

Mission Valley

PARENT BULLETIN

December 2015

Principal's Message

Hello MV community members and welcome back from our Thanksgiving holiday. I hope that you were able to spend some quality time with your family and friends and are ready for the next three weeks of school, as we enter the Winter break and embark on 2016. Although I did work last Monday and Tuesday I was able to spend the rest of the week with my family. My oldest came home for a few days and I also saw my dad so that was nice. The rest of the time I spent exercising (I joined a new gym), eating (eliminating my hard work at the gym), and watching football with my boys.

I wanted to let you know that all 4th through 6th grade students will be receiving information this week on this year's Young Composer contest. The flyer will have all the details, however you should be aware that the deadline for entries will be February 1st.

In the near future our Student Council will be helping to start the "Promoting Positivity" campaign here at MV. The idea is that when a student is observed acting in a positive way toward other students, he/she will be presented with a wristband. That student will then be asked to pass the band along to someone they witness demonstrating kindness. As the band is passed from person to person, the band giver is encouraged to log on to this site – www.fusdk12.com - and tell a positive story, enter the band's number (each band has a unique number) and describe where and why it was awarded. The hope is to create an online 'path of positivity' that can be followed by students and the community. Be on the look out for more information soon.

Last month I had an opportunity to check out the Hopkins Junior High Planetarium. This is a really unique asset that we have in our community so I offered to take classes on a walking field trip. The 5th grade team took me up on my offer so I will be taking the students later this month...it should be educational and fun as well.

As I mentioned last month there will be some changes to the entrance and exit of the drop off area starting January 4th. As a reminder 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 school's 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 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 wanted to remind you that we have many links to after school and community activities listed on our web page: www.fremont.k12.ca.us/mve. Just click on "About & Departments". After that you can select between school and community offerings. As always please feel free to contact me with any questions, concerns or just to say hello.

Sincerely,

Mike Pappas-Principal



Young Composers' Contest 2016

Guidelines, contest rules and entry forms will be sent home in Friday folders in the beginning of December. Mission Valley's deadline for the contest is February 1. Entries must be submitted to the classroom teacher. Please go over the guidelines with your student and remind them that no late entries will be accepted.

Young Authors' Contest 2016

Guidelines, contest rules and entry forms were sent home in Friday folders a couple of weeks ago. Mission Valley's deadline for the contest is January 6. Entries must be submitted to the classroom teacher. Please go over the guidelines with your student and remind them that no late entries will be accepted.

Important Dates

- 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
- Tues. 1/12 - Fri. 1/15: 6th grade at Science Camp
- Tues. 1/12: MVSA Meeting, 7pm, room 6
- Mon. 1/18: No School, MLK Jr. Day

Hopkins Music Dept. Free Winter Concerts

Please plan to attend one or all of the concerts presented this winter by the award-winning Instrumental Music Program of Hopkins Junior High School. Each concert starts at 7 p.m. at 600 Driscoll Road. Admission is free.

Monday, December 7

Jazz Concert (Hopkins Jazz Workshop & Jazz Ensemble)

Wednesday, December 9

Orchestra Concert (Hopkins Intermediate Orchestra, Advanced Orchestra & Full Orchestra)

Wednesday, December 16

Band Concert (Hopkins Concert Band, Symphonic Band & Wind Ensemble)

Monday, January 25

Elementary Orchestra Concert

(3 levels of Elementary Orchestra of the Mission Attendance Area & Hopkins Advanced Orchestra)

Thursday, January 28

Advanced Elementary Band Concert

(Advanced Mission Attendance Area Elem. Band & Hopkins Wind Ensemble)

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.

GATE Nominations

Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) provides differentiated instruction for students with high-level academic performance.

This year all 3rd grade students will have the opportunity to take the GATE Test. Any students not participating in testing must have a typed opt out letter submitted to the GATE Office by no later than January 15, 2016. 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 extension 12325 or at jschroeder@fremont.k12.ca.us.

For those students in 5th or 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 (GATE) Department website. If you believe your child may require GATE services and is in 5th or 6th grade, submit a completed nomination form to the GATE Office, 4210 Technology Drive **between November 1 and January 15. Faxes will not be accepted.**

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.

Mission Valley Basketball

Listed below is the schedule for this year's games. Come out and show your Mission Valley pride and support as you cheer on the Beavers! Unless otherwise noted, the first team to play will start at approximately 3:30pm and the second game will start at approximately 4:30pm.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Opponent</u>	<u>Location</u>
1/6/16	MSJE	MSJE (Boys First)
1/20/16	Chadbourne	Chadbourne (Girls First) Games start at 2:00pm and 3:00pm
1/28/16	Green	Mission Valley (Girls First)
2/2/16	Gomes	Gomes (Girls First)
2/18/16	MSJE	Mission Valley (Girls First)
2/25/16	Chadbourne	Mission Valley (Boys First)
2/29/16	Gomes	Mission Valley (Boys First)
3/4 - 3/5		Invitational Tournament: Details TBD

FUSD on Facebook, Twitter & YouTube

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 - 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.

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.

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.*

PROMOTING POSITIVITY

While it's typically adults praising and rewarding children for good behavior, FUSD students are taking the lead in their own movement encouraging kindness and compassion toward each other. With input from District staff and local partnerships, student-leaders representing FUSD high school have announced the formation of 'Promoting Positivity.'

Thanks to a generous donation from the Fremont Unified Student Store, FUSD has purchased over 10,000 individually-numbered wrist bands, which students and staff will soon distribute among FUSD schools. When a student is observed acting in a positive way toward others, the student will be presented with a band. That student will then be asked to pass the band along to someone they witness demonstrating kindness. As the band is passed from person to person, the band giver is encouraged to log on to www.fusdk12.com, enter the band's number and describe where and why it was awarded. The hope is to create an online 'path of positivity' that can be followed by students and the community.

While promoting positivity will begin at FUSD schools, students are encouraged to pass bands on to members of the community they witness committing acts of kindness. We want this program to expand beyond the school district and encourage our entire community to promote positivity. The campaign will launch on November 15th, so be on the lookout for acts of kindness and compassion as we work together to build a community that is positively the best!

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:
Mike Pappas
mpappas@fremont.k12.ca.us

Secretary:
Cara Madden-Watson
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Attendance Clerk:
Chris Richardson
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