



The Flash

A NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

OCTOBER 3, 2008 -- VOL. 12, ISSUE 7

Next Week

AT PARK VILLAGE

ALL WEEK (10/6-10/10)

- Red Ribbon & Character Counts!SM Week
- Meet the Masters Kick-off: Renoir

Monday (10/6)

COLUMBUS DAY

- Wear GREEN for Responsibility

Tuesday (10/7)

- Wear BLUE for Trustworthiness
- RR/CC! CREW Assembly
All grades
- 1:40 p.m., Early Dismissal

Wednesday (10/8)

- Wear RED for Caring

Thursday (10/9)

- Wear ORANGE for Fairness
- PTA Association Meeting
6-6:30 p.m., Library
- PVEEF Meeting
6:30 p.m., Library

Friday (10/10)

- Wear YELLOW for Respect
- Ice Cream Sales 3:20 p.m.

Red Ribbon & Character Counts!SM Week Is Here!

Park Village is celebrating National Red Ribbon Week and Character Counts!SM Week from **October 6-10**. The purpose is to raise awareness about drug use prevention and be mindful of the Six Pillars of the Character Counts!SM initiative. Park Village has fun activities planned to celebrate this week:

Great "One-Liners" PV!!

Thanks to all the PV Penguins who submitted great "One-Liners" about "How do you say NO to drugs?" Next week we'll be celebrating Red Ribbon Week, so keep an eye out to see your "One-Liners" posted around campus. Also, listen carefully during the morning announcements to find out if you are one of three randomly chosen winners of an extra prize!

Penguin Pillar Color of the Day

We will kick off the Character Counts!SM week by encouraging students to wear the pillar color of the day, and by showing their good character. Students who participate may collect a CC! ticket. Be sure to write your name and room number on the ticket. Drop it in the Character Counts Box in the office for a chance to win a great prize! The Penguin Pillar colors for the week will be:

Monday, October 6 - wear GREEN for *Responsibility*

Tuesday, October 7 - wear BLUE for *Trustworthiness*

Wednesday, October 8 - wear RED for *Caring*

Thursday, October 9 - wear ORANGE for *Fairness*

Friday, October 10 - wear YELLOW for *Respect*

Monday, October 13 - wear PURPLE for *Citizenship*

CHARACTER COUNTS! and the six pillars of character are service marks of the CHARACTER COUNTS! Coalition, a project of the Josephson Institute of Ethics - www.charactercount.org.

Thank you to Brownie troop #8125 for passing out catches on Fit Friday. You did a terrific job!



The PV PTA recognizes Bill Persky for completing his role as Auditor the past 2 years. Thank you for all your hard work.

Thank You!

Kids Are First Gift Wrap:

"Party of the Year" - Tuesday, October 14!

By Kim Hansen, Gift Wrap Co-Chair



Thank you to all who participated in the Kids Are First Gift Wrap and Opt Out PTA fundraiser! These funds will continue to support the ongoing PTA programs throughout the year. Congratulations to those students who sold 17 items or more. You are now eligible to attend the Kids Are First "Party of the Year!" on **Tuesday, Oct. 14th after school in the MP Room from 1:40-2:15 p.m.** Students who earned the party will be given permission slips in class prior to the event that require a parent signature in order to attend. The party will consist of carnival style games, and each child will receive an additional 6 prizes to take home. At the "Party of the Year", students will also be entered in a drawing to win a Plug and Play game console, so you won't want to miss out on this fun!

Congratulations also to Mrs. Valdez' class who had 90% total class participation. They earned a private party that will take place during school hours on Oct. 14th. Have fun!

Gift Wrap orders will be delivered to **classrooms** on Wednesday, Oct. 15th. If your child has a large order, please arrange to help pick up the orders after school. Please check your orders immediately upon receipt. If there are any order discrepancies, they **MUST** be reported by a parent no later than **Friday, Oct. 17**, by contacting Kids Are First at the telephone number listed on your packing slip. Corrections will be shipped to the school and delivered directly to your child's classroom.

Remember, it's never too late to purchase Kids Are First items and earn funds for our PTA programs. Just visit the Gifts and More section at www.kidsarefirst.com any time throughout the school year to place your order. If you have any questions about your gift wrap order or the "Party of the Year", please contact Kim Hansen, PTA Gift Wrap Co-Chair, at khansen2@san.rr.com.

Growing Up Together - Autism Awareness

By Melissa Lind, Chairman for the CAC-PUSD Special Education Dept. and PV Parent

April 2nd has been declared World Autism Awareness Day by the United Nations. Autism knows no boundaries; every country, every socio-economic region is affected. Even Hollywood has felt its wrath, bringing a lot of recent exposure with it. The cause is unknown, the reason for the sudden rise is a mystery, but the families affected can tell you it is VERY real.

