Vinci Park School Berryessa Union School District

The Vinci Park Explorer

"Our mission is to ensure that all students have the skills necessary to reach high levels of academic achievement, respect self and others, and become lifelong learners."

APRIL 2010 PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Vinci Park Families:

Spring has arrived. The weather is becoming warmer as we approach the end of this school year. We have begun our planning process for the 2010-11 school year. Last month, an "Intent to Return" form was sent home in the Wednesday envelope. Please complete the form and return it to our school office as soon as possible. If you have questions about class placement for your child for the next school year, I have included in this newsletter our "Class Placement" school policy for your information. Please take a few minutes to read it. I hope it will clarify some of the questions you may have regarding class placement for your child next year.

More importantly, for two weeks beginning April 26th, students in the 2nd-5th grades will take part in the State mandated Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) Program. All students in grades two through five will take the California Standards Tests (CSTs). These tests measure how well students are learning the California content standards for each subject area tested. Results of the STAR Program tests provide valuable information about the academic achievement of all students. We need your help to ensure that your child arrives at school on time, especially during the two weeks of state testing. On testing days, make sure your child attends school, gets a good night's rest, and has a healthy breakfast before coming to school. Your support is very important in ensuring that your child do their best.

Finally, we want to inform you that last weekend our school was hit very heavy with graffiti & vandalism. This has been occurring all year, but not the level of damages over the weekend. We are working closely with our school facilities department and the San Jose Police Department to address this growing issue and deter them from happening again. And we are also asking for our community's help, especially our neighbors, to report any suspicious activities during non-school hours (evenings and weekends) to the SJPD as soon as possible. Your support and assistance will help alleviate the crime that is taking place in our school community. The non-emergency SJPD number is 311 or 277-8000.

Thank you for your continued support of Vinci Park.

Respectfully, Linh Nguyen, Principal 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. Quí vị có thể gọi số 923-1903 và sẽ có người nói Tiếng Việt gọi lại nói chuyện với quí vị về bản tin này để quí vị biết điều gẻ đang xảy ra tại trường học.

Esta información puede ser solicitada para ser traducida en español, vietnames, mandarin, cantonese y tagalo, Español: 923-1902. Alguien le llamara para que usted pueda saber que esta pasando en su escuela.

CITIZEN OF THE MONTH - MARCH



Gr.	Teacher	Rm	Citizen of the Month
K	Mrs. Katsuyama	1	Anjana A.
K	Mrs. Emoto	2	Paul G.
K	Mrs. Carr	3	Jasmine J.
K	Mrs. Hashimoto	7	Isabella C.
K	Miss Nowak	4	Joann H.
K	Mrs. Huynh	5	Mark A.
1st	Mrs. Pitts	17	Kavya M.
1st	Miss Salvador	18	Kera D.
1st	Miss Nguyen	9	Caitlyn Q.
1st	Miss Tanaka	8	Samantha S.
1st	Mrs. Jenzen	6	Jayden N.
1st	Mrs. Wilson	12	Anthony T.
2 nd	Mrs. Shem	11	Jennie L.
2 nd	Mrs. Kirby	13	Tracy Q.
2 nd	Mrs. Plaza	16	Kiana Y.
2 nd	Mrs. Trowell	15	Shannon L.
2 nd	Miss Wong	14	Jasmine D.
$2^{\mathrm{nd}}/3^{\mathrm{rd}}$	Mrs. Patterson	2 7	Jeremy B.
3^{rd}	Mrs. Wong	21	Moses M.
3 rd	Mrs. Finkas	19	Tara R.
3^{rd}	Miss Fujikawa	22	Jeziah B.
3^{rd}	Mrs. Byma	PB	Hillary H.
3 rd	Mrs. Nguyen	PA	Sam H.
3^{rd}	Mrs. Galvan	20	Kelly P.
4 th	Mrs. Gutterman	24	Karla G.
4 th	Mrs. Stone	26	Fiona C.
4 th	Mrs. Merritt	23	Erika M.
4 th	Mr. Kato	29	Alan K.
5 th	Mrs. Nakano	25	Trenton V.
5 th	Mrs. Tsoi	30	Angelou L.
5 th	Mrs. Schmidt	31	Vivian T.



