

Mission Valley

PARENT BULLETIN

November 2015

Principal's Message

Greetings MV community members and welcome to November...yes I said November. It's hard to believe we are just two weeks away from the conclusion of the first trimester, but we are and with that brings some important dates and information that I want to pass along. However, before we get into that I wanted to give you a brief update on what I've been doing outside of school (just the highlights).

As most of you know, my oldest son is off to college and he's been homesick so we brought him back for the weekend to celebrate his birthday in Capitola. This was a great weekend as there were several family members (myself included) who have October birthdays so we celebrated together. We sent him back with renewed energy and are hopeful that he will continue to settle in and make the most of his adventure. My youngest is currently in the middle of try-outs for his high school basketball team so I am also hopeful he will be successful as he works towards that goal.

Now that I have spent over a year "working" in the drop off area and listening to concerned parents, I've had a chance to think and reflect on what can be done to improve the safety and flow of traffic around the campus. Prior to my tenure I understand that we possessed a fairly rigorous parent volunteer group that helped out. Because of some legal changes most parents are not able to help so that leaves our Student Safety Patrol, a few staff members and myself to attempt to keep things flowing. I recently found some very specific written policies in regards to the drop off and pick up process that quite frankly I have not been enforcing thus far. I plan to make some changes that will begin after the December holiday break in an effort to make all of us safer. Here are the changes that will be implemented:

- You will no longer be able to access the parking lot entrance from McKay St. I see many vehicles making left turns from this street, which creates pedestrian and traffic problems. If you want to access the school drop off area you will need to be traveling on Lockwood towards Denise. I am in the process of creating a reminder sign to help in this transition. This was part of the schools original drop off safety plan.
- You will only be able to turn right when exiting the drop off area. I will have additional cones to direct you. There is already a sign posted that states there is no left turn from the parking area. Turning left slows the flow and creates a potentially dangerous situation with vehicles already traveling on Denise. This is also part of the school's original drop off safety plan.

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Principal's Message Continued...

As with any change there will be some challenges. I will be sending email "blasts" about this upcoming change to help remind you of the implementation date. For those of you who aren't using McKay St. or are already turning right out of the parking lot it will have little effect. **In addition I'm pleading with all parents to use the "crosswalks" in and around the school.** Do not enter or exit in the drop off lane... this can be very dangerous.

I also want to remind you that parent conferences are scheduled during the week of November 16th-20th. **During this week all 1st-6th grade students will be dismissed at 1:10.** In addition there will be no school the following week; however, the office will be open on Monday the 23rd and Tuesday the 24th.

As always please feel free to contact me with any questions, concerns or just to say hello. Oh...and if you're wondering how old I am I'll give you a clue... I graduated from Washington High School in 1985.

Sincerely,

Mike Pappas-Principal

Important Dates

Tues., 11/10: MVSA Meeting, 7pm, room 6

Mon., 11/16 - Fri., 11/20: Early Release, Grades 1-6 out at 1:10pm

Mon., 11/23 - Fri., 11/27: Thanksgiving Break, NO SCHOOL

Tues., 12/8: MVSA Meeting, 7pm, room 6

Fri., 12/18: Early Release, Grades 1-6 out at 1:10pm

Mon. 12/21 - Fri., 1/1: No School, Winter Break

Courtesy Calls - Don't Panic!

We have several students in the office every day who have bumped heads with another student, been hit in the head with a ball, bumped their head on the monkey bars, etc. We are required by the school district to make a call home for each student each time they come into the office with a head injury, even if it was a very minor bump. These are courtesy calls. Each time this happens we are also required to send a note with the student - this notifies the classroom teacher that the student has bumped their head. This note also goes home with the student so that the parent is aware the child bumped their head.

Please rest assured that if your child had an obvious serious head injury we would continue to make calls based on information provided on the emergency card until a live contact was made, or, if necessary, we would call 911.

School Lunch

Lunch is made available to all students, including Kindergarten students. Please check with the office or go to the Mission Valley website for meal times. Kindergarten students are eligible to apply for the Free and Reduced Meal Program. Applications are available at your school's office, at the district office, and online at the district website.

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. Online payment is now available and this can be accessed by going to the FUSD website and clicking on the Child Nutrition Department in the department directory (under the "About & Departments" on the homepage.)