In early 2004 autism was not a buzz word; as a matter of fact, I had never heard of it. When my two year old still was not talking, it wasn't mentioned as a possibility. The pediatrician assured us that boys not talking at two was okay, and not to worry. Meanwhile, my son was in a constant state of frustration and was literally beating his head on the wall trying to communicate with no words. The director at the preschool asked if I had considered autism. I had not; I didn't even know what she was talking about. 5 minutes on the Internet, and I learned exactly what she was talking about. Our story is not unlike so many other families looking for answers.

Every day parents are given a diagnosis for their children. Every 20 minutes another person is diagnosed. Chances are good that someone close to you or your family is dealing with someone affected by autism. Who is it? It could be anyone and you don't have to look far... your child, a friend's child, godchild, grandchild, niece, nephew, a co-worker's child, a classmate.... With an estimated 1 in 150 people in this country being affected, it's hard not to be touched by autism.

What is autism? Autism is a complex neurobiological disorder that lasts throughout a person's lifetime. It is part of a group of disorders known as autism spectrum disorders (ASD). Today, 1 in 150 individuals is diagnosed with autism, making it more common than pediatric cancer, diabetes, and AIDS combined. It occurs in all racial, ethnic, and social groups and is four times more likely to strike boys than girls. Autism impairs a person's ability to communicate and relate to others. It is also associated with rigid routines and repetitive behaviors, such as obsessively arranging objects or following very specific routines. Autism can also affect people physically as they can be hypersensitive to light, touch and sound. Symptoms can range from very mild to quite severe.

A layman's definition might be that : People with autism are "wired" differently. They generally are very visual learners, and can have very different reactions to seemingly normal environments than you may have. Their behaviors, mannerisms and conversation may seem different to you, but it is just their way and completely normal for them.

The PUSD serves approximately 400 children with autism spectrum disorder from pre-school thru high school. That is 1 in 93 children just in this district alone. Park Village Elementary is now a host to two of the many classrooms dedicated to children with autism throughout the district. Students are served in the general education classrooms and in special day classes and some split their time to be in both class environments.

Accepting the differences of children with autism is much the same as accepting the differences of children with different religious backgrounds, different colored hair and children that do or don't wear glasses. There are many benefits of having students in the classroom with different abilities. When children are together, they learn to accept the diversity of human nature and can find and appreciate that each and every person has some thing unique and wonderful to bring to their classroom. Children who fully embrace the six pillars of character embrace the opportunity to "teach" their peers things that they need help with and learn from their peers about what they can do.

Please see the "Growing up Together" flyer. It explains a little about autism and how your child and family can be a friend to people with autism. Please take a few minutes to read and share with your child. Autism is a very lonely world, and people with autism need a lot of help making friends. Just imagine REALLY wanting to have a friend, and not knowing how to go about it...

Last, a little girl in one of my son's classrooms drew a picture for my son. She chose to draw a simple picture of the earth, with To and From on it. It's the first time, outside of our immediate family, that anyone has made my son anything, although his amazing drawing talent is bestowed upon everyone he cares about. It was so simple, and so sweet. My son carried this picture around for at least a week, on and off the refrigerator, in his room - he was SO proud a friend drew HIM a picture! I am so thankful for that little girl and her drawing. She made my son so happy and it still brings a tear to my eyes when I think of it. You never know when a random act of kindness is going to make all the difference in the world to someone. Try it and encourage your kids to try it!



Classroom Penguin PALs Volunteers Needed

By Jeralyn Dunn, Park Village Impact Teacher

Penguin PALs is back this year, but we will be organizing it through your child's classroom. For those of you unfamiliar with the program, Penguin PALs (Parent Assisted Learning) is a program used to help children increase their reading fluency and comprehension. This year we will be asking teachers in grades 2 through 5 to find two parent volunteers from their classroom that can work with kids who need this assistance. It works best if the children have a session at least twice a week. Training on how to use the Quick Read program will be held for parent volunteers in October.

If you are interested in helping with this program through your child's classroom, please contact both Jeralyn Dunn at jdunn@powayusd.com and your child's teacher. With current budget cuts, Park Village's impact program has been scaled back dramatically, so we really need your help. We want to reach as many children as possible who could use some extra reinforcement in this area.

*** Mark Your Calendar: PTA Association Meeting ***

Thursday, Oct. 9 // 6-6:30 p.m. // Library

Got Paper?

The school office is still accepting copy paper donations.

Park Village
PTA[®]

everychild.onevoice.

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www.powayusd.com/pusdpves/pta

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