

Tiger Talk

Volume 2008/9 Issue 8 April 2009



Principal's Message:

By: *Dr. Andrew Johnsen*



Spring is here - and while this time of year usually brings warmer weather and brighter spirits, this year the states budget problems have cast a shadow across our district that will last well into next year and beyond.

Last years budget cuts were deep, but the district was able to make reductions in expenditures other than personnel. This year the cuts are much deeper and there will be almost no way to avoid staffing reductions. It is important for parents to know that Poways district administration and school board are very prudent with their budgeting, and that the crisis we find ourselves in is the result of the State's poor fiscal condition. Ultimately the fixes are in Sacramento and we hope that the legislature can find better ways to structure school funding so that we are not subject to such drastic swings in funding levels from year to year.

There are two big unknowns in the current fiscal picture that may be good news for us: a special statewide vote in May related to the lottery and the Federal stimulus package. Each of these has the potential to improve the district's budget, but there is no way of knowing at present how much help they might bring. So right now the district has to "hope for the best, but plan for the worst."

Here at Valley a number of teachers have received notices that they may not have positions next year. This, coupled with the possibility of increasing class sizes, has us facing the very sobering possibility that our school (along with all other PUSD schools) may look very different next year. As more information becomes available, I will share it with you. For now please know that Valleys staff - particularly our teachers - greatly appreciate all of the support you continue to give. In some ways, the stress of the unknown is worse than knowing and being able to make definitive plans for changing situations. I continue to be extremely proud of the Valley staff, who in the midst of this uncertainty continues to put kids first each and every day. Your children are in great hands and I know that come what may, together we will continue to provide them the same awesome school experience we always have!



PTA President's Message:

By: *Michelle Testa*



Dear Valley families,

March was quite a busy month! I hope you had the chance to attend the Art in the Valley/Silent Auction night. The MP room was transformed into an art museum, all the art could be made into a mug, magnet or the many other items available. The café was beautiful with the lights outside; you could sit and enjoy a coffee and the many desserts with your family and friends. If you didnt have a chance to go to the silent auction you missed some great items. There were balloon rides, dinner certificates, tools even cookies to bid on! These events take many hours to coordinate and lots of volunteers. There are so many people behind the scenes helping out I would like to thank, but I would like to thank the chairs for this event. Sandra Komenda for her vision and passion about the arts, she did a magnificent job in creating a night to remember, Patty Young for her hard work getting all those goodies to enjoy and Tammie Statler, Blanca Fisher and Liz Collins-Smith for all their hard work on securing all the donations for the silent auction. It truly was an awesome event!

We have so many more events coming and as always volunteers are welcome, no matter how small the tasks. Look for more information in the weeks to come.

Valley Elementary

PTA

everychild.onevoice.

www.valleyelementary.com

Valley Elementary PTA Newsletter
CCPTS/9th PTA District/Palomar Council
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Who's Who at Valley

Principal - *Andrew Johnsen Ed. D.*

Asst. Principal - *Sidia Phillips*

Office Administrator - *Cris Rollins*

PTA Officers:

President - *Michelle Testa*

Treasurer - *Melody Cruz*

Secretary - *Kim Floyd*

Art Programs - *Sandra Komenda*

Health & Fitness - *Jul Verna*

Membership - *Sylvia Zaitz*

Newsletter - *Ellen Montgomery*

Parent Educator / Community Outreach

- *Blanca Fisher*

Programs - *Darcy Slansky*

Translator - *Araceli Ortiz*

Volunteer Coordinator - *Tammie Statler*

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April Calendar Items

Wednesday, April 1 - Padres Unidos
- Road to College Starts Now

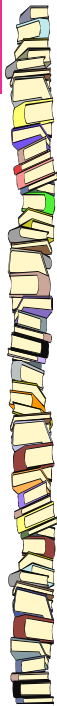
Thursday, April 2
- Valley PTA hosting the
Palomar PTA Council

April 6 - April 10 **NO SCHOOL**
- District Spring Break

April 13 - April 17 **NO SCHOOL**
- Valley Intersession

Tuesday, April 21
- Tasty Tuesday - Brigantine

Friday, April 24
- PTA General Assembly
- Family Movie Night
- "The Tale of Despereaux"



COUNSELOR'S CORNER

By: Stephanie Carriero, Valley School Counselor



HELPING CHILDREN TO LOVE THEMSELVES AND OTHERS

You have one of the worlds most important jobs. You help children feel, strong, able, and loveable. Your positive, caring attitude is catching. As parents, your job is to encourage children to think about how people are alike and different, to ask all kinds of questions, and to find answers they can understand. Your words and attitude tell children that differences are wonderful.

