

Visions from Village Vista

Fall 2009

School Phone Number: 602-449-3600

Attendance Line: 602-449-3601

Welcome Back!

Dear Parents,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all of you to the 2009-2010 school year. For many, it is a greeting extended to our long time families of the Village Vista Community, while for others, it is a new beginning and an invitation to become involved as a partner in your child's education.

Village Vista continues to stress academic excellence. We are a Performing Plus school as labeled by the state of Arizona. We continue to take pride in our school, students, and dedicated staff.

We have gotten off to a great start and I am looking forward to a wonderful year. I hope that you will trust me when I say that we are here for the children and want to help your child succeed academically in a very warm, caring, safe, and fun environment. If there is anything I can do to assist you, please do not hesitate to contact me at 602-449-3600.

I would like to extend my thanks to the parents who remembered the parking lot is for parking only and the cul-de-sac is for curbside pick up and delivery. Everyone's patience during peak traffic times will ensure the safety of all members of the Village Vista Community.

Thank you,

Jan Stevens, Ma.Ed.
Principal

PVUSD BOARD MEMBERS

Dr. Sue Skidmore, Member
Nancy Case, Member
Anne Greenberg, Member
Jill Hoogendyk, Member
Tom Ohmart, Member

VILLAGE VISTA 09-10 FOCUS

What will the 2009-2010 year bring for Village Vista?



Student Progress/Achievement

Teachers will teach the Arizona State Standards which are aligned to the AIMS and TerraNova standardized tests. Our district adopted a new science curriculum two years ago, which includes a hands-on, inquiry-based approach to teaching science. Science kits are used that are closely linked to the AZ Standards. Our new science approach provides for cooperative learning and encourages critical thinking skills.

Our school focus this year will be in the area of math and reading. We are excited to announce that we will have an Accelerated Math program that is an incentive math program, which is very similar to the Accelerated Reading program and is published through the same company. The online math games and assessments will help with our student's math achievement. Teachers will also receive additional training by Lee Jenkins on "L to J" graphs.

We recently qualified as a Title I school and will receive additional funding to provide identified students with reading and math pull-out programs, tutoring, and after school extended day programs.



Safety

We continue to emphasize a safe and secure campus for students. A bullying/harassment presentation was recently presented to the students at an all school assembly. Students will be asked to sign a statement that they have received information on bullying and harassment policies. There will be zero tolerance for this type of behavior. All students deserve to learn in a safe and positive environment. Our Make Your Day Rule is: No one has the right to interfere with the learning, safety or well being of others.



Community

As your parent survey indicates, Village Vista is a family-like community. Events, activities, communication, and parental involvement are valued at VVES. We hope that parent will attend a no agenda meeting with the principal called, "Pastries with Parents" as another way to communicate informally with parents as partners in their child's education.

Last year we worked to improve in the area of positive student recognition. Spirit Assemblies are held to celebrate students, build school morale and school spirit. These assemblies are very positive and will be continued this year on a bi-monthly basis. Watch your school calendar for the official dates and know that parents are always invited to attend.



School Action Plan

Three years ago, the Paradise Valley Unified School District required each school to submit a rough draft of a SAP (School Action Plan) that is aligned to the district Long Range Plan. VVES completed this process last year and developed values, vision and a mission statement for the school. Goals with strategies were written to improve all areas of the school, including student achievement. We are required to show indicators of success and measure our progress, as we are held accountable by the district. The VVES School Site Council will be revisiting the plan