



# 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/>  
Virginia Pender, Principal – [vpender@busd.net](mailto:vpender@busd.net); Will H. Ector, Jr., 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.”**

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, mandarin, cantonese y tagalo, Español: 923-1902. Alguien le llamara para que usted pueda saber que esta pasando en su escuela.

## OCTOBER 2012

### PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Can you believe it’s October already? We are off to a great start to this school year and everyone seems to be settling in nicely. We will finally be getting our state scores for the California State Tests (CST) in early October and I will share those with you in the November newsletter.

I would like to thank those of you who were able to attend the Back to School Night. As I mentioned during the general assembly, parent participation is vital to the success of our students and I would like to increase the amount of participants for all Vinci activities, meetings, and special events. One event coming up is Coffee with the Principal (October 5<sup>th</sup> at 8:15am). This is a time for us to sit down and chat about what is going on at the school and for you to ask questions and pose ideas. It’s very informal and a nice way to start your day.

I would also like to thank those of you who attended our 1<sup>st</sup> PTA meeting. We have approximately 635 students who attend Vinci and only about 30-40 parents came to the meeting. We need more! Our next meeting is Monday October 8<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30pm. The meetings usually last an hour.

Our school will continue to provide an array of strategies and interventions to support student learning. With that in mind, we are offering an after school Extended Learning program for our targeted students. Likewise, we are working closely with the YMCA program to ensure that students, who are attending that program, receive the same targeted intervention benefit.

In an effort to continue to guide student achievement, our K-5 students will be taking the first of three District’s Performance Assessments during the week of October 22<sup>nd</sup>. The purpose of the assessment is to benchmark students’ progress and growth; thus guiding instruction. During our November Parent/Teacher Conference Week, your child’s teacher will be discussing with you in more detail your student’s progress.

During the week of October 22<sup>nd</sup>, we will be observing National Red Ribbon Week. During this week we will focus on the importance of drug-free environments, including student safety and well-being. We have some very special guests who will be visiting our school. Please support our program by talking to your child about the importance of living in a drug-free world that is filled with wonderful opportunities for them.

As you may know, our school has implemented a Positive Behavior Support (PBS) program that teaches children how to relate and interact with both adults and their peers. It summarizes three important behaviors in the form of the “3 B’s”: Be safe, Be Responsible, Be Respectful. As you can see, by encouraging children to practice the 3 B’s, both at home and at school, the children learn valuable lessons that will serve their best interest as they become adults. We thank you for your support as partners, in guiding your children to successful lives.

We will conclude our month with our annual Halloween activities. However, due to our early bird/late bird Kindergarten schedule; we will hold our Halloween parade at 10:00 a.m. Because children enjoy role playing, we ask that you do not send your children as

violent or forceful characters. For example, a Ninja Turtle will tend to kick and a Superhero will tend to punch or throw. In the effort to keep all children safe, we ask that you be mindful of the possibility of your or another child getting hurt. Halloween should be a safe and fun time for everyone. We thank you for making that possible!

I have been receiving a large amount of requests for independent study due to going out of town. Please rethink your plans if you decide to go out of town during school time. Your child(ren) miss out on quite a lot of instruction when they are gone.

On a final note, I am certain that you will agree with me that Vinci Park School is a very special place for all. It is a place where, we value your input, we love your children, and we are committed to our vocation. We thank you in advance for your willingness to partner with us. I have no doubt that, through your participation and involvement, your children will reap the many benefits of our partnership.

As always, if I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Pender  
Principal

## OCTOBER EVENTS BOLETIN DE PUNTOS IMPORTANTES CÁC ĐIỂM THEN CHỐT BẢN TIN HÀNG THÁNG



### PICTURE DAY!

Picture Day will be on **Tuesday, October 9<sup>th</sup>**. Order forms will be sent home prior to picture day. If you wish to order pictures, students must have their payment envelope at the time pictures are taken. Extra order forms will be available in the school office.

Día de fotografía será el martes 9 de octubre. Por favor asegúrese de enviar su orden de fotos con el pago este día con su niño.

Ngày chụp hình là vào Thứ Ba ngày 9<sup>th</sup> Tháng 10. Xin vui lòng điền mẫu đơn đặt mua hình và kèm theo tiền trả với con mình của ngày chụp hình.