From birth, children begin to learn to love themselves and others. Infants and toddlers start to see differences between people. They notice skin colors, hair colors and textures, eye shapes, and other features of race and ethnic background. Toddlers may reach out to feel each others hair. Older 2-year-olds may stare or say things such as "Whats that?"

Three-year olds figure out how to recognize boys and girls. Preschoolers are curious too. They might ask "Will skin color wash off?" Eye shape and color is of great interest. Unfamiliar languages puzzle them and even elementary- age children seem "old." By the age of 4, children are very much tuned in to our attitudes. They sense how we feel about them and other people. Most children grow up feeling good about who they are. "Here let me do it," they eagerly volunteer.

However, some children at this age unfortunately have already developed negative ideas about themselves. "I cant" they say. Or you hear them mutter under their breath, "I never do anything right." They may be experiencing difficulty getting along well with other children. Such children may be quiet and shy, or they may be bullies.

Children are indeed aware of what is happening around them and between people. So, how do you help children love themselves and others? First, look at your own attitudes, values, and behaviors. Then, include activities to help children appreciate each others differences, develop a sense of fairness, and learn to stand up for themselves and others.

Mr. Rogers said, "We are all different in many ways, but sometimes children are afraid to be different because they want to be like the people they love." Some children may even come to feel theres something wrong with being different. Thats why grown-ups need to help children learn that being different is part of what makes them special to the people who love them.

When you help children notice and accept, in fact celebrate differences, you pave the way to prevent prejudice and promote compassion, tolerance, and understanding!



Pasta For Pennies Results & Winners

The Leukemia Society will receive a total of \$1,327.90 which was collected in March during Pasta 4 Pennies. Our generous students had much fun putting their change into the jars in their classrooms. The winning class was Senora Ozakacay (2nd year in a row) in kindergarten with a total of \$182.20. The second place class was Senora Araujo in 1st grade with a total of \$180.76. And the third place class was Senorita Ochoa in 1st grade with a total of \$170.44. These close winning totals just show how EVERY penny counts. The winning class will receive a pasta party from the Olive Garden, and the 2nd & 3rd place finishing classes will receive a pizza party for their wonderful effort. Congratulations to all of the classes and thank you for such a giving spirit.

Family Movie Night,
Friday, April 24 at 6:30pm
"The Tale of Despereaux"

Bring blankets/pillows to watch the movie comfortably. You are welcome to bring your own food/treats/drinks. Pizza and a drink for \$2.00
Served from 6:30pm to 7 or until gone.

Page 2 Free Popcorn! Lots of fun!!

Valley Pre-School Summer & Fall Enrollment

Valley Elementary Preschool has openings for full day English instruction preschool for the summer and the fall. Additional information can be found on the district website at www.powayusd.com. Preschool is found on "School Websites" under "Other". Those interested in registering their child should call 748-0010, ext. 2722

Tasty Tuesday - Tuesday, April 21

The April Tasty Tuesday will be held at The Brigantine here in Poway. When you enjoy an elegant dinner at Brigantine Seafood, Valley Elementary PTA will receive 15% of your food and beverage purchase. Please remember to bring the flyer and all your family and friends to help raise money for Valley. The event will be held on April 21st from 4:00 - 9:00 PM. See you there!



Tiger Trackers

Great news Tigers! We've run enough laps to equal the distance of running to the Statue of Liberty in New York (2800 miles)! We met our goal on March 11, 2009. Congratulations runners! This goal was met 2 months ahead of schedule. Great job everyone!

Congrats to the following runners for running 50 laps or more from 2/14/09-3/17/09 and earning a tiger trackers t-shirt:

Isabella Agrusa	Myra Ashraf	Lyssa Ballard	Angelica Baranda
Behra Bello	Quintin Bethge	Marilu Candelaria	Stacy Cedillo
Miguel Celaya	Dennis Chau	Ethan Champion	Angel Chavez
Floreana Cordova	Sergio Fernandez	Brandon Gonzalez	Aaron Hayne
Carlos Hernandez	Alexandra Hofmaister	Lilliana Jimenez	Katie Jose
Kato Kadota	Caroline Komenda	Thomas Le	Tytan Le
Ben Looges	Anaid Martinez	Lluzizna Molina	Sky Montgomery
Evan Pareda	Sala Pili	Patxi Rizzo	Natalie Schirmacher
Diellza Sopi	Amber Szulc	Rachel Turner	Katie Villasenor
Nicole Walcher	Madison Wilke	Kendal Williams	

Congratulations to the following kids that have run over 104 laps which is equal to running the distance of a marathon (26.2 miles). Marathon runners as of 3/17/09 are:

Colin Kerr	Jacob Johnston
Rylan Nigro	Zachary Smart

Keep up the great work runners! Don't forget to wear your running shoes on Wednesdays!

