

VMMS PTA eNews

September 1, 2010

Dear Viper Families,

Welcome to our newly updated VMMS PTA eNewsletter. In this newsletter you will be kept informed of all the news and events happening here at Vista Magnet Middle School. We will share dates and times for upcoming school events, information on school clubs, updates on PTA business, opportunities for volunteering, and any news we receive from the principal, teachers, and staff. We hope you find this information useful and helpful in keeping you connected to our amazing school.

Since this is our first year after having all three grades complete at least one full year, we have a much better idea of what to expect over the coming school year.

We have a clearer picture of what is needed to accomplish the goals set by our principal and teachers, and a better understanding of how you, at home can help and even participate in your child's learning and development. Each month we will try to include resources and other information you may need to keep your child happy, healthy, and focused during their time here at Vista Magnet.

On average we will try to send out one or two emails a month. Your email address is for the purposes of sending you information and updates only. We will never share your information with anyone. If you ever want to be removed you may simply reply to the newsletter with 'REMOVE ME' in the subject line and you will promptly be removed. If you ever have any questions or need more information than is posted in the PTA eNews, then please feel free to reply to the eNews, or you may email me personally at sunnyrebecca.pta@gmail.com. I will do my best to reply to you within 48-72 hours.

Thank you for your continued interest and support in your child's education and school. You make all the difference in your child life!

Happy Day,
Sunny Rebecca Lucas
VMMS PTA President 2010/2011

VMMS EVENT INFO:

Sept 2 - ASB Club - 1st meeting - 3:33 - 4:14 - Rm 503

Sept 3 - ASB Club - **Student Application Due**

Sept 3 - VMMS Spirit Day (wear your **maroon** & **Gold** while staying w/in the dress code) -(music during lunch)

Sept 3 - Jamba Juice (during lunch)

Sept 6 - NO school - Labor Day

Sept 9 - ASB Club Meeting - 3:33 - 4:15 - Rm 503 - (completed applicants only)

Sept 14 - PTA Board meeting - 9am in room 202 -
Contact sunnyrebecca.pta@gmail.com

Sept 15 - Minimum day - 8:55 - 12:00 (remember to pick your students up early)

Sept 17 - Jamba Juice (during lunch)

Sept tba - First VMMS Foundation meeting - Contact AndreaLivingston@msn.com

Sept 23 - Back-to-School night - **5pm - 5:45pm BBQ** (come early so you can eat before classroom visits start) 5pm - 6pm ASB Bake Sale, PTA Association Meeting, VMMS Club Presentations - **6pm - 7:45 Classroom Visits**

Every Friday - Spirit Day

TBA - Student Store (lunch)

VMMS CLUBS:

Clubs normally run just before or after school or during lunch.

Your child's participation in Clubs is a win-win situation. Encourage them to get involved.

Volunteer Opportunities - These clubs need your help. VMMS students, Parents and High School students (community service hours) can you help out? Any help, big or small, is really appreciated.

Please contact Andrea Livingston-Barbara at AndreaLivingston@msn.com for more information or to sign up and help!

The following list is still evolving. Our teachers are prioritizing classroom academics and are just now signing up to lead these clubs. We will have a larger, more informative list by Sept 23rd, Back-to-School night, so please stop by the clubs information tables for updated information and to sign-up.

Art Program - Mr. Royster needs some strong parents to help him get our new Art program in top shape for our students. Please contact RogerRoyster@vusd.k12.ca.us or Tina at Huelsman@cox.net.

Drama Club - Mrs. Jacobsen & Mrs. Haynes - This club will study acting, create the Haunted House, the Holiday parade float, and several other Theater oriented events.

ASB Club - (Associate Student Body) - Mrs. Jacobsen & Mrs. Hagan-Holt - ASB is a strong group of student leaders who organize, operate, and make decisions about many student events. First meeting next week.

Math Team - This team has as a supporting coach Allan Garry, a former VMMS student, who won top prizes in Local and State Math competitions last year. Come join in for a wild math ride!

International Club - Mrs. Davila - If you find travel, other cultures and languages interesting, then this is your club.

Departure - Mrs. Quin - Come join this new Christian Club to VMMS.

Viper Tech Club - Mrs. Hagan-Holt - This club provides students with an opportunity to design and complete a yearbook and possibly the VMMS newspaper as well.

