

VALLEY VIEW ELEMENTARY

September 18, 2011

Your Parent-Teacher Association Newsletter from Gateway District 31 PTSA

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NEWSLETTER

PTA News

We need your help!

Our **After School Enrichment Advisory Committee** is looking for ideas and suggestions for appropriate after-school programs to offer to the students. This committee will report findings back to Principal Kim for implementation very soon. Any ideas of specific vendors, along with your general ideas of what could be offered, would be greatly appreciated! Send your suggestions to enrichment@valleyviewelementary.org.



We need Room Parents!

The Room Parent meeting has been postponed to this Thursday 9/22 at 8am to 8:30am. Many teachers have yet to choose their room parents, so please don't hesitate to step forward and speak to your child's teacher in the next couple of days. If you have any questions, please email Bonnie.George@valleyviewelementary.org.

Our website still needs some design help. If you know Wordpress and would be willing to donate your time, please contact Bonnie.

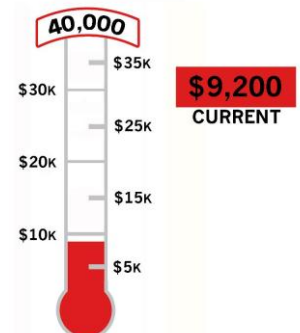
Our various committee heads are beginning to organize openings meetings. If you have filled out a Volunteer Opportunities form or come to our PTA meeting, you'll be getting a call/email. If you haven't yet, please shoot us an email at info@valleyviewelementary.org. We welcome you and really appreciate all your help that makes our community so special, strong and productive.

Fundraising Corner

Annual Fund Successes so far!

We've already raised over \$9,000! Thank you to those families who have donated to our school.

Did you know, funds raised by the PTA support field trips and assemblies that allow students to learn valuable lessons outside the classroom? The 3rd grade whale-watching trip and Mr. Valentine's Traveling Animals assemblies are examples of these unique experiences that our children will remember for a



lifetime.

Valley View still needs your help.

If you have not done so, please turn in your Support Valley View contribution to the main office or contact Lucie at Fundraising@valleyviewelementary.org for info on how to give.

There will be a Fundraising Committee meeting on Friday, September 23 at 8-8:30am. Join us to hear about our fundraising goals and to meet the committee.

Valley View, Valley View, RAH RAH RAH! Let's make this year rock!

-Lucie Murray, Fundraising Chair Fundraising@valleyviewelementary.org

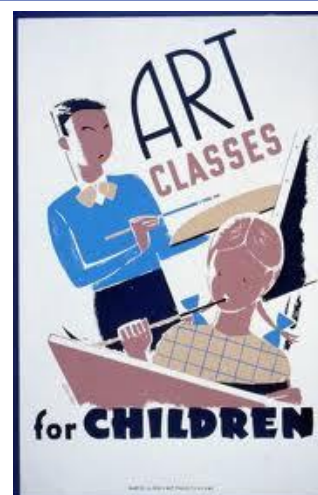
Arts Corner

What's happening with Arts and Music?

Valley View was given two semesters of arts this year through the LAUSD Arts Prototype program, one semester of dance and one semester of visual arts. In order to accommodate all of the classes, we will have two sessions within the semester. Dance will begin next week, and Visual Arts will be in the curriculum for next semester. Basically every student is receiving 9 weeks of dance and 9 weeks of visual arts this year.

Also, we will have a music teacher once a week from the district. She will be seeing all classes from K-3 and a 4-6th grade chorus. This is in addition to the 4th through 6th grade students participation in the music program funded through the grant. The music teacher will begin seeing the students starting Monday.

We're making the most of our returning PE teacher, Coach Sanaa. We will have him for PE every Monday, every other Thursday, and some Tuesdays as well. He began the PE program last week.



Music Program for 4th-5th-6th Grades

Please turn in by Wednesday morning!

We are trying a pilot program because Valley View has a chance to provide music classes for upper grades thanks to a grant from the [California Institute of Contemporary Arts](#). This will supplement the singing programs provided by LAUSD.



THIS IS AT NO COST TO YOU! NO PTA \$\$!

Your child can pick one of the courses below for the next 10 weeks. They do NOT have to have any previous experience and no outside time or classes are required. This is not for academic credit or grading.

ALL MATERIALS, BOOKS AND EQUIPMENT IS PAID FOR BY THE ARTS COUNCIL! You pick one:

GUITAR CLASS. How to play the guitar!