CRITICAL POINTS

- April 5th April 9th Vinci Park will be closed for Spring Break. Have a wonderful vacation and we will see you back on Monday, April 12th.
- Our 5th Graders will be at Walden West science camp from Monday, April 12th through Friday, April 16th.
 We wish them a wonderful experience and lots of dry weather.
- Thursday, April 22nd is Earth Day & Vinci Park's annual Open House. We will be planting trees during day and hosting you in the evening. Please join us for a community wide effort to beautify our school and see the wonderful learning taking place at Vinci Park.
- State Testing (S.T.A.R.) will take place on April 26th through May 7th for grades 2nd 5th. It is important that students get to bed early each night and have a good breakfast each morning. Please be sure your children are in school on time and that no doctors' appointments are scheduled during school hours.

PUNTOS IMPORTANTES

- Del 5 al 9 de abril Vinci Park permanecerá cerrado por las vacaciones de primavera. Disfruten de sus vacaciones y nos veremos de nuevo el lunes 12 de abril.
- Del lunes 12 al viernes 16 de abril nuestros estudiantes de 5º grado irán a campamento de ciencias Walden West. Les deseamos que disfruten de esta experiencia maravillosa y que tengan días sin lluvia.
- El jueves 22 de abril es el día de la Tierra y la noche de la escuela abierta conocida en inglés como Open House. Plantaremos árboles durante el día y por la noche los invitamos a visitar la escuela. Esto es un gran esfuerzo para mejorar la escuela y de mostrarles lo que se enseñamos en Vinci Park.
- 4.El examen del Estado (S.T.A.R.) será de abril 26 al 7 de mayo para los estudiantes de 2do. a 5º grado. Es muy importante que los estudiantes vayan a dormir temprano y que tengan un buen desayuno todas las mañanas Por favor augúrese de que sus niños no tengan citas medicas durante las horas de escuela.

THU NHẮN TIN NHỮNG ĐIỂM CHÍNH TRONG

- Ngày 5 đến ngày 9 tháng 4 trường Vinci Park sẽ đóng cửa nghỉ Lễ Mùa Xuân. Chúc quý vị tuần nghỉ tuyệt vời và hẹn gặp lại Thứ Hai, Ngày 12 Tháng 4.
- Khối học sinh lớp 5 sẽ đi trại khoa học ở Walden West bắt đầu Thứ Hai, ngày 12 đến Thứ Sáu, ngày 16 tháng 4. Chúng tôi chúc các em có một kinh nghiệm thật tuyệt vời và nhiều thời tiết tốt.
- Thứ Năm, Ngày 22 Tháng 4 là ngày của Trái Đất và là ngày Open House mỗi năm của trường Vinci Park. Chúng tôi sẽ chồng cây trong ngày và chào mừng quý

- vị vào ban đêm. Mời quý vị đến dự để thấy sự cố gắng của cộng đồng làm đẹp trường học của chúng ta và xem những bài học hay ở tại trường Vinci Park.
- Kỳ Thi của Tiểu Bang (S.T.A.R.) sẽ được bắt đầu vào ngày 26 Tháng 4 đến Ngày 7 Tháng 5 cho khối lớp 2 đến lớp 5. Rất là quan trọng cho học sinh đi ngủ sớm mỗi đêm và có bữa sáng tốt. Xin chắc chắn rằng các em phải đến trường đúng giờ và đừng hẹn bác sĩ trong thời gian đang học.