Rubik's Cube Club - Mrs. Hagan-Holt - Very Dynamic and competitive. Last year this team went all the way to the finals at Qualcomm Stadium.

Engineering Club - This club provides students an opportunity to work with Northrop Grumman engineers to do various activities that teach them about design and operation. *Engineering club is sponsored by NGC, which offers the largest single business donation to our school. Thank you Northrop Grumman !*

Team Sports - The Middle Schools are meeting this week to determine the future of sports....

There are other Clubs under consideration as well. We will announce them as they come.

NEWS FROM THE VMMS OFFICE:

- Every Friday will now be Spirit Day! Students are encouraged to wear VMMS attire and school colors (maroon and gold) while still abiding by the dress code. Students will enjoy music at lunch on Fridays, as we celebrate being Vipers.

- Parking Lot Blues: Yes, the pick-up in the main parking lot is very difficult. If your child is safety-mature and can walk to the flagpole behind the sports fields or cross the street to Chin's Restaurant, you can avoid all of the mess. If you choose to pick up in the Main Parking lot, please help keep our children safe by following the rules. Here is our new **PARKING LOT PROCEDURES**. Please try to stay within these guidelines. Thank You!

VMMS Parking Lot Procedures

Parents: Please remember that **the safety of our VMMS students is our most important priority**. When dropping off and picking up students, please remember the following:

Drive **slowly**. Students are often difficult to see.

Please **stay off your cell phones** and give your full attention to the students.

Drop off and pick up students only in the lane closest to the fence - indicated by the orange cones by the basketball courts.

Do not let students out of cars on the traffic side of your car. Have them exit on the side of the car closest to the fence. Again, it is unacceptable for students to cross between cars to get to the gates.

Follow the **signals of the staff** directing traffic.

Do not drop off or pick up students in any other parking lot location. This causes them to navigate through the parking lot to get to the gates. It is not acceptable for them to have to walk through traffic at any time.

Pull up **as far as possible** to the end of the drop off lane. This shortens our line-ups and helps traffic clear more quickly.

Please **follow all traffic signs** entering and exiting the parking lot.

Never leave your car in the drop off/pick up lane.

Please remember to **watch for students at all times.**

Thank you, in advance, for your cooperation. Our goal is to provide for your child's safety and for your convenience, by establishing a smooth and safe process in the parking lot.

If you would like to **volunteer to help** us supervise the lot in the mornings or afternoons, we would very much appreciate your help. **Please contact Anne Green, Assistant Principal @ 760-726-5766 ext. 6197.**

- Parking Lot Troubles: Dr. V has reported that the conflict with the Bank and La Paloma's parking lot has gone to the city and district levels. The bank plans on having tow trucks on hand to tow anyone who is not a customer of the businesses there. If you want to avoid any troubles and a potential tow, please follow the guidelines/policy set above. Thank You Again!

- Are you Twitter savvy? Our TWITTER account [@vistamagnet](#) was established last summer to share with any interested followers to follow Dr. V's (our amazing Principal) observations on day to day events on campus, as well as National/State/Local educational topics about your child's education. Dr. V will be twittering with anyone interested in receiving information about activities in our school. Reminder: the notes are short and sweet only a 140 letters max.

- We would like to give a warm welcome to Mrs. Anne Green, our new Vice-Principal who joins us from Vista High. She is thrilled to be here and among her many other roles, will continue to help us maintain success with our IB learner program.

- We are also very happy to welcome Mr. Bill Moore (Mr. Bill) as our Plant Lead Custodian. He comes to us after many years at Casitas, where everyone loved him. All the rumors are that he is the absolute best and has a smile for everyone.

- Check out this fabulous VMMS homework/project assignment site for 6th, 7th and 8th. The year in a glance - see all of the projects that your child will be doing for the year. (Note; there may be changes to adapt to our students and curriculum.) <http://vmmsstudyskills.weebly.com/>

- If you want to access more VMMS info on line, please visit the official VMMS website Home page at <http://vistamagnet.com/>.

VMMS PTA NEWS:

Our PTA Board meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 9am in room 202. If you are interested in being a part of our fantastic team this year, we still have many roles available on the board for all who want to be part of our dynamic group. Please contact sunnyrebecca.PTA@gmail.com for more information. Please consider getting involved, it's fun and your presence will make a large impact on your children's education.

We will have our next PTA Association meeting on Sept 23rd, at the beginning of Back-to-School night. We welcome each and every one of you to join us, as we vote to adopt this years budget and program/fundraising activities.

