



The Vinci Park Explorer

1311 Vinci Park Way, San Jose, CA 95131; (408) 923-1970; fax (408) 254-3790

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

Linh Nguyen, Principal – linh.nguyen@busd.net

Dr. Marc Liebman, Superintendent

“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.”

March 2010

PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

Dear Vinci Park Families:

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.

I would like to take this opportunity to inform you of some of the wonderful things that took place at Vinci Park within the last two months. First, I want to congratulate and thank our staff, students and community for a concerted effort to help raise over \$4500.00 in the Coins for Haiti. It was a tremendously caring effort on the part of all of you to help those in need. Second, thanks to the dedicated efforts of Mrs. Matsu, our school librarian and the support of the staff, our community bought over \$14K worth of books and 15% of the proceeds will go back to supporting our school library with more books for students to choose from. Lastly, we were thrilled to see so many of you with your children participating in our Ice Cream Social and Book Fair Extravaganza. We served all the ice cream that was purchased and donated and you pretty much helped to clean out our book fair. It’s so encouraging and wonderful to see our community so involved in the support of your children’s education and the school. There are so many staff and parents, too many to name them all, to thank for these successful events and they couldn’t have happened without all of you. THANK YOU!!!!

Yes, Vinci Park School is a wonderful learning community and we are going to need your continued support, especially in light of the financial challenges we have ahead of us. If you have not heard, our school district is facing at least an \$8 million shortfall in the next two years. This budget deficit will have significant impacts on all the schools in the Berryessa Union School District. This will mean cutbacks in many areas, including support & enrichment programs such as after school supplemental instructional, music, GATE, instructional assistance, media tech hours, office clerk hours, custodial hours, and many other possibilities.

Therefore, we strongly encourage and ask for your help in the months to come to help us with our fundraising efforts in order to sustain as many as we can of the current programs we have in place. We NEED parents to support our Home & School Club as volunteers who can help with school events, activities and fundraisers. Please join us tomorrow at our Home & School Mtg at 6:30p in multipurpose room for more information.

Once again, thank you for your continued support of Vinci Park School.

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. 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.

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

CITIZEN OF THE MONTH



Congratulations to the following students for being recognized as Citizen the Month for February.

Gr.	Teacher	Rm	Citizen of the Month
K	Mrs. Katsuyama	1	Janessa C.
K	Mrs. Emoto	2	Jaezel T.
K	Mrs. Carr	3	Jayden S.
K	Mrs. Hashimoto	7	Bryce L.
K	Miss Nowak	4	Jacob B.
K	Mrs. Huynh	5	Jill P.
1 st	Mrs. Pitts	17	Justin N.
1 st	Miss Salvador	18	Christopher P.
1 st	Miss Nguyen	9	Sophia L.
1 st	Miss Tanaka	8	Zachary I.
1 st	Mrs. Jenzen	6	Vivian H.
1 st	Mrs. Escobar-Ausman	12	Jonathan E.
2 nd	Mrs. Shem	11	Aaron R.
2 nd	Mrs. Kirby	13	Anthony V.
2 nd	Mrs. Plaza	16	Alexandria G.
2 nd	Mrs. Trowell	15	Sarah V.
2 nd	Miss Wong	14	Akshath A.
2 nd /3 rd	Mrs. Patterson	27	Vanessa C.
3 rd	Mrs. Wong	21	Julian L.
3 rd	Mrs. Finkas	19	Brandon M.
3 rd	Miss Fujikawa	22	Kristina T.
3 rd	Mrs. Byma	PB	Victoria T.
3 rd	Mrs. Nguyen	PA	Alexis R.
3 rd	Mrs. Galvan	20	Zandor L.
4 th	Mrs. Gutterman	24	Alyssa H.
4 th	Mrs. Stone	26	Diana A.
4 th	Mrs. Merritt	23	Julie H.
4 th	Mr. Kato	29	
5 th	Mrs. Nakano	25	Yichen X.
5 th	Mrs. Tsoi	30	Caitlyn G.
5 th	Mrs. Schmidt	31	Gian Carlo L.