CLASS PLACEMENT POLICY

As professional educators, we take great effort in the development of our class rosters. We take into account the needs of individual children and the ways they relate to various teacher styles. We know which children work well together and those that do not. Each class is balanced as much as possible with an equal number of boys and girls with a range of academic ability levels. We are careful not to place too many children with behavioral challenges in a single classroom. We consider the best learning situation for all of our children and we make these decisions very carefully. The principal, along with teachers' input, makes classroom assignments. The following guidelines are used:

- Classes are balanced in terms of gender, abilities and behavior.
- Students in special programs, such as RSP/SDC or ELD, may be clustered to maximize in class support from resource teachers and/or instructional aides.
- Parents are encouraged to visit classrooms at Open House to become familiar with what is happening in the classrooms. Observation in individual classrooms during instructional time is discouraged, and will occur only after meeting with the principal.
- COMBO CLASSES Why do we have combination classes? Multi-grade classrooms, otherwise known as combination classrooms, are formed out of necessity. Often, student enrollment in residential public schools does not always fit into the scheme of having straight classes. Every year, we do our very best to fill classes based on projections and past year experience to create the best scenario for our students. It doesn't always work. This common scenario and budget constraints requires us to create combination classes. When this happens, we apply the same placement process as we would for putting together a straight class.
- All classroom assignments will be posted in the school window after 4:00 PM on the Friday before school starts in the fall.

MEGASKILL OF THE MONTH Motivation – "Wanting to Do It"

People are born motivated, not bored. We come into the world eager, ready to learn new things. We are always learning. Being motivated means learning enough about something to get really interested in it so that you want to do it more often. When you get involved, you get motivated. Motivation is the ability to work against discouragement and keep going.



BOOK OF THE MONTH - READ IT! "My Secret Bully" by Trudy Ludwig

This overtly biblio-therapeutic offering tackles the difficult topic of bullying. Monica and Katie have been friends since kindergarten, but lately Katie increasingly seeks to exclude and embarrass her pal in front of their classmates. Monica's despair and isolation are realistically portrayed and highlight the oftenoverlooked aggression between females. The child eventually shares her anguish with her mother, who effectively counsels her without presenting any pat solutions or easy answers. Lists of resources for adults and children and discussion points are appended.

- A must-read. Parents and teachers will also find it a very useful resource for addressing social cruelty among children. -- *Kathy Masarie, M.D., founder and program director of Full Esteem Ahead*
- Bullying is a serious problem. This book can help make a difference." -- Maureen Caryl, School Counselor, Raleigh Park Elementary School, Portland, OR
- My Secret Bully will show girls they are not alone...
 and provides an important resource to help parents.
 -- Rachel Simmons, author of Odd Girl Out



ATTENTION!!!! PARKING LOT CLOSED FOR PICK –UP! School parking lot is CLOSED during pick up. PLEASE DO NOT ENTER!

Please slow down and obey ALL Traffic rules:

- DO NOT leave your car unattended in the pick-up & drop-off zones around the school.
- **DO NOT** double-park to pick up your child.
- NO u-turns in the middle street.
- **DO NOT** jay-walk. Use the crosswalks.
- Follow the directions of our safety patrol, staff and parent volunteers.
- PLEASE BE AWARE that you will be CITED if you violate these traffic laws by the city traffic officers.

MATH-A-THON—Continues thru April 2nd

Vinci Park will be holding another exciting Math-a-Thon from March 29th – April 2nd. This is a wonderful opportunity for parents to encourage their child's academic efforts by both volunteering their time and making pledges to encourage their children's success.

CAL SKATE FAMILY NIGHT April 2nd

On Friday, April 2ND, Vinci Park will be having our annual Cal Skate family night from 5:30 – 7:30 pm. Look for more information to come.

SPRING BREAK - NO SCHOOL

Vinci Park will be closed for spring break the week of April 5th through the 9th. Please enjoy a safe and relaxing vacation.

