

“To ensure that all students have the skills necessary to reach high levels of academic achievement, respect self and others, and become lifelong learners.”

Dr. Marc Lieberman, Superintendent

Linh Nguyen, Principal



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<http://www.berryessa.k12.ca.us/vinci/site/>

- *Esta información puede ser solicitada para ser traducida en español, vietnamés, mandarín, cantonés y tagalo, Español: 923-1902. Alguien le llamara para que usted pueda saber que esta pasando en su escuela.*
- **Trong trường hợp yêu cầu, bản tin này có thể được dịch sang tiếng Tây Ban Nha, Tiếng Việt, Tiếng Trung Hoa và Tiếng Phi. Quý vị có thể gọi số 923-1903 và sẽ có người nói Tiếng Việt gọi lại nói chuyện với quý vị về bản tin này để quý vị biết điều gì đang xảy ra tại trường học.**

MARCH 2009

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

It's amazing how time passes when you are busy. March is upon us and we are on our way to the later part of the academic year. As we draw closer to the end of the year and begin the process of planning for the next school year, I want to encourage all of you to keep abreast of the important events to come.

One important item that is quickly approaching is the State mandated STAR Testing program (Content Standards Tests) for students in grades 2nd-5th. Students in each of these grades will be tested in the subject areas of English Language Arts (ELA), Mathematics, and Science (5th Grade Only). Kindergarten and students in first grade are not participating in the State mandated testing program, but will participate in District Performance Based Assessment. All 4th grade students will take the California Standards test in writing on Tuesday, March 3rd. The testing window for the remainder of the tests for grades 2nd – 5th will be spread across two weeks from April 27th – May 8th to prevent test-taking fatigue, which sometimes results in inaccurate measurements of students' achievement levels. Extending the number of days for testing enables us to have briefer testing sessions on each of these days.

Mark your calendars now with these important assessment dates. Please note that there will be NO independent study contracts approved during this testing window for grades 2nd – 5th.

The results of Content Standards Tests (CSTs) will allow us to compare each student's ability and achievement levels. This comparison will help in the identification of students who are performing considerably below expectations so that needed interventions can be provided. Results of students' performance on all standardized tests will be reported to parents in August. It's important to remember that the STAR program is just one measure of students' level of skills, knowledge, and abilities. Our district uses multiple measures, including performance-based assessments, throughout the year. Together, the multiple measures provide a better understanding of what each student is capable of performing.

Respectfully,
Linh Nguyen, Principal

DID YOU KNOW. . .

...**The Berryessa Ed Foundation** is sponsoring a raffle sale to help raise needed funds for our schools. Here's your opportunity to win some wonderful prizes and help support our school. You can purchase raffle tickets in our school office.

...**The Scholastic book Fair** organized and maintained by Mrs. Matsu, our media tech, sold over \$13K worth of books. That's a lot of books!!! Thanks to your support and Mrs. Matsu's dedication, Vinci Park will get about 25% of the \$13K which will help to enhance our school library collection of books.

...you can help support your child's teacher with some really needed school supplies. A "**Helping Hand Tree**" was created in the school office. Come in and grab a helping hand with your child's teacher's name. On the back of each hand is a wish list item your child's teacher really needs. Purchase it and return the item to your child's teacher. Your support will make a tremendous difference.

HOW YOU CAN HELP YOUR CHILD PREPARE FOR THE TESTING

The role you play to help your child to be successful is very important. You can help your children prepare adequately for the tests by doing several things to provide support and encouragement and create a positive test-taking experience.

- See that your child gets a full night's sleep every night during the testing weeks.
- Make sure that your child eats his/her usual breakfast on the day of the test. Hunger can detract from a good test performance.
- Make sure that your child is in school during the testing sessions. Do not plan any vacation leave, doctor or dental appointments on test dates.
- Get your child up early enough to arrive at school on time without rushing.
- Have your child dress in something he or she likes so that he/she feels confident and comfortable.
- Be positive when you send your child to school. Acknowledge that the tests are difficult, but encourage your child to do his or her best.
- Encourage your child to listen carefully to all test-taking directions given by the teacher and to ask questions about those directions that are not clear.

PEANUT BUTTER UPDATE

Peanut butter has been all over the news lately since the FDA recall of certain peanut products that have caused salmonella sickness across the country. The peanut products originating from the *Peanut Corporation of America, King Nut, and Parnell's Pride* brands are currently on hold due to possible salmonella contamination and include cookies, crackers, snack bars and cookie dough, but not peanut butter sold in stores. However, the USDA has stated that commodity (i.e., "government") peanut butter used to make peanut butter sandwiches for schools is **not** included in the recall because it was manufactured prior to the recall period. Therefore, parents can be confident that the peanut butter sandwiches on BUSD's lunch menu are **safe** to eat. In addition, BUSD's lunch program does not sell any peanut/peanut-butter containing snack items.