CRITICAL POINTS

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- 1) Vinci Park is having another Aluminum Can and Plastic Bottle Drive from Monday, March 1st through Monday, March 8th. 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 8th – March 12th. 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) On Wednesday evening, March 24th we will be hosting author Michael Katz at a fun and entertaining Reading Under the Stars Family. Please join us to meet a wonderful storyteller and enjoy an evening of multicultural folk-stories with your children. It will sure to be a enjoyable event.
- 4) Vinci Park's biennial Math-a-Thon will be taking place the week of March 29th – April 2nd. Please encourage your children's success by making lots of pledges!

PUNTOS IMPORTANTES

1. Vinci Park llevará acabo una recolección de latas de aluminio y botellas del plástico del lunes 1ero de marzo al lunes 8 de marzo. Por favor envíe sus latas y botellas para ayudar a la escuela a recolectar fondos.
2. Las conferencias de padres y maestros serán del 8 al 12 de marzo. Los niños de 1ero a 5 vendrán a clases de 8:10 – 1:00, y los niños de Kindergarten vendrán de 8:10 – 12:10 toda esa semana.
3. EL miércoles 24 de marzo, tendremos un evento de diversión y entretenimiento de lectura con Michael Katz, autor de Reading Under the Stars Family. Por favor venga y conozca a este gran relator de cuentos y disfrute de esta noche con sus niños escuchando historias tradicionales de diferentes culturas. Seguramente será un evento muy divertido.
4. El segundo Math-a Thon se llevará acabo del 29 de marzo al 3 de abril. Por favor anime a sus hijos para obtener patrocinadores.

THU NHẬN TIN NHỮNG ĐIỂM CHÍNH TRONG

1. Vinci Park sẽ có lần thu nhập loong nhôm và chai nhựa từ Thứ Hai, ngày 1 đến Thứ Hai, ngày 8 tháng 3. Xin quý vị mang đến trường những loong và chai nhựa không để giúp gây quỹ cho trường học chúng ta.
2. Họp Phụ Huynh sẽ được vào tuần 8 đến 12 tháng 3. Chúng tôi sẽ có Ngày Học Ngán nguyên tuần. Các em khối 1 đến 5 sẽ học từ 8:10 đến 1:00, và khối Mẫu Giáo sẽ học từ 8:10 đến 12:10 mỗi ngày.
3. Vào đêm Thứ Tư, 24 tháng 3, nhà văn Michael Katz sẽ có mặt tại trường trong một buổi Đọc Sách giải trí vui Dưới Gia Đình Sao. Mời quý vị đến gặp người kể chuyện tuyệt vời và hưởng một đêm kể chuyện cổ tích của các văn hóa với con quý vị. Đây sẽ là một buổi thật thú vị.
4. Mỗi hai năm, Vinci Park có chương trình Math-a-Thon. Năm nay Vinci Park sẽ tổ chức vào tuần 29 tháng 3 đến ngày 2 tháng 4. Xin quý vị khuyến khích con của quý vị bằng nhiều cam kết!



ATTENTION!!!!

PARKING LOT CLOSED FOR PICK –UP!

**Our school parking lot will be CLOSED during pick up time for the rest of the year.
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.

Please note, the following traffic violations most common are making u-turns, leaving cars unattended in the pick-up or drop-off zones, double parking, and jay-walking (not using the crosswalk).

We NEED you to set the example for our children and be SAFETY minded when coming and going from school. We strongly encourage you to talk with your children about traffic safety. Make sure your child knows where you are meeting with them during dismissal time. Decide on a designated location – our campus is surrounded by Vinci Park Way and there are many pick-up zones on the entire street. We encourage you NOT to use the front of the school as a meeting pick as it is the busiest place. Lastly, it is important that you are ON TIME to pick your child. Thank you for your support and cooperation.

MINIMUM DAY SCHEDULE—Friday, March 5th

On Friday, March 5th Vinci Park will have a minimum day. All Kindergarteners will attend school from 8:10 – 12:10, and all 1st – 5th graders will attend school from 8:10 – 1:00. Please be sure to pick your students up promptly that day, and every day.