Where's The Veef?

"The Foundation brings parents and community members together to raise money to enrich the educational experience so that every child at Valley Elementary School can succeed."

The Cinco de Mayo 5K/fun run is fast approaching us. This year's event will be held on May 2nd at Lake Poway. We'd like to thank our newest sponsor - PBS&J for a generous donation of \$2000. To register for this run go to www.cincodemayo5K.org. It takes 80 volunteers to make this event happen, if you are able to spare a few hours on that morning please contact Shelly Smart at shelly.smart@earthlink.net. Volunteers are provided with a "CREW" t-shirt on race day. If you'd like to work in the sponsorship area, please notify Mia Ruvalcaba at mruvalcaba@ValleyEEF.org.

Roaming Tiger- Have you spotted the Valley Tiger roaming through our school district? So far, the tiger has raised \$850 for our school. You never know when he will show up on your doorstep or lawn courtesy of a friend or family member. Thanks to all that have supported this fundraiser!

If you haven't done so yet, please register for e-Scrip. Just by making your everyday purchases, money could be going to Valley (Group ID: 500017373). To register, go to the secure website: <http://secure.escrip.com/jsp/supporter/registration/step1.jsp>.



Gift Cards- Contact Sue Looges at suzyq4@cox.net for a list of vendors or to make a purchase. Buy gift cards for your everyday shopping. Each business that participates in this program gives a percentage of the gift card sale back to Valley, at no cost to you. A few examples of gift cards and the percentage they donate to the school are:

Stater Bros- 5% Chilis-11% Von's- 4% Marie Callendars- 18% Arco- 2% See'sCandy- 25% Starbucks- 7% Papa John's- 8%



Do you recognize this famous figure? No silly, it's Dr. Johnsen dressed as the Statue of Liberty. The students met their goal two months ahead of schedule, so he is making good on his promise.

PTA Executive Board Nominations

The Nominating Committee of the Valley Elementary PTA is seeking nominations for the next years Board for the following positions:

President
 Executive Vice President
 1st VP - Ways and Means
 2nd VP - Programs
 3rd VP - Membership
 4th VP - Parent Education & Outreach

5th VP - Health & Fitness
 6th VP - Art Program
 Recording Secretary
 Treasurer
 Auditor
 Historian

The election of the Board will take place at the Family Movie Night on April 24th, 2009. Though the Committee is currently in discussion with Nominees sought out by the Committee, nominations from the floor for these positions will also be taken at that time.

Jog-A-Thon Winner's and Laps Run!

Congratulations Valley Tigers for an outstanding Jog-A-Thon performance. You ran more miles than last year and we raised a lot of money for Valley. I hope everyone enjoyed themselves and had a great workout. I would like to recognize the school top runners. These students will receive medals and the top school boy & girl runners will receive trophies and new bikes.

If you wish to nominate yourself to one of these positions in advance of the meeting, please email the Committee Chairperson, Sandra Komenda at ssk@san.rr.com.

Kindergarten

Girls	Yesenia Beltran	9 laps
	Ashley Molina	9 laps
	Tessa Fernandez	9 laps
Boys	Matthias Lemm	9 laps
	Adam Varner	9 laps

1st grade

Girls	Sky Montgomery	9 laps
	Ayden Schirmacher	9 laps
	Madison Wilke	9 laps
Boys	Christophher Sauer	11 laps
	Marquez White	11 laps

2nd grade

Girls	Rebecca Shikwana	10 laps
	America Carrillo	10 laps
Boy	Rylan Nigro	11 laps

3rd grade

Girl	Sophia Agrusa	11 Laps
Boy	Jacob Johnston	12 Laps

4th grade

Girls	Socorro Beltran	10 Laps
	Citlaly Carrillo	10 Laps
	Timell Montgomery	10 Laps
	Nohemi Martinez	10 Laps
Boys	Cody Jose	12 Laps
	William Komenda	12 Laps

5th grade

Girl	Gabriela Dominguez	11 Laps
Boys	Eli Hamson	12 Laps
	Mason Rodrigues	12 Laps
	Jonathan Testa	12 Laps

And the top runners in the school are Jacob Johnston, Cody Jose, William Komenda, Eli Hamson, Mason Rodrigues, & Jonathan Testa who all ran 12 laps.