Parents may not take a child's lunch to the cafeteria or to the child's classroom.

We strongly encourage students to bring their lunch with them in the morning, but if that is not an option, parents can bring the lunch to the office.



From the Department of Child Nutrition Services:

The Department of Child Nutrition offers a bonus meal program through the use of the Online Payment System (www.myschoolbucks.com). For every ten (10) prepaid meals, a bonus meal appears in the student's account (non-monetary). To sign up for this program, you will need your child's student ID #; office staff is happy to give you that number at your request. *If you have any questions about this program, please contact the CNS Office at 510-659-2587.*

Disaster/Emergency Procedures

Each month, staff and students at Mission Valley practice what to do if a fire, earthquake, lockdown, or other disaster happens during school hours, but do you know what you should do if one of these occurs while your child is at school? As a parent, our first instinct is to rush down to the school immediately to pick up our kids. However, we ask that you follow these procedures below so that we can keep all staff and students safe:

1. **DO NOT CALL THE SCHOOL.** We need these phone lines open to communicate with emergency personnel. Information regarding emergency situations around FUSD will be posted on the District website at www.fremont.k12.ca.us; click on "Emergency Info" under the Quicklinks tab. *This site will give information on the situation and when it is safe to pick up your child.*
2. If you come to the school, **park away from the school and keep the parking lot and Denise Street clear** for emergency vehicles.
3. **GO TO THE SIGN IN STATION - Do not approach your child directly.** You will line up at the appropriate station according to the first letter of your child's last name. You will need to check in and show ID before your child(ren) are released to you. *If you think another person would be picking up your child, you must make sure that person is on your student's Disaster Form List.*

We thank you in advance for following these directions during what would most likely be a stressful time for everyone. Please keep this information somewhere you can refer to it as needed. Hopefully, this will never be needed, but if everyone follows the directions we can keep students and staff safe under any circumstance.

Information on After School Activities

Try out this free and convenient website to help you plan after school and summer activities for your kids. You can search on a comprehensive listing of over 200 Fremont-area activity providers and find year-round activities that meet your schedule and budget. It comes with lots of helpful planning tools as well! You can access this new Activity Hub on the FUSS website:

<http://www.fuss4schools.org/activity-hub/>

Activities that will be on our campus this year include: Basketball, Tennis, Chess, Band, Mad Science, Lego Robotics, Debate & Public Speaking, Hindi, Tennis, Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts. For information about these activities, check our website under the "About & Departments" tab. Flyers are posted in the bulletin board by the office and you can also go into the office and pick up flyers for the different activities from our flyer rack.

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**, follow the District on Twitter at **@USDFremont**, and subscribe for the latest videos on YouTube at **Fremont Unified School District**. Updated daily, FUSD's Social Media pages are the best resources for the latest information and photos from all 42 schools, District Departments, and even news from around the Fremont community.



Mommy & 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, 510-797-1090 or visit www.face.edu.

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 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. Phones must be turned off during the 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. Online payment is now available and this can be accessed by going to the FUSD website and clicking on the Child Nutrition Department in the department directory (under the "About & Departments" on the homepage.)

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 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 kinder playground. They are dismissed from class to the corridor for after school pick up. Parents must wait in the corridor instead of going to the classroom. 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 8:25am. Students should not be on the playground until adult supervision begins. After the bell rings, all students line up behind their classroom number on the playground. All teachers will get their classes on the playground daily. On rainy days students will report to the Multi Use Room until school begins.

In the afternoon, students in grades 1 - 6 will line up along the driveway on their room number. Students who are going home in a carpool should wait by the carpool sign at the end of the driveway. Students must be picked up on time! There is no supervision on campus after 3pm.

FOR THE SAFETY OF ALL OF OUR CHILDREN, PARENTS MAY NOT FOLLOW STUDENTS TO THE CLASSROOMS.

Restrooms: Only Mission Valley students are permitted to use the 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.

Mission Valley Elementary

41700 Denise Street Fremont,
CA 94539

Absence Line:

(510) 656-2000

Lunch Account Info:

(510) 656-2000 x34182

Visit us on the web at:

www.fremont.k12.ca.us/mve

Principal:

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Secretary:

Cara Madden-Watson

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Attendance Clerk:

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