WINTER PARENT CONFERENCES – March 8-12

We will be having our Parent/Teacher conferences the week of Monday, 3/8 – 3/12. **1st – 5th graders will attend school 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. Parents are asked to bring their own interpreters when attending conferences in March. We appreciate your help doing this, but we will try to provide an interpreter if you cannot bring your own. Please let your teachers know before the conference if you will need the district to provide one. Thank you.

Các phụ huynh có thể mang theo người thông dịch viên của mình khi đến họp phụ huynh và giáo viên trong tháng 3. Chúng tôi rất biết ơn quý vị trong việc làm này, nhưng chúng tôi sẽ cung cấp dịch vụ này nếu quý vị không thể tìm được người thông dịch viên cho mình. Xin quý vị cho giáo viên biết trước nếu quý vị cần học khu cung cấp dịch vụ này. Cảm ơn.

Deseamos invitarlos a que traigan a un interprete par alas conferencias de marzo. De no ser posible que alguien le ayude deseselo saber al maestro. Gracias.

BEF'S "Raffle to Make a Difference"

Vinci Park School is working with the Berryessa Education Foundation to participate in selling raffle tickets for the "Raffle to Make a Difference" to be held on Saturday, March 13th at 11:00 am at the Berryessa Farmers' Market located at 1376 Piedmont Road. (You do not have to be present to win.) Each \$4.00 raffle ticket gives you the opportunity to win one of many prizes and to help raise funds. Half of each \$4.00 ticket sold will raise funds that will be made available for our school. Our goal is to sell 2500 tickets and make \$5000 available for Vinci Park School's needs. Please help our school by purchasing tickets and to give you chances to win. Look for a flyer coming home regarding how to purchase tickets, or stop by our office to purchase your tickets. Prizes include: A 42 inch LCD Flat Screen TV; two round trip Southwest tickets to fly anywhere they fly; a netbook, Disneyland tickets; and many other prizes. The Berryessa Education Foundation was created in 1992 to help support Berryessa teachers in the classroom. Since 1992 they have given \$120,000 to make a difference for Berryessa students. Half of all ticket sales will be used to help the Foundation continue to provide grants to Berryessa teachers.

The money raise from Vinci park's tickets sales will go towards our Schmahl Science Program and School Choir Program.

HSC NEEDS SUPPORT - 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 the 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 this week. Therefore, this year we hope to do as well, if not better, to help our school face this shortages coming next year.

To start with, we need to both elect a Chair and assemble a committee for the event at our next meeting on March 6th. I hope you can make an effort to attend that meeting. Your input and support is very valuable and needed. Meanwhile, I will post the event date announcement and volunteer sign up sheets on the bulletin board on Monday. Please help pass this along to the parents of your kid's classmates and encourage them to come to the meeting. I thank you and look forward to seeing you on March 6th's meeting.

YEARBOOK ORDER TODAY AND SAVE!!!!

Vinci Park Yearbooks are now on sale for the 2009-10 school year. Place your order by **March 18, 2010, and pay only \$15.00.** Yearbooks ordered after that date, will be sold at \$20.00 each. Yearbooks will be delivered in June of 2010. Check with our school office if you need an order form.

STAR TESTING DATES

The state mandated testing dates for grades 2nd-5th have been set for **April 26th through May 7th.** **PLEASE 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. State Testing 2010
<http://starsamplequestions.org/index.html>

STORYTELLER Michael Katz – March 24

Mark your calendar for March 24 from 6:30-7:30p for an evening of wonderful storytelling by Michael Katz. Michael Katz tells stories with his own highly energetic, animated and interactive style of storytelling. Michael's incredible character voices, inventive movements and rubberlike, expressive face captivates audiences of all ages: he has a way of creating a magical relationship between the audience and performer. Look for the flyer to come.

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

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.

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!

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION & 2010-11 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 15, 2010 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, 2006 are eligible for kindergarten for 2010-2011 school year.

MATH-A-THON – March 29 – 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.

CHARACTER/Megaskill of the Month

Initiative – "Moving Into Action"

Initiative starts with a good idea, but an idea is not good enough. You have to do something to make things happen. This takes practice. You have to ask questions and look for answers. The sooner you start taking initiative, the sooner you will feel good about doing things for yourself.



BOOK OF THE MONTH - READ IT!