The top girls are Sophia Agrusa and Gabriela Dominguez who both ran 11 laps. These students will be awarded trophies and other prizes.



Let's all keep running every Wednesday with Tiger Trackers.
 CONGRATULATIONS VALLEY TIGERS!

Valley Rededication Ceremony

How many ways can you say our new Valley School is Fantastic? There can never many too many, but the PUSD Board Members, Poway City Council, the Echo Pacific team, students and Dr. Johnsen gave us some great examples during the Valley Rededication Ceremony held on Tuesday, March 24th.

In attendance were all our students, teachers, faculty, parents and four former Valley Principals. Pictured, Alexis Galloway did a great job tell everyone what are her favorite things about her new school.



Alexis Galloway tells everyone what she likes about her new school.

Silent Auction / Art in the Valley - Huge Success



"I walked out of the library and there was a violinist, and then I saw all the twinkling lights and cafe' tables and the flautist...I felt like I was in Paris!" This was one of the MANY great compliments the PTA received in during Art in the Valley! We had record attendance and everyone was having a great time. From the decorations, entertainment, desserts, art, sidewalk chalk and the record number of items in the Silent Auction. Those items raised over **\$6,800!!!** It was all fantastic!

These events do not come without a lot of hard work and preparation. Hundred of hours of volunteer's time went into making this event a success. Blanca Fisher and Tammie Statler co-chaired the Silent Auction and were fortunate to have the most energetic and creative committee; Thank you to the silent auction committee: Naneth Sotic-Jose, Liz Collins Smith, Elizabeth Kerr, Wendy Johnston, Tina Betancourt and Karen Shah.

We also had many parent volunteers who helped to set-up, monitor and close the silent auction. Thank you to Linda Anderson, Donna Marquez, Jessica Jones, Reyna Cisneros, Michelle Testa, Cynthia Iliff, Melanie Turner, Kim Floyd and Patricia Hayne. Art in the Valley would like to extend their thanks to Wendy Bethge, Patty Young - the dessert guru, Elizabeth Kerr, Lisa Black, The Girl Scouts Troop #8485, the Mt Carmel High School Students, Melanie Fish, Sandra Garcia, Terri Holm, Nichols Productions, Patricia Chin (violinist), Maria Bischoff (flautist), Robby Young (vocalist), Maia Amberstone Pianists: Caroline Komenda, Evan Buckland, Vivian Shing, Darren Tung, the Westview Choir Members: Kayla Fang, Jazzmine Farol, Sophie Lundeborg, Decie Reyes and Sarah Pence, Edible Arrangements, Starbucks, Trader Joe's, Claim Jumper, Major Market and Costco, Cris Rollins, Laura Garcia-Gonzalez and all the teachers for submitting art work!

A special thanks to Sandra Schmidt Komenda for having the "vision". The night was grand!



VALLEY PTA WISHES TO SAY THANK YOU!

Generous donations from the following businesses and Valley parents were integral in making the Valley PTA Silent Auction a success. We thank them for their contributions and everyone who attended "Art in the Valley" and participated in the Silent Auction.

