school bands and the best middle school orchestra in California? On Tuesday, February 24, 2015, at 7 p.m., the Hopkins JHS Music Department will be holding a Music Information Night for students entering 7th grade at Hopkins in August 2015. This night is for parents of all current 6th grade band and string students in the Mission San Jose Attendance Area (Chadbourne, Gomes, Mission San Jose, and Mission Valley), and for any additional parents interested in learning more about the award-winning Music Department at Hopkins. (Students can begin playing band instruments in 7th grade even if they have no experience!) Topics to be covered include the music classes offered at Hopkins JHS, the registration process for students entering Hopkins in 2015-2016, and the many benefits of taking music classes in school. For more information, please visit the Hopkins Music Department website at www.musicathopkins.com or contact Mr. Greg Conway, Hopkins' Director of Instrumental Music, at gconway@musicathopkins.com. Also, an informational packet about the Hopkins JHS Bands and Orchestras has been mailed to all 6th grade students, so hopefully you have received yours in the mail!

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 help children develop skills in the following areas: creative art, pre-math, reading readiness, science and sensory exploration, circle time story and songs. Classes are offered Monday-Thursdays. For registration information please call 510-793-6465 or visit www.face.edu.

Golden Sneaker Contest

Which Class will Win the Golden Sneaker Trophy?

Lace up those shoes, dust off those bikes, or get ready to take transit or share your ride! The Safe Routes to Schools Pollution Solution 2015: Golden Sneaker Contest is coming to your school! For two weeks - March 2-13, participating classrooms will be tracking and talking about the benefits of using active transportation – walking and rolling (biking, skateboarding or using a scooter) or shared transportation (riding the school bus, using public transportation and/or carpooling with other families) - to come and go to school. The classroom with the highest percentage of these healthy travel choices will win the Golden Sneaker Trophy and celebration.

The Golden Sneaker contest offers a chance for every student to participate. If you live too far from school to walk or roll you can always:

- Park a few blocks away and walk
- Meet up with friends who live close to school and walk as a group
- Start a carpool

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 mnamothu@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.

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.

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.

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 for 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.

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.

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.