Please direct any additional questions about the peanut butter recall to Child Nutrition Services at 923-1875.

FANTASTIC SAMS 2/1 – 3/31

Fantastic Sams hair salon at Oakland Rd and Hostetter, will contribute 25% of your salon bill to Vinci Park from now through the end of March. Just pick up a flyer in the office and take it with you when you visit them or mention coupon code:

#C-CHSVINCI.

BARNES & NOBLE BOOK FAIR 3/2 – 3/6

In an effort to raise funds for our Book of the Month Program, Vinci Park is working together with Barnes & Noble Booksellers by hosting a book fair at the Eastridge Mall store. From March 2nd – 6th, Barnes & Noble will contribute a percentage of every sale made with a special Vinci Park book fair voucher. Look for the flyer & voucher we will be sending home.

ALUMINUM CAN & PLASTIC BOTTLE DRIVE 3/2 - 3/9

Vinci Park will be having another can and bottle drive from Monday, March 2nd through Monday, March 9th. Please bring in your empty cans and bottles and help raise needed funds for the school!

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES 3/9 - 3/13

We will be having our Parent/Teacher conferences the week of Monday, 3/9 – 3/13. School will be dismissed at **1:00 PM all week. 1st – 5th graders will attend from 8:10 – 1:00 and Kindergarteners from 8:10-12:10 all week.** We look forward to seeing you here and would appreciate it if you would arrive promptly for your scheduled conference as scheduling is tight.

SPELL-A-THON 3/31 – 4/3

Vinci Park will be holding our Spell-a-Thon from March 30th – April 3rd. This is a wonderful opportunity for parents to encourage their child's efforts by participating in this event.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION & 2009-2010 ENROLLMENT

Do you have a child starting kindergarten next year? Know someone else who does? Registration packets can be picked up NOW from the school office 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. and at the Berryessa District Office at 1376 Piedmont Road from 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Completed packets may be turned in only at the Vinci Park School office starting Monday, March 16,

2009 from 9-11am daily. Only parents and guardians can turn in completed packets. If you have a neighbor with a child who will attend kindergarten next school year, please share this information. Children who were born before December 2, 2005 are eligible for kindergarten for 2009-2010 school year.

BOOK OF THE MONTH

This month book choice is "The Old Woman Who Named Things" by Cynthia Rylant. The unlikely protagonist of this quirky and tenderhearted story is a little old lady with cat glasses and a beehive who might have stepped out of The Far Side. Lonely, she names inanimate objects—her car is Betsy, her bed is Roxanne. A stray dog wanders into her life but she refuses to name it; after losing many friends "she named only those things she knew she could never outlive." When the dog disappears, however, she realizes that finding him—and subsequently naming him—is worth the risk of outliving him. This sweet and silly story has solid kid and grown-up appeal.

CELEBRATE DR. SEUSS'S BIRTHDAY

It's "Read Across America" Day celebration on Monday, March 3rd to commemorate the 104th anniversary of Dr. Seuss' birthday. It's important that parents take the time to read with their children at least 15 minutes a day. You will be amazed how much difference that can make in building children literacy skills.

HOW PARENTS CAN HELP WITH THEIR CHILD'S READING

When parents help their children learn to read, they open the door to a big, exciting world. As a parent, you can begin an endless learning chain like this: You read to your children, they develop a love of stories and poems, they want to read on their own, they practice reading, and finally, they read for their own information or pleasure. When children become readers, their world is forever wider and richer. Here are some things you can do:

- Read aloud to your child: books, newspaper and magazine articles, the back of the cereal box, labels on cans, or directions.
- Read poems aloud together to learn about rhythm and repeated sounds in language. Point to the words on the page when you read. Move your finger from left to right.
- Listen to your child read homework or favorite stories to you every day.
- Go to the library together and check out books. Be sure to ask the librarian for good books or to help you find what you need.
- Have plenty of books, magazines, and papers around the house, and let your child see that you like to read, too.
- Encourage older children to read to younger children.
- Help experienced readers talk and write about what they read.

(U.S. Department of Education)

FIT FOR LEARNING

Mom was right; breakfast is the most important meal of the day. Breakfast literally means to "break" a "fast." By the time we wake up in the morning, we most likely have not eaten for at least 8 hours. The brain needs food to function properly. After an eight hour fast, the brain is starving for some fuel! Feeding the brain will help your students do well in school and stay alert during class. Of course, food also

fuels the muscles and helps them to start moving in the morning and perform well during activities.