5TH GRADE SCIENCE CAMP

The week of Monday, April 12th, our 5th graders will be going to Walden West for a week of fun and learning. They will return on Friday, April 16th. Science Camp costs \$235.00 this year. **Final payments were due by Friday, April 2nd.** If you haven't already paid, please call the office or ask your child's teacher what your balance is. If paying by check, please make out to Vinci Park School.

KINDER INFO SESSION FOR NEW PARENTS

On Thursday, April 15TH, parents with children who will be attending Kindergarten here in the fall are welcome to join us at 9-10 AM for a tour of our Kindergarten.

OPEN HOUSE & SILENT AUCTION Thursday, April 22ND from 6:30-7:45

Our annual silent auction will be held during our Open House Event. Once again there will be LOTS of great items up for auction. All proceeds from the auction will benefit our School Library and bring in new books for our students!!! Come and join in the fun. Cash or check payments please. You are also invited to come and visit your child's class! There will be many other things happening that night that you'll want to enjoy seeing, including:

- Science Fair for Grades 3-5
- Fourth Grade Mission Projects

STATE MANDATED TESTING

The state mandated testing for grades 2nd-5th will take place from **April 26th through May 7th**. MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW with these important dates. There will be no independent study contracts approved during this testing period. The California Department of Education provides printed parent guides containing samples of the STAR Program released questions. http://starsamplequestions.org/index.html

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 a good 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.

EARTH DAY-VINCI PARK TREE PLANTING DAY

On April 22nd, Vinci students, teachers, staff, and volunteers from Intel will be helping to plant 44 trees around our school campus grounds. We are currently working with the SJ City Forest and our district facilities department on the details of the day and we need your help to make it a meaningful and successful event for our community. If you can come out and spare a few hours with your gardening skills, it will make a huge difference.

Here's what it may look like for the day -

- the SJ City Forest will arrive about 30-45 minutes prior to the planting to distribute the trees, stakes, and set the hoses.
- start the planting at 9am with a 20- minute demonstration for everyone participating in planting to learn how to plant the trees. Volunteers will split everyone up into groups of 3 or 4 and assign them to a hole. Every 3 or 4 holes there will also be assigned an OCF Tree Amigo (trained volunteers) who will check-in with each planting group to ensure that each tree is planted to our standards. Depending on the number of people that we have participating, we can have everyone plant 1 or 2 trees.
- Each team will be responsible for watering and getting mulch from the truck for their own trees. After the trees are planted, we will have another crew stake the trees with 2 or 3 wood stakes. For this we could use about 10 strong and tall volunteers to help drive the posts in the ground.

As you can see, this is a large undertaking, so it would be really helpful for us to know approximately how many volunteers we can expect at least a week prior to the planting.

With sufficient volunteers we could get this project done in 3-4 hours. Typically they can get all the planting and mulching done by noon and then the staking crew takes a little more time to make sure every tree is securely staked.

Volunteers should expect to help dig holes and get their hands dirty when preparing the root ball for planting. All participating volunteers must wear closed-toed shoes. We recommend that all volunteers have proper sun protection (hats/glasses/sun screen), bring water bottles, and bring garden gloves, if they don't want to get their hands dirty. We will be planting rain or shine, so we encourage volunteers to bring rain gear, if necessary.

For more information, please contact Mr. Linh Nguyen at 923-1970 or Jennifer Albin, Community Planting Project Manager at 408-998-7337 x109.

OUR CITY FOREST's professional team of arborists and environmental specialists provides resources, opportunities, and services to neighborhoods, schools, businesses and agencies to grow a green and healthy San José metropolis. From planting trees, to mobilizing volunteers, to promoting best practices, Our City Forest is rebuilding the essential connection between people and nature in the city. Our City Forest is a 501(c)3 nonprofit and your donations are greatly appreciated, as well as tax-deductible. www.ourcityforest.org

TEACHER& STAFF APPRECIATION WEEK

National Teacher Appreciation Week is April 26th – 30th. Join us in celebrating and honoring our special teachers and staff. You can show your appreciation by doing something special. Here are some ideas:

- Send them a card and say "Thank You"
- Teachers always need classroom supplies. Come into the office and grab a "helping hand" from the Helping Hand Tree. Purchase the items listed on the helping hand for your child's teacher.
- A gift certificate to the movies, lunch or dinner
- Use your imagination and be creative!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!

