

Valencia View

CALENDAR **SEPTEMBER 2008**

- M 9/1 **Labor Day Holiday** – no school
- W 9/3 7pm **District Board Meeting**
- F 9/5 **Picture Day**
12 noon Student Council
- M 9/8 7 – 8:30pm
North Zone Advisory Council
Aptos High Career Center
- T 9/9 7 – 9pm **Valencia Site Council**
Valencia Library
- W 9/10 9:30 – 11am
Home & School Club Social
Rm 33 at Valencia School
- W 9/10 6:30 – 8pm
Parent Advisory Meeting
San Andreas Community
7pm **District Board Meeting**
- Th 9/11 6:30 – 8pm
Back to School Night
Valencia School
- F 9/19 Morning **Firedrill**
- Sat 9/20 9am – 3pm
Rummage Sale
Valencia School playground
- W 9/24 7pm **District Board Meeting**

WORD OF THE MONTH:

Effort

Always try your best. Watching the Olympics has given us a great focus for the beginning of school. Highlighting the hard work, time and effort that these athletes put in to their sport has given us a bridge to discussing these same attributes to academics and school work. It is about trying, practice, completing assignments, paying attention—EFFORT!

Mrs. Galipeaux, our librarian, will be reading *Brave Irene* written by William Steig to all students, a book that highlights effort.

Notes from the Principal

School started smoothly and it was exciting to see all of the young, eager faces. The morning ran calmly in large part because many of our retired teachers join us on that day to ensure that children get to the right place, help in the office, sell bus passes, answer questions and much more. We appreciate their continued support. The Welcome Back to School social for parents was fun, so many new and familiar faces joined in. Thanks to the Home and School Club for sponsoring this event. The Back to School Barbeque was a homerun. Hats off to parent, Debbie Modena, for running this big event. All classrooms are full. We have 22 teachers and 2 special class teachers with a total of 535 students. We have 4 combination classes. Our California State Test scores are up! I will tell you more about that next month. Please let the office know if you did not receive your child's test scores.

Parent volunteers enhance everything that makes Valencia a special place. Your time and efforts are greatly appreciated. We benefit from your volunteer time and your generous donations. ESCRIP is an easy way to donate, please sign up. A total of \$1,600 has already been raised through our back to school letter request- REV (Resources for Education at Valencia) Drive. I encourage all of you to get involved.

We were quite disappointed that the new play structure was not up and ready for the first day of school. The district took out the old one in June. Parent, Kim De Serpa, worked with the contractor all summer; it just did not come together. We hope work will start within a week. And...when we finally get it installed – it will be fabulous.

On a happier note, please visit our remodeled Garden, it is spectacular. Many, many thanks to hours spent on this project by Karen Richmond, teacher and by parents: Dale Berman, Phil Reicker, and more.

Please review the parent handbook and all rules with your child. This will benefit everyone and smooth the way for a positive experience at Valencia School. We hope to see all parents at our Back-to-School Night on Thursday, Sept 11 (note date change) at 6:30pm. This is an adult only function. Teachers will share their plans for the year with you.

My Seastar best to you,
—Dianna Higginbotham, *Principal*

Dianna Higginbotham, Principal email: Dianna_higginbotham@pvusd.net
Jeremy Ertl, Vice Principal email: jeremy_ertl@pvusd.net
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Visit our website @ www.valencia.pvusd.net Office hours are 7:15–4:00

**A California
Distinguished
School** 

SPIRIT WEAR

We encourage all children to wear a Valencia t-shirt and/or sweatshirt every Friday. Over \$800 of spirit wear was sold at the BBQ.

PARENT HANDBOOK

Please review this handbook with your child. There is much important information in this booklet to inform you about happenings and expectations at Valencia.

Please review, sign and return all school rules to your child's teacher. One of the agreements is regarding use of the internet; if we do not have that form your child cannot access many of the valuable learning tools that we offer.

Thanks to Home & School Club for funding these handbooks.

LOST & FOUND

It is crucial that you put your child's first name and your phone number on sweatshirts and jackets. On a daily basis, clothing items are left on the playground and put in to "Found" bin. After a few months, all items are donated to Good Will.

SPECIAL REPORT

Many of you might recall the very fun drawing that we had at May's Open House. It is a pleasure to report that Mrs. Murphy class raised \$445.91 for an African Water project.

RUMMAGE SALE

9am - 3pm - Valencia School basket ball courts. The proceeds of this event will benefit the Smith Family who lost their home in the Trabing Fire. Please contact Jennifer Moore at JenniferLRMoore@comcast.net if you have items to donate or want to help.

Valencia After School Program

The after school program started on Monday, August 25th. We are offering homework help, structured reading and math lessons on the computer, art and dance. Please call the office if you would like to enroll your child.