KEYBOARD. Playing the electric piano!

MUSIC APPRECIATION. Learning about music, rhythm, harmony and history!

SONGWRITING & COMPOSITION. Creating and writing your own music and lyrics!

At the moment, we only offer this to the upper grades and limit to these four classes. All classes are taught by [professional music teachers \(see this article\)](#).

This is a pilot program we are trying out this Fall and we may continue it later in the year, depending on the outcome and response. We hope by the end of the calendar year, we can showcase what your child has learned in the Winter Concert on Monday, Dec. 12.

If there are any concerns or questions, contact Miss Kim at school, or Mike Szymanski (323) 356-7860 or mikes@patch.com.

The notices are going out to 4th-5th-6th grades on Monday. PLEASE RETURN ALL FORMS by WEDNESDAY.

Gardening Committee

Could use help if you have a green thumb

Thank you all for signing up to be on the garden committee. Our main focus this school year will be to keep the English garden by the kindergarten watered, weeded and looking good, and also to keep the potted trees and flowers throughout the campus watered. If you have some ideas about where you would like to see the garden committee focus its energies, please contact me directly so we can discuss your ideas.



Ms. Kim has informed me that our local councilman, Tom LaBonge, has arranged for a landscape professional to come to Valley View and help us to beautify our school with some landscaping. The landscaper is donating his time and resources to just 2 schools in the district, and we are very fortunate that we were chosen. As I find out more from Ms. Kim on this issue, I will let you know where we stand.

Since the garden committee from the last school year met the week before

school started, there is not a whole lot to do in the English garden, at this time. If you feel ambitious, you can always do some weeding (there are a lot of weeds and Johnson grass in the back of the garden, by where the strawberries are).

Lastly, I wish to thank all the parents who showed up for the garden clean-up day before school started: Mike S., Kylee C., Anna M., and Lisa B. Your hard work has really made a difference.

In the next few days, I will schedule our first meeting to discuss garden and beautification issues.

Till then, I will see you all in the garden!
...Terry M.

To learn more contact terrymaloy@sbcglobal.net

West Nile Virus Hits 90068

It's very easy to avoid getting ill

This weekend, the first case of a trap showing [West Nile Virus](#) has hit the 90068 ZIP code, and was found in a trap located just above the school grounds.

[Click here](#) for the story. Tell your children DO NOT TOUCH and dead birds they may see. At night, use spray and wear long-sleeved clothes.



There is no need for concern during the daytime, and the school grounds are kept clear of standing water, but if you see any standing water or dead birds, DO NOT TOUCH THE BIRDS. Call the Vector Control area immediately at (562) 944-9656.

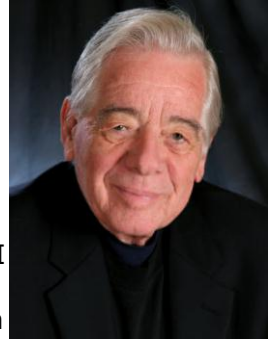
Other pertinent stories:

- * [West Nile Virus: 3 Easy Ways to Avoid the Disease, Help Prevent Its Spread](#)
- * [More West Nile-Infected Birds Found in Valley](#)
- * [Do You Think You Have West Nile Virus?](#)

Need Some Tutoring or School Help?

Former Principal Mr. Klein can help

Harold Klein, who was forced into retirement last year, is still eager to work. If your child needs extra help, or tutoring, here is his information:



"Welcome to a new school year. This is Harold Klein, and I do hope some of you remember me. Hoping everyone is well and ready for another successful academic year. I am still anxious to continue working so I will now tutor students who need some extra help. Any referrals will be truly appreciated. I am a Licensed Educational Psychologist and can assess individual students. The assessments can identify student needs and assure student improvement. Please contact me if you have any questions or possible referrals.

Sincerely,
Harold
hhhk222@aol.com
310-277-7220

Even if you don't know him, ask a few of us who do, or the teachers, and don't hesitate to contact him!

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

Upcoming important dates:

WEDNESDAY, Sept. 21, 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. PTA Voting Meeting.
THURSDAY, Sept. 22, 8 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. Room Parent Training
FRIDAY, Sept. 23, 8 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. Fundraising Committee Meeting

TUESDAY, Sept. 27 BACK TO SCHOOL night. 5:30-6:30.

From your friends at Valley View Elementary PTA -- HOME OF THE PANTHERS!

PTA will send a weekly printed copy of this newsletter home with your child if you have no access to email; please leave your info at the office.