照相日訂於10月9日星期二。請務必在照相當天將填妥的訂購表格及付款交給貴子弟帶到學校。

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### HELP KEEP OUR SCHOOL SAFE FROM VANDALISM

VANDALISM TO OUR SCHOOL takes time and funding away from doing what is best for our students. WE NEED YOUR HELP to keep our school safe and welcoming. If you

have any information or witness anyone vandalizing school property, you can contact our school office at 923-1970 or contact the police department at 277-2900. Thank you for your assistance.



## ENCORE FUND RAISER

Packets for our first PTA fundraiser will go home with the children on Monday, October 15<sup>th</sup>. We thank you all for your support of the Vinci Park PTA and look forward to a very successful fundraiser. Remember, the money raised goes toward field trips and assemblies for your children!

Los paquetes de nuestra primer campana para recabar fondos será enviada a casa con sus niños el lunes 15 de octubre. Les agradecemos de antemano su ayuda para apoyar a la escuela y recuerden que al apoyar al PTA para que tengamos éxito en la campana ayuda a que con los fondos sus niños puedan ir a excursiones y tengan asambleas.

Gói tin tức gây quỹ đầu tiên của PTA sẽ được gửi về với con em quý vị vào Ngày 15<sup>th</sup> Tháng 10. Chúng tôi muốn cảm ơn tất cả quý vị cho sự hỗ trợ hội PTA của trường Vinci, và mong rằng buổi quyên góp được thành công. Xin nhớ rằng tất cả số tiền quyên góp được sẽ cho các chuyến đi tham quan và Assemblies cho con em quý vị!

第一個PTA籌款資料袋將在10月15日星期一由貴子弟帶回家。我們感謝大家對Vinci Park PTA的支持，並期待有一個非常成功的籌款活動。請記住，籌集的資金將作為學生們的校外教學及會議用途！

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## SCHOOL ZONE SAFETY!

It is critical that you use caution when driving around the school during drop-off and pick-up times. The white zones are to be used to drop-off and pick-up your child only--DO NOT park or leave your car unattended.

Es imperativo que tengan cuidado al manejar alrededor de la escuela durante las horas de entrada y salida de clases. La zonas blancas son para usarse como zonas para dejar o recoger a niños y no pueden estacionarse o dejar desatendido su auto.

Quý vị nên lưu ý và thận trọng khi lái xe trong khu vực trường học đặc biệt là khi thả xuống và rước con em mình từ trường. Khu vực sơn màu trắng chỉ được dành cho thả xuống và rước học sinh - KHÔNG được đậu xe hoặc đậu xe mà không có người trông coi.

在上下學的尖峰時刻，開車經過學校周圍，格外小心是非常重要的。白色區域只是用來接送貴子弟上下車，請不要停車 或離開你的駕駛座。

## CITIZENS OF THE MONTH! – CONGRATS!

- Kindergarten: Rm #3-Kathlynn V; Rm #5-Zaniya E; Rm #6-Cindy L; Rm #7-Katelyn D.
- 1<sup>st</sup> Grade: Rm # 4-Keyra A; Rm #8-Kayla P; Rm #9-Esperanza T; Rm #12-Jasmine S; Rm #17-Camila R.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade: Rm #13-Cindy L; Rm #14-Andy L; Rm #15-Jenna N; Rm #16-Sanya A.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade: Rm #20-Allan N; Rm #21-Elaine N; Rm #22-Joshua C; Rm #24-Izabella B.
- 4<sup>th</sup> Grade: Rm #25-Hilda A; Rm #28-Katherine X; Rm #29-Christopher P.
- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade: Rm #23-Nghi N; Rm #30-Junette D; Rm #31-Hang P.



## PARENT PHOTOGRAPHERS NEEDED!

In order to make this year's yearbook extra special, we need volunteers to take pictures at our Movie Night events, the 5K walk, the Family Fun Night, the Halloween costume parade, etc. Just bring your camera to the various events, take the pictures, and submit them by going to: [community.lifetouch.com](http://community.lifetouch.com) and entering the code: ULYFBR

## THE 3 Bs

At Back to School Night, your child's teacher will touch on the school-wide effort we implemented last year to help teach everyone to make good choices and learn problem solving skills. This positive behavior support and intervention program is affectionately called the "The 3 Bs" – Be Respectful, Be Responsible and Be Safe". These are simple and very important expectations we have of everyone, including staff and parents who work, volunteer and visit our school. Please take a few minutes each day and talk to your children about these 3 simple behavior standards.