Bones need a different type of fuel, calcium (a mineral), to keep them strong. It is hard for most students to start thinking about the hazards of weak bones. However, childhood happens to be the most important time to start building strong bones. If a person does not have enough calcium in his or her diet, bones become weak and brittle and are more likely to break. Dairy products are the best source of calcium, but not the only source. When choosing dairy products, it is important to make low-fat selections. Nondairy sources of calcium include some juices, cereals, legumes, and vegetables.

Water is also very important for the body and helps to keep it performing well throughout the day. The human body is made up of about 60% water. Water is lost every day by sweating, going to the bathroom, and even breathing! If the lost water is not replaced, cells in the body start to dehydrate. Even mild dehydration can lead to lack of concentration, fatigue, and poor performance in sports, activities, and learning. So drink up and fuel those cells!

SCHOOL HOURS

- **Kindergarten:**
Early Birds: M - F from 8:10a – 12:10p
Late Birds: M, T, W, & F from 9:15a – 2:00p & TH 8:10a – 12:10p
- **Grades 1-5: M, T, W, F from 8:10a – 2:35p**
- **THURSDAYS--MINIMUM DAY:**
Grades 1-5 attend from 8:10a -1:00p
All Kinders attend from 8:10a– 12:10p
- ♦ **Children are NOT to be on school playgrounds before 7:55 AM or after 2:45 PM as there is NO adult supervision. Please arrange your schedules accordingly.**

SAFETY PATROL & TRAFFIC

For safety reasons, we no longer have safety patrol students on the intersection of Hikido and Vinci Park Way. We also ask that you follow school rules when coming and going from our campus and the staff parking lot. Please note that you will be cited for any traffic violations on and around our school campus. For Our Children's Sake! Please obey the laws for driving in a school zone and be sure to stop at all crosswalks.

2009-2010 ENROLLMENT

The first day of registration for the 2009-2010 school year will be March 16, 2009 from 9-1 am daily. Enrollment packets for the 2009-2010 school year are now in the office.

VINCI PARK WISH LIST

Please keep Vinci Park in mind if you have access to any of the following. Due to budget challenges this year and next year, we are operating on a very tight budget. Your support will make a tremendous difference!

- ♦ White Copy Paper
- ♦ Color Copy Paper
- ♦ Kleenex Tissue Boxes
- ♦ Printer Cartridges
- ♦ Office Supplies

REPORTING ABSENCES

Every day your child is absent from school, you MUST call the office to report the absence. If you are calling the office after school hours, please leave a message regarding the absence. When calling in, please leave the following information:

- Your child's first and last name
- Room number
- Briefly state the reason for the absence
- State your name and relationship to the child

HOME & SCHOOL CLUB

Home & School is currently looking for parents to fill 3 positions on our board. We strongly encourage all parents to get involve and support your children by supporting our Home & School events and activities. Your support is extremely important and greatly impacts your child's learning at school. If you are interested, come and join us at our next meeting. Our next Home and School Club meeting will be held on March 4th at 6:30pm. Please come out and support our school.

(Nuestra próxima junta del Club Escolar se llevará acabo el 3/4/09 at 6:30pm).

(Buổi họp kế tiếp cho PTA/Home and School Club sẽ là vào ngày 4 tháng 3 at 6:30pm).

SCHOOL SITE COUNCIL

The next School Site Council meeting will be held on March 18, 2009 at 6:30pm.

(Nuestra próxima junta del Concilio Escolar llevará acabo el 3/18/09 at 6:30pm.)

(Buổi họp kế tiếp cho Hội Đồng Nhà Trường sẽ là vào ngày 18 THANG 3 6:30pm.)

DISTRICT BOARD MEETING DATES

The monthly district Board of Trustees' meetings takes place in the District Office Board Room at 7:00 PM. The District Office is located at 1376 Piedmont Rd. in San Jose. Dates for upcoming meetings are: March 10, April 21, May 19, June 9.

CRITICAL POINTS

- 1) Vinci Park is having another Aluminum Can and Plastic Bottle Drive from Monday, March 2nd through Monday, March 9th. Please send in your empty cans and bottles and help raise funds for our school.
- 2) Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held the week of March 9th – March 13th. We will be on a Minimum Day Schedule all week. Children in grades 1 – 5 will attend from 8:10 – 1:00, and Kindergarteners will attend from 8:10 – 12:10 every day.
- 3) Our annual Spell-a-Thon will be taking place the week of March 30th. Let's encourage our children by making lots of pledges!