WELCOME BACK BBQ

Welcome back BBQ was a huge success

Lots of families, good conversation and great food. The weather was hot and the food line long, but worth the wait. About 450 dinners were sold. Debbie Modena worked hard behind the scenes to get everything organized and ready. Thank you Debbie. Also thanks to the hard-working crew: Robert Modena, Liz Wong and Larry Chin, Katrina Walkinshaw, Renee Roberts, Kalena Allard, Sally Beck, Char Rocha, Theresa Bray, Rosalind San Felipe, Tracy Sawley, Joannie Darroch, Sue Mace, Mindy Frady, Danielle McAnerney, Maria Medina, Michelle Franklin, Kim Sotero, Cindy Frost, Myshka Everett, Cheryl Demonner, Julie Titus, Brenda Sherriffs and Suzi Peoples

The bake sale was also a big hit. This event chaired by Nicole Dennis, had great helpers: Maria Bonsall, Kate Sandusky and 7th grade daughter, Taylor, Kim DeSerpa, Kim Ferrell, Cindy Frost, Aimee and Andy Martin, and Mary Johnson. Many families donated items for the bake sale-thank you.

We had many generous donors including:

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| SAFEWAY APTOS | \$25.00 gift card - Bought condiments |
| CORRALITOS MARKET | 150 Hot Dogs |
| FREEDOM MEATS | 100 Hot Dogs |
| | 300 pieces chicken at cost |
| | 7 gallons of marinade at cost |
| TRADER JOES | \$60 shopping spree - 156 drinks |
| APTOS NATURAL FOODS | 96 sodas |
| PIXIE DELI | 48 sodas, box of 50 individual chip bags |
| SAVE MART WATSONVILLE | \$15.00 gift card (Bought individual chip bags) |
| LONGS WATSONVILLE | Cases of Water |
| WOODWORM | plates, napkins, bowls, 4 rolls of table covering |
| HOME DEPOT | \$25 gift card - Bought briquettes/fluid |
| SURF CITY | 4 carafes of coffee and 280 cups |
| DEL SOL | 5 gallons of Salsa |
| SCOTT WISE/FRESH EXPRESS | 75 pounds of ready made salad |
| GLAUM EGG RANCH | 3 gallons of salad dressing |
| COSTCO | Hot dog buns |

We earned \$2248.00 from the BBQ and \$381.75 from the bake sale. All proceeds will go to defray costs of Outdoor Science School for the children who will be in sixth grade next year. WOW!

HOME AND SCHOOL CLUB NEWS

Home and School Club Welcomes You to a New Year

The Valencia Elementary Home & School Club is an organization that directly supports programs and teachers at Valencia. This organization is managed by parent volunteers who share their ideas in a forum and vote on important issues concerning the students' education and safety. The purpose and mission of the Home & School Club is to find ways to fund programs not offered by state funding, offer resources to our teachers and staff, and to enhance the overall educational experience of our children.

The Home and School Club uses the funds it raises to pay for technology, funds for teachers to spend in their classrooms, assemblies, play ground equipment, SPECTRA art program and much more. The number one reason to join the H&SC is to benefit your child along with demonstrating the importance you place on education. By getting involved, you become a part of the solution and bring positive changes vital to the success of Valencia.

Ways to be involved in H&SC:

Attend monthly meetings the second Wednesday of the month in the Library with times alternating monthly at 9:30AM and every other month in the evening at 7PM on the same day.

Share your ideas

Volunteer in some capacity; whether you enjoy working in a classroom or helping with school wide activities, there is a job for you.

We look forward to having you join us!

Here is a current list of the Home and School Club Officers for 2008-2009

Wendy Clarke / President

Michelle Young / Vice President

Karin Kerber-Smith / Treasurer

Nathalie Manning / Corresponding Secretary

Amy Coffee / Recording Secretary

Jennifer Nowark / Volunteer Coordinator

Become a Part of the Solution! Get Involved.

The Home and School Club would like to extend a great big THANK YOU to all of the 5th grade parent volunteers who worked on the Back to School BBQ...your efforts are appreciated so much and along with a fun evening, the food was terrific.

We're gearing up for the annual Harvest Festival in October. If you would like to help in any way, please contact Jody Cole at 662-9256. This is a great family event and the more help we have, the better. Thank you for your efforts Jody—you rock!

Don't forget to buy your Valencia Spirit Wear. Order forms are available on our website at <http://www.valencia.pvUSD.net> or in the office. Spirit days are Fridays, unless otherwise noted.

Please sign up for E Scrip...it's like free money for Valencia. We will be introducing a gift card program this fall so if you give gift cards over the Holidays, please order them from Valencia. Thank you!

Valencia Site Council

Please join us for the next Valencia Site Council meeting:
Tuesday, September 9th 7 PM in the Valencia Library.

Items on the agenda will include: budget update, STAR test results, Principal and staff reports. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Please visit the Valencia web site for announcements, information, pictures, updates, calendar, etc. Stay tuned for future website capabilities.

Visit us at www.valencia.pvUSD.net

BUS PASSES ON SALE IN THE OFFICE

If your child regularly takes the bus to and from school, please purchase a permanent bus pass in the office. The cost is \$10 for the year. Once bus drivers start asking for bus passes in September, all students without passes will be forced to call home to get picked up.

IMPORTANT: *If your student loses their bus pass during the school year, another one MUST be purchased for \$10.*

GOING HOME WITH A FRIEND ON THE BUS?