Vinci Park School/Home School Club's annual "Family Fun Night" fund raising event is just around the corner. Last year's "Family Fun Night" Event was a great success thanks to strong turn out and participation both by individual and community organization/company volunteers. The funds raised during this event has since helped the school and benefited our students substantially in offsetting budget cuts by the school district this year. The school was able to keep longer library hours, provide class fieldtrip and replace badly needed classroom equipment. For next year, the cuts will be even more severe as we have already learned from the district-wide community meetings held recently. Therefore, this year we hope to do as well, if not better, to help our school face the shortages coming next year.

YEARBOOK--ORDER TODAY!!!!

Vinci Park Yearbooks are now on sale for the 2009-10 school year. The yearbooks cost \$20.00 each and will be delivered in June of 2010. Check with our school office if you need an order form.

TEACHER WISH LIST

Due to budget challenges and our school budget in emergency status, we are asking for your support. Please keep Vinci park in mind if can help with the following items:

- Copy paper (1 ream of copy paper per child)
- #2 pencils
- binder paper

You can also check with your child's teacher for specific needs. Thank you for your support and generosity.

FIT FOR LEARNING

Consumer Beware

Even though you now know how and why to eat healthily, why is it still so hard to make healthy choices? One reason is because you are constantly exposed to advertisements that tempt you to eat foods that may not be the best choice for your body. You see ads in the

newspaper, in magazines, on TV, on billboards and even on the food packages themselves. Companies will sometimes include a toy to get you to buy their products. Restaurants will let you play a game or super size an item for a few pennies more just to get you in the door. It is important for you to become an educated consumer so that you can start to see past these ads and make healthy purchases despite what companies would like you to do.

Many of the ads you see for unhealthy behaviors are shown on TV. Coincidentally, the last full week of April is National TV Turn-Off Week. It encourages everyone to turn off the TV for only seven days during the entire year. It is meant to provide people with an opportunity to take another step away from the constant barrage of advertisements. It is also a good opportunity for kids and adults to spend less time in front of the TV and discover more physically active things that could be done. Get off that couch and do something physically active instead of watching TV!

Ideas for Implementation:

- Take note of how many times your family buys food or goes to a restaurant because of something that is being advertised.
- 2. Set up a competition between family members to design or come up with the best advertisement for a healthy food or activity. This could be done as a print ad or as a mock-TV ad.
- 3. As a family, participate in TV Turn-Off Week (the last week in April).
- 4. Make a list of things you can do instead of watching TV. Keep the list posted on the refrigerator or better yet, on the TV.
- 5. Make healthy choices despite advertisements that encourage you to do otherwise.
- 6. Find an alternative to watching TV during National TV Turn-Off Week go for a walk, read a book, go to the park with your friends, play a game with your family.

KINDER REGISTRATION for 2010-11

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 between 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 at the Vinci Park School office starting Monday, March 15, 2010 from 9-1 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 2010-2011 school year.

REPORTING ABSENCES

Every time 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

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Home & School Club

Our next Home and School Club meeting will be held on April 1 at 6:30pm.

Buổi hợp kế tiếp cho PTA/Home and School Club sẽ là vào ngày 1 thang 4, 6:30p.m.

Nuestra próxima junta del Club Escolar se llevará acabo el 4/1 at 6:30p.m.

School Site Council

Our next School Site Council meeting will be held on April 1, 2010 at 5:30pm.

Buổi hợp kế tiếp cho Hội Đồng Nhà Trường sẽ là vào ngày 1 thang 4 5:30p.m.