PUNTOS IMPORTANTES DEL BOLETIN

1. Del 2 de marzo al lunes 9 de marzo la escuela Vinci Park recolectará latas de aluminio y botellas de plástico. Por favor envíe sus latas y botellas para ayudar a la escuela a obtener fondos.
2. Del 9 al 13 marzo tendremos las conferencias de padres y maestros. Toda la semana tendremos horario de días mínimos. Los estudiantes de 1ero. a 5^o vendrán de las 8:10

AM a la 1:00 de la tarde, los estudiantes de kindergarten vendrán de las 8:10 a las 12:10.

3. En la semana del 30 de marzo, tendremos nuestro concurso anual de orografía llamado en inglés Spell-A-Thon. ¡Les alentamos a que sus niños puedan obtener promesas de fondos!

CÁC ĐIỂM CHÍNH YẾU TRONG LÁ THƯ THÔNG TIN ĐỊNH KỲ

- 1). Vinci Park sẽ có một cuộc thu góp lon nước ngọt và chai nhựa để gây quỹ (Aluminum Can and Plastic Bottle Drive) từ thứ hai, ngày 2 đến 9 tháng 3. Xin đem lon không và chai nhựa đến trường để giúp gây quỹ cho trường học chúng ta.
- 2). Các Cuộc Họp Phụ Huynh-Giáo Viên sẽ tổ chức vào tuần lễ từ ngày 9 đến 13. Chúng tôi sẽ có một tuần lễ cho các em về sớm. Các em từ lớp 1 đến 5 sẽ đi học từ 8:10 đến 1:00, và các em mẫu giáo sẽ đi học từ 8:10 – 12:10 mỗi ngày.
- 3). Cuộc khuyến khích học đánh vần hàng năm của chúng ta sẽ bắt đầu vào tuần lễ ngày 30 tháng ba. Hãy cổ vũ con em quý vị bằng cách làm nhiều lời hứa!

DISTRICT HOTLINES

Please call the district hotline if you have questions about information on school forms or communications. Someone will get in touch with.

Chinese	923-1901
Spanish	923-1902
Vietnamese	923-1903
Tagalog	923-1904

Si usted desea atender y necesita interprete por favor llame al 923-1902.

Nếu quý vị muốn tham dự và cần người thông dịch, xin gọi 923-1903.

COMMUNITY BASED ENGLISH TUTORING Adult English Classes – General Information

Location	Date	Schedule		Time
Rm. 32	M & W	Morning	On going till June	8:30-10:00 AM
Rm. 32	M & W	Evening	On going till June	6:00 – 8:00 PM
For more information, please contact Lisa Cheung at 923-1829 at the District office.				

Dia Diem	Ngay	Thoi Khoa Bieu		Gio
Rm. 32	Thu Hai & Thu Tu	Sang	Tiep tục toi thang 6	8:30-10:00 AM
Rm. 32	Thu Hai & Thu Tu	Chieu	Tiep tục toi thang 6	6:00 – 8:00 PM
Muon biet them, xin lien lac voi Lisa Cheung, 923-1829 tai van phong khu hoc.				

Lugar/Sitio	Dias/Fechas	Temporada/Duracion		Horas
Rm. 32	Lunes & Mier	En la mañana	De ahora hasta Junio	8:30-10:00 AM
Rm. 32	Lunes & Mier	En la tarde	De ahora hasta	6:00 – 8:00 PM

			Junio	
Para mas informacion, favor de llamar a Lisa Cheung, 923-1829 en la oficina principal del Distrito				

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Mar 2 - 9	Aluminum Can Drive Barnes & Noble Book Fair
Mar 3	Writing Test—all grades
Mar 4	Home & School Mtg. 6:30p
Mar 9-13	Parent/Teacher Conferences Dismissal 1p Daily
Mar 16	2009-10 Enrollment Begins
Mar 18	Site Council Mtg. 6:30p
Mar 30	Spell-a-thon Begins
Apr 1	Home & School Mtg. 6:30p
Apr 4	Spell-a-thon Ends
Apr 8	Site Council Mtg. 6:30p
Apr 13-17	NO SCHOOL—Spring Break
Apr 21	Spring Picture Day
Apr 27	S.T.A.R. Testing Begins
Apr 30	Open House 6:30p
May 6	Home & School Mtg. 6:30p
May 8	STAR Testing Ends
May 18-26	Aluminum Can Drive
May 20	Site Council Mtg. 6:30p
May 25	NO SCHOOL—Memorial Day
May 29	Family Fun Night 5:30 – 8p
Jun 3	Home & School Mtg. 6:30p
Jun 3-5	Olympics
Jun 11	5 th Grade Recognition 10a
Jun 12	5 th Gr. Picnic @ Flickinger 8:30a-12:30p
	Last Day of School 1p Dismissal