VMMS PTA Roster - 2010/2011

President - Sunny Rebecca Lucas

VP Programs/Club Liaison - Andrea Livingston-Barbara

VP Membership - Eleanor Garcia

VP Ways and Means/Fundraising - Judi Clark

Treasurer - Linda Latimer

Secretary - Elva Rodriguez

Auditor - Robin Baker

Hospitality - Anne Virjee

Parliamentarian - BJ Nierman

Newsletter - Donovan & Sunny Rebecca Lucas

We still have open positions, and it's never too late to join!

Letter's from the PTA Executive Board.....

President: Sunny Rebecca Lucas

This year we have such a fantastic board! We have already had our first meeting of the year and the enthusiasm for this year is high. We have also been very successful in setting up our new committee's. The committee's are small focus groups that help the PTA make the decisions for what we are going to do for the year in each of the main areas. The committee's have hit the ground running, and we are looking for volunteers who have maybe thought about joining the PTA, but aren't ready for the large commitments of being on the board, but are interested in helping out in some small way.

If this sounds like you, and you have an hour available here or there and you would like to share your talents, and opinions, while supporting your child's education and school, then please contact me at sunnyrebecca.pta@gmail.com so we can get you plugged into the area of your choice. Looking forward to hearing from you!

Membership: Eleanor Garcia

You will be receiving your PTA Membership envelopes next week. Please remember to return them back in to your child's teacher as soon as possible. The PTA will be having an Ice-Cream Party for every class with 100% participation. That means that each child must return a completed membership form. We encourage every parent to join, however any family not wishing to participate at this time may check the 'I/we choose not to join...' box, return the membership form with the name(s) of the families students, and still receive credit. Remember anyone can be a member of the PTA. You, your child, aunt's, uncle's, and even grandparents. Every dues dollar is used to help the California State PTA, your local PTA and to advocate for, and support, your children and our

school. So please join today! And for those of you who have already joined, we thank you very much for your support.

Ways & Means/Fundraising: Judi Clark - Committee Chair Mary McDonald

Be on the lookout. Coming home soon in backpack to you, will be our first of the year fundraiser. We hope to be sending out the order forms for our new 'Mixed Bag Designs' on September 22nd, these bags come in all kinds of shapes, sizes and colors, plus they are reusable and great for the environment. Stop by the PTA Table at Back-to-School night to see a sample of all the great designs. - The money we raise will be going to fund different things and events like we have over the last three years. Things such as Staff Appreciation Week, Red Ribbon Week, back to school bbq's, student clubs, student incentives such as T-shirts for CST's, our fabulous talent show at Cinco de Mayo, planners, lanyards, assemblies, last day of school events, and 8th grade graduating events, just to name a few. With more to come this year!

Programs/VMMS Clubs/Teams: Andrea Livingston-Barbara

Each of our clubs/teams is led by a teacher and several students. We also need a couple club/team 'parents'. Your role will be to help the teacher get the activities ready for the daily, weekly or bi-monthly club, to help plan an after-school 'showcase' event at an 'all Club' meeting once a month and to put together a manpower and equipment 'wish' list. *The PTA and Foundation will strive to meet these needs.*

In September, ASB will be accepting applications and conducting interviews for new members, and will be holding their first ASB meeting this week. If you or your student are interested in joining the ASB Club, please contact Mrs. Margaret Jacobsen at margaretjacobson@vusd.k12.ca.us or Andrea Livingston-Barbara at AndreaLivingston@msn.com.

VMMS Foundation: Andrea Livingston-Barbara

This group will be made up of parents who can solicit donations from businesses and write grants to help our students thrive in a very frugal school budget environment. We now have our Foundation Non-profit number and need a Board of Directors to take this and fly with it. If you are interested, please contact Andrea at AndreaLivingston@msn.com. We will have our first meeting hopefully in Sept.

VMMS COMMUNITY NEWS:

Free TB Tests

For those of you who do volunteer work with students who have not had your TB test in the last 4 years, please take the opportunity to get a free TB test at the VUSD District office (1234 Arcadia Ave, Vista) on Sept 14th, from 2:15 - 4:00.

Have a great month!!

Your VMMS PTA Executive Board

This publication was written by Andrea Livingston-Barbara & Donovan & Sunny Rebecca Lucas 8/30/10