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|---------------------------------|
| After School Learning Tree | Dixon & Thurston, DDS | My Gym Children's Fitness Center | Soaring Adventures of America |
| Aquarium of the Pacific | El Comal | Nickel City | Solid Rock Gym |
| Arbonne Skincare | Enya Artistic Videos | North County Soccer Park | Soup Plantation |
| Artsy Smartsy | Floaties Swim School | Outback Steakhouse | Southern Living at HOME |
| Athens Market Cafe | Frozen Ropes Baseball Training Center | Outpost Summer Camp | Stanley Steamer |
| Avon-Elizabeth Pedroza | Future Champions Golf Academy & Tournaments - Chris Smeal | Pala Casino Spa Resort | Starbucks |
| Baskin Robbins, Poway | Geppettos | Parkway Bowl | Sweet Home Chicago Pizza |
| Bertrand's | Gymninny Kids | Parsley Lapidary Arts | Sylvia Zaitz Nails |
| Blush Full Service Salon | Hi Gorgeous Hair Salon - Kat Guyon | Patricia Hayne | The Little Gym |
| Boomers of Vista | Hi Gorgeous Salon - Cyndi Jones | Poway ATA Martial Arts Academy | The New Children's Museum |
| Boomers, San Diego | Hopstar/Callahan Institute of Arts | Poway Bowl | The Old Globe |
| Bounce California | Howlhowl Cruises | Poway Center for the Performing Arts Foundation | Touch of Class Auto Care |
| Brian Cullen | In-N-Out Burgers | Poway Gymnasium | The Tutoring Club |
| Bua Thai | Innit | Pro Flowers | Ultra Star Cinemas |
| CABi Clothing | Jiffy Lube Service Center | Quail Botanical Gardens | Ultimate: The Ultimate |
| California Center for the Arts, Escondido | Juan S. Garcia | Rancho Arbolitos Swim and Tennis Club | Laser Tag Adventure |
| Carvers Steaks & Chops | JW Tumbles | Rancho Family YMCA | US Arts Education Center |
| Chevys Fresh Mex | Kaj Sushi | Reading Cinemas | Usborne Books at Home |
| ChinaFun | Kidsville | Reuben H. Fleet Science Center | USS Midway Museum |
| Chloe's Carousel | Kim Floyd | Round Table Pizza | Vega's Tailor Shop & Cleaners |
| Chrissy Bird | Letterack.com | San Diego Air & Space Technology Center | Ventura Embroidery |
| Christal Rodrigues | La Jolla Symphony and Chorus | San Diego Chargers | Veronica Daud |
| Chuck E. Cheese | Le Peep Grill of Poway | San Diego Coaster Company | Wendy Beth |
| Chula Vista Nature Center | Leah Cooper | San Diego Ice Arena Skating School | Whaley House |
| City of Poway | Liquid Designs by Blanca Fisher | San Diego Natural History Museum | YakAcademy |
| Cold Stone Creamery | Little Artists, Poway | San Diego Repertory Theatre | Yanni's Bistro |
| ComfyRobes.com | Maritime Museum of San Diego | San Diego Symphony | Yummy Sushi |
| Cox Communications | Mark and Robin Agrusa | Sandra Schmidt Komenda | Zoological Society of San Diego |
| Crystal Gardens Florist | Mary Kay - Michelle Smith | Scripps Performing Arts Academy | |
| Curves - Poway | Monique's Skin Care Center | SeaWorld San Diego | |
| Dance Motion Studios | Mudhen Photography | Silpada | |
| Daphne's Greek Café | | | |
| Disneyland | | | |

Valley Elementary School

DUAL LANGUAGE PROGRAM

8th edition

Parent Newsletter

April 2009

Coordinator's Message: *Sidia Santos Phillips*

We are excited to have the opportunity to serve our Dual Language students during intersession this year. If you are interested in getting focused writing and test prep instruction for intersession, please let your teacher know. K-2 instruction will be provided in Spanish.

Intersession is April 13-17, 2009. Students enrolled must attend all 5 days.

This is an exciting time as we enter the testing phase of the school year. Ensure your child gets a good night's sleep and a healthy breakfast. You can help your child succeed with the following tips:

- Wear comfortable clothes to school (don't forget your sweater!)
- Get to school on time
- Listen carefully to the teacher's instructions
- Focus on the questions and tune out distractions
- Take a few deep breaths if you need to relax
- Instill confidence. Students will do well because they will do their best: Positive Thinking is powerful!!

Contact Information

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Congratulations to our PIQE Graduates!!

The Parent Institute for Quality Education held a graduation for 92 families—the largest ceremony in the district! Special congratulations to all the committed parents who attended classes to help their children attain their dreams!

Parent Liaison Message: Laura González-García

Jeannette Candelaria is an example of the initiative and power that can benefit the DL Program. As a mother of a first grade student, she organized the RAP (Reading around the Planet) event. This event featured the classes of **Melissa Justus (3rd grade)**, **Maribel Ochoa (1st grade)**, **Blanca Araujo (1st grade)** and **Angelica Barragan (1st grade)** used videoconference technology to connect with bilingual classes in Canada, Houston and Dallas, Tx. respectively.

During the connection, the students read and conversed with the other class in Spanish and English.

Thank you Jeanette for giving our students this wonderful experience!

We had our DL Parent Quarterly Meeting on March 24, 2009.

We covered the following items:

- Middle School Program
- Videoconferencing Project
- Writing Contest Winners

If you have any questions or comments about our meeting, please contact Sidia Santos-Phillips.