Nuestra próxima junta del Concilio Escolar llevará acabo el Apr 1, 2010 at 5:30p.m.

BERRYESSA DISTRICT BOARD MEETINGS

Location: 1376 Piedmont Rd. San Jose Tuesdays @ 7p, Board Room Dates: Apr 20, May 18 & Jun 8



DATES TO REMEMBER

CDATES TO REMEMBER			
Site Council Mtg. 5:30p			
Home & School Mtg. 6:30p			
NO SCHOOL—Spring Break			
5 th Grade Science Camp – Walden West			
Earth Day – Tree Planting 8:30-1p			
Open House @ 6:30-7:30p			
Spring Picture Day			
State Mandated - S.T.A.R. Testing			
Site Council Mtg. 5:30p			
Home & School Mtg. 6:30p			
Family Fun Night 5:30-8:30p			
Aluminum Can Drive			
NO SCHOOL—Memorial Day			
The Olympics			
Site Council Mtg. 5:30-6:30p			
Home & School Mtg. @ 6:30p			
5 th Grade Recognition @ 10a			
5 th grade picnic-Flickinger 8:30-12:30			
Last day of school			
1:00 PM dismissal			

Congratulations to the following students in 4th & 5th Grade!

Principal's Award - All A's (2nd Trimester)

Room 23 - Mrs. Merritt (4th)

- Jacob A.
- Nicholas K.

Room 24 - Ms. Gutterman (4th)

- Kelly L.
- Vivian L.

Room 26 - Mrs. Stone (4th)

- Lisa C.
- Andrea L.
- Nimreta S.
- Marcelo T.

Room 28 - Mr. Kato (4th)

- Erin S.
- Vivian C.
- Kaylauni C.
- Stephanie L.
- Vivian N.
- Polina P.

Room 25 - Mrs. Nakano (5th)

- Jessica L.
- Brianna T.
- Trenton V.
- Yichen Xing

Room 30 - Ms. Schmidt (5th)

- Josephine P.
- Caroline N.

Room 31 – Ms. Tsoi (5th)

- Antonia G.
- Dan H.
- Angelou L.
- Jasmine P.

Honor Roll - A's & B's (2nd Trimester)

Room 23 - Mrs. Merritt (4th)

- Justin Q.
- Andrew T.
- Jamie L.
- Michelle D.
- Jenny T.

Room 24 - Ms. Gutterman (4th)

- Carl L.
- Laurence B.
- Kaelvn N.
- Patrick K.
- Vivian L.
- Alyssa H.
- Dylan B.
- Thomas N.
- Nhi L.
- Andy T.
- Jason O.

Room 26 - Stone (4th)

- Fiona C.
- Brian C.
- Phoi D.
- Jarell M.
- John Michael R.
- Brian T.
- Krystal T.

- Tyler Y.
- Gabriela G.

Room 28 - Mr. Kato (4th)

- Nhien Hang H.
- Kyle H.
- Alan K.
- Able C.
- Michelle L.
- Brian L.
- Gaby R.
- Kiana A.

Room 25 - Nakano (5th)

- Allan B.
- Khanh D.
- Lisette D.
- Vicky D.
- Jaipreet H.
- Haoston H.
- Derik L.
- Alexandria M.
- Anthony N.
- Kenneth N.
- Jonathan P.
- Josh S.
- Michael S.

Room 30 - Schmidt (5th)

- Elizabeth N.
- Anthony V.
- Alvin N.
- **Eric Dang**
- Joanne G.
- Justin E.
- Eric C.
- Victoria D.
- Micayla C.
- Christopher P.

Room 31 – Ms. Tsoi (5th)

- Bellisa B.
- Kelly C.
- Luis C.
- Caitlyn G.
- Calvin G. Kenneth L.
- Steve M. Angel N.
- Christopher N.
- Justin N.
- Timothy N.
- Kim Binh P.
- Tanya T.
- Thanh T.