Hooway for Wodney Wat by Helen Lester takes a disability and makes it a useful thing to have. Wodney uses his speech impediment to free his classmates from the class bully. Wodney Wat's real name is Rodney Rat. He is unable to pronounce his R's correctly. Thus, Wodney Wat is how he pronounces his name. His speech disorder makes him shy.

Children with disabilities can contribute and help in difficult situations just as others. Those with and without a disability need to know this fact. This is a great [picture book](#) to show it. After reading the book with the child, discuss it. Also, a discussion about Camilla Capybara, the bully, is needed. Bullying is a major problem in our schools today. Why is it not nice to be a bully? What do you do when being bullied? Talk about it.

ALUMINUM CAN AND PLASTIC BOTTLE DRIVE— March 1 – 8

Once again we will be collecting aluminum cans and plastic recyclable bottles as a fast and easy way to help raise money to help fund our 5th grade science camp students, so send in those recyclable items!

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 March 4, 2009 at 6:30pm.

Buổi họp kế tiếp cho PTA/Home and School Club sẽ là vào ngày 4 tháng 3, 6:30p.m.

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

School Site Council

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

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

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

Site Council Minutes- February 24, 2010

1. Opening:

- a. Roll Call/Introductions: The meeting was called to order at 6:43pm. Those in attendance: Linh Nguyen, Angela Tsoi, Amanda Byma, Joy Salvador, Joice Katsuyama, JoAnn Snider, Jorge Licea, Cuong Luu, Roxana Chavez, Don Tran
- b. Additions / Changes to agenda: date changes
- c. Approval of January Minutes: Any changes or additions need to be addressed at next meeting (Linh motion approved by George)

2. Old Business

- a. School Report (Linh):
 1. Update on SI program and student progress

- i. Each grade level is seeing progress with the before or after school programs
2. Budget 2010-11 Update
 - i. Some parent turnout at the budget forum hearing on February 22nd
 - ii. Budget has to be made conservatively
 3. New Business
 - a. Staffing & Enrollment Projections for 2010-11
 1. Layoff notices will be sent out by March 15th
 2. Class sizes could go from 24:1 to 30:1
 - Based on seniority, teachers may move grades and/or schools
 3. ELA Budget for EL & At-risk for 2010-11 (planning draft)
 - Review of budget packet
 - Unrestricted Allocation Chart
 - Restricted Allocation Charts: Title One allocation, EIA allocation (At risk students), EIA allocation (EL students), School/Library Block allocation
 4. Parent donation request for next year to support Science program (\$4,500) and Choir program (\$2,000)
 - Linh's motion to approve by George (unanimous vote - yes)
 4. Committee Reports
 - a. BDAC: No new updates
 - b. ELAC / DELAC: No new updates
 - c. Home and School Club (Jorge):
 - Three month extension for the IRS tax bill
 - Math-a-thon planned for Mid-March chaired by Don Tran- pledge sheet will be out next week
5. Open Discussion
- Adjournment (7:32pm)

BERRYESSA DISTRICT BOARD MEETINGS

Location: 1376 Piedmont Rd. San Jose
Tuesdays @ 7p, Board Room
Dates: Mar 9, Apr 20, May 18 & Jun 8



DATES TO REMEMBER

Mar 1-8	Aluminum Can Drive
Mar 4	Home & School Mtg. 6:30p
Mar 5	Minimum Day Schedule
Mar 8-12	Parent/Teacher Conferences- Minimum Days - Dismissal @ 1p
Mar 10	Parent University @ Morrill School 6-9p
Mar 13	BEF's Make a Difference Raffle Drawing Berryessa Farmers' Market @ 1376 Piedmont Road @ 11a
Mar 17	School Site Council Mtg. 6:30p
Apr 23	Code Red Drill 9:30a
Mar 22	Vinci Park School Choir Performances
Mar 24	Reading Under the Stars with Michael Katz 6:30-7:30p
Mar 29	Awards Assemblies
Mar 31	Parent University @ Sierramont 6-9p

It is the policy of the Berryessa Union School District not to discriminate on the basis of sex, religion, national origin, or handicap condition in its education programs and activities, or in the recruitment and employment of personnel.