If your child is going home on a different bus or getting off at a different stop with a friend, a NOTE from the parent must come to the office. The NOTE must list the name of the student they are going home with, the Route number they will be riding, and the stop where they will be getting off, and be signed by the parent. If your child does not ride the bus and wants to ride the bus home with a friend, a one-day bus pass costs \$1. *Again, a NOTE must come from the parent to the office on the same day.*

EMERGENCY CHANGE OF PLANS AT THE END OF SCHOOL DAY

If you have to change bus or pick-up after school plans for your child, please be sure to either tell them before they leave to go to school, OR call the office in the MORNING, and we will put a note in the teacher's box. If you call in the afternoon, we cannot guarantee that the message will get to your student.

The office DOES NOT deliver notes to students in the classroom. If we take a message from a parent for their student, the message is placed in the teacher's mail box. Teachers check their boxes at least once during the day.

Garden Glimpse



WOW! The garden!! The finishing touches are still in the process of completion but the Valencia garden is well on its way to complete renovation.

Although the state garden grant was most welcome it pales in comparison to the donations of some very committed Valencia parents.

I cannot thank **Dale Berman**, enough for his consistent, enthusiastic, reliable, and thoughtful contributions. Dale responded last September to my ongoing plea for support and the rest is visual history. He has spent an enormous number of volunteer hours working and arranging for other experts to work in order for us to have this most impressive garden for our kids. Thanks also to **Jeff Stanger** who was instrumental in aiding us in finalizing a design and has spent many hours this summer linseed oiling and prepping the planters as well as creating our mosaic patio. To **Nancy Stanger** for driving around with me to collect materials and also spending hours this summer transplanting, linseed oiling and most importantly contributing invaluable advice and ideas. To **Jackie** and **A.J. Stanger** who helped collect stones for the patio and helped me put together the aviary for our animals. And to **Phil Reiker** who once again has contributed a priceless number of hours to prep and finish our decomposed granite walkways. Also for his help in cleaning and hauling away debris as well as putting into place the green fabric barrier along the back fence. Another thank you goes to parent, **Julie Malcolm**, who designed and built the patio at the center of the garden with her daughter, **Marea**.

Plants transplanted at the end of the school year are thriving. Kids have been able to witness remarkable growth, pungent smells, and colorful visuals. The new residents of the bird aviary have settled in. We were given new cooing doves from **Eileen, Steve** and **Kara Jonsson's** neighbor and new bunnies, Peter and Shadow, from the **Smith family, Cheryl, Dave, Taylor** and **Sarah**. The pond is still under construction and the tool sheds need some attention. But soon the garden will be fully utilized by Valencia students for learning and enjoyment.

Many of you took the time visit during the welcome back bar-b-que. I invite all of you to walk down and take a look. As always the garden has ongoing needs. If you have contacts or can provide the following please let me know:

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|----------------------------------|---|
| <i>Donations of Potting Soil</i> | <i>Empty Plastic 6 Packs</i> |
| <i>Vegetables Scraps</i> | <i>Horse Manure</i> (delivered if possible) |
| <i>Dove Seed</i> | <i>Bunny Pellets</i> |
| <i>Organic Liquid Fertilizer</i> | <i>Your time & Ideas Welcome</i> |

All of things are needed and would be greatly appreciated! Contact me at home 722-8487 or at school with a note in my box. It's a beautiful thing! Come join us!

—Garden Gratitude, Karen Richmond

PLAY STRUCTURE

First an apology that our playground is not installed as planned. We have had issues with the contractor who was not able to get our project scheduled in as promised. The installation should be happening in the very near future. The good news however, is that we received some additional grant monies over the summer that will allow us to add swings to the project. *The Christopher and Dana Reeves Foundation-Quality of Life Grant*, granted Valencia \$10,000, on behalf of the project. Santa Cruz County Parks and Recreation with the help of our Supervisor Ellen Pirie, has allocated \$10,000 to the project and that money should be available soon. Additionally Curam Software Company, an international software company has granted us \$10,000. The plan is to install a bank of 8 swings in the field next to the fitness structure, the 2 swings nearest the asphalt will be disabled accessible. For more information please see our website.

Thank you for your patience. Installing the very first *Boundless Playground* in Northern California is something all Valencia families can be proud of. Our own Deardra Cline, parent of Madeline Cline a 1st grader in the special day class was honored by SPIN, the community organization that provides support to families with children who have disabilities. Deardra was the parent who suggested that we partner with The National Center for *Boundless Playgrounds*. She is being honored as parent of the year for her support of the project. Congratulations Deardra!

Kim De Serpa

parent, grant writer, and project manager

Recesses and lunchtime are a little problematic without our big play structure. However, it still seems to be running smoothly. We have provided plenty of playground balls to help fill the void. Three staff members are on duty at each playtime. Thanks to new parent, Carol Gallaso, for volunteering on Tuesdays and Thursdays during lunch recess. She offers a wide variety of table games and the children are really enjoying themselves. If you would like to volunteer for a lunchtime activity or to help with yard duty, please call the office. Mrs. G will have the library open during lunch and Mr. Ertl will soon start his tournaments.

Please check out our school web site: www.valencia.pvUSD.net