## TRAFFIC SAFETY

Traffic is congested in the morning and afterschool. We strongly encourage you to walk, bike or carpool to school if you can. It is vitally important that everyone observe safe traffic laws around the

school. We have witnessed dangerous U-turns, students exiting cars in the middle of street, and rudeness to the parents who are volunteering to help with traffic safety and to the school staff members who are working to keep your children safe. The bottom line is that we put safety first and want students and parents to come and go from our campus in a safe manner. You, as parents & guardians, can also show them daily examples of safe behavior by observing safe driving/walking practices when dropping off and picking up your children. Please be polite to the parents and staff who are working very hard to keep everyone safe. We appreciate your compliance and cooperation with our safety efforts.

## BOX TOP CONTEST

We are currently having a Box Tops for Education contest. The top two classes that turn in the most Box Tops by October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012, will get a reward! For each Box Top that we submit, the school earns 10cents! This is a fun and easy way to help earn money for school programs.

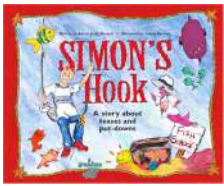


## eSCRIP PROGRAM

Vinci Park is a participant in the eScrip program, which is a community supported program which helps to bring money in to the school. Look for the fliers that will be sent home soon explaining the program and how you can sign up. eScrip has proven to be a fantastic resource for fundraising where participating business partners contribute a percentage of your grocery loyalty cards, credit card, and debit/ATM card purchases to the school, group or organization of your choice.

## Here's How it Works

1. You register any one or all of your existing grocery loyalty, debit and credit cards for use in the program.
2. Participating merchants will make contributions to your chosen group, based on purchases made by you, just by using the cards you have registered.
3. Your purchases are tracked and available to you online, allowing you to see just how much you are earning on your child's behalf!



### BOOK OF THE MONTH

October's Book of the Month is "Simon's Hook", by Karen Gedig Burnett. Simon is having a bad day; a bad hair day. First his sister gives him a strange hair cut,

then his friends tease him. Simon doesn't know what to do. Lucky for him he runs into Grandma Rose. After listening to his sorrowful story she helps him learn an important life lesson; how to handle teases and put-downs. By comparing teases to fishing hooks she tells him a tale of how fish learned not to bite. With fanciful characters such as Harmony Hippy Fish, Freddie Fang, Max the Mouse Fish and more, Simon learns that he, too, can swim free from the teasing hooks that people toss his way.

### EARLY DISMISSAL & MINIMUM DAYS

I would like to send a friendly reminder that EVERY THURSDAYS, we have early dismissal. **Dismissal for grades 1-5 is at 1:00pm and all Kindergarten and TK classes attend from 8:10am – 12:10pm.** This shorten day provides the staff time for professional development, collaboration and instructional planning. It is important to pick up your child on time every day and especially on **Thursdays**. Please mark your calendar for the additional early dismissal days (minimum days):

- |          |                                  |
|----------|----------------------------------|
| Nov 2-9  | Fall Parent Teacher Conferences  |
| Mar 8-15 | Spring Parent Teacher Conference |
| Jun 14   | Last of School                   |



### CAFETERIA CORNER

If your children qualified for free or reduced price meals last school year and you have not yet reapplied for this school year, please do so **immediately**. On September 21<sup>st</sup>, those students who did not have a new 2012-13

meal application turned in, returned to full paid status (\$2.50 for lunch). The 2012-13 meal application can be picked up from your school office, from the District Office, or automatically downloaded from the Child Nutrition Services webpage. For the quickest response time, please submit the completed application directly to Child Nutrition Services at the District Office. October is Verification month! Verification is the confirmation of eligibility for free and reduced price meals as required by the federal National School Lunch Program. A sample of BUSD households that currently receive free or reduced price meals was chosen randomly for the verification process. A verification packet was mailed home to these households on October 1<sup>st</sup>. If your household has been chosen for verification, you must provide proof of income eligibility or confirmation that your household receives assistance under the Food Stamp Program, FDPIR and TANF program. If the required documents aren't completed and submitted, the eligibility status of your child(ren) will be changed to full paid. Please observe the deadline as stated on the verification letter. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the Child Nutrition program, please contact us at 408-923-1875.



### PTA NEWS

Our PTA meetings are generally held on the second Monday of each month at 6:30. Our goal is to have at least one parent from every classroom represented at every PTA Meeting and build a strong

membership. We will definitely need your help. Our next PTA meeting is Monday, October 8<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8p.

Please come and find out how you can help make Vinci Park a great learning community. We will definitely need help with the following:

- Fundraising
- Scholastic Book Fair
- Lunch Helpers, especially during rainy days

- Before & After School Traffic Helpers

Thanks to all of you who came out and support our PTA effort last month. With your participation, we are happy to say that we have a quorum to establish our new PTA chapter. Thanks to the following parents for volunteering to be on our PTA Board: Komar Chan-President; Millicent Williams-VP; James Krider-Secretary; Laurie Anderson-Treasurer; Widodo Krisman-auditor; Aki Javier-Historian; Charles Williams—Fund raising.

### CELEBRATE HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

**Hispanic Heritage Month** is the period when people recognize the contributions of Hispanic Americans to the United States and to celebrate Hispanic heritage and culture. The observation started in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week was approved by President Lyndon Johnson and was expanded by President Ronald Reagan in 1988 to cover a 30-day period starting on September 15 and ending on October 15. It was enacted into law on August 17, 1988 on the approval of Public Law 100-402. "September 15 was chosen as the starting point for the celebration because it is the anniversary of independence of five Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. They all declared independence in 1821. In addition, Mexico, Chile and Belize celebrate their independence days on September 16, September 18 and September 21, respectively." [1] Hispanic Heritage Month also celebrates the long and important presence of Hispanic Americans in North America. A map of late 18th century North America shows this presence, from the small outpost of San Francisco founded in the desolate wilderness of Alta California in 1776, through the Spanish province of Texas with its vaqueros (cowboys), to the fortress of St. Augustine, Florida -- the first continuous European settlement in North America founded in 1565, decades before Jamestown, Virginia.

### DATES TO REMEMBER

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| Oct 5       | Principal's coffee @ 8:15                               |
| Oct 8       | PTA meeting 6:30  |
| Oct 9       | School Picture Day                                      |
| Oct 15      | Encore Fundraiser begins                                |
| Oct 17      | District Board Mtg 7:00                                 |
| Oct 22-26   | Red Ribbon Week   |
| Oct 31      | Costume Parade 10:15                                    |
| Nov 2-9     | Parent/Teacher conferences Early dismissal              |
| Nov 2       | Movie Night 6:30  |
| Nov 5       | PTA Mtg. 6:30   |
| Nov 6       | Site Council Mtg. 6:30                                  |
| Nov 12      | NO SCHOOL—Veterans' Day                                 |
| Nov 13      | Make-up picture day                                     |
| Nov 13-16   | Aluminum Can Collection                                 |
| Nov 14      | District Board Mtg 7:00                                 |
| Nov 16      | Vinci Park eats at Sonoma Chicken Coop!!                |
| Nov 19-23   | NO SCHOOL—Thanksgiving Break                            |
| Nov 26-30   | 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Science Camp                      |
| 11/26-12/12 | Holiday canned food drive                               |
| Dec 7       | Principal's coffee @ 8:15                               |
| Dec 10      | PTA Mtg. 6:30   |
| Dec 12      | District Board Mtg 7:00                                 |
| 12/21-1/4   | NO SCHOOL – Holiday                                     |
| Jan 7       | School resumes<br>PTA Mtg. 6:30                         |
| Jan 8       | Site Council Mtg. 6:30                                  |
| Jan 15      | District Board Mtg 7:00                                 |
| Jan 21      | NO SCHOOL—Dr. King Day                                  |
| Jan 22-25   | Aluminum Can Drive                                      |
| 1/28-2/1    | SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIRE                                   |
| Feb 1       | Principal's coffee @ 8:15<br>Ice Cream Social 6:00-7:30 |
| Feb 8       | Movie Night 6:30  |
| Feb 11      | PTA Mtg. 6:30   |
| Feb 12      | District Board Mtg 7:00                                 |
| 2/18-2/22   | NO SCHOOL   |
| Mar 1       | Principal's coffee @ 8:15                               |
| Mar 5       | Site Council Mtg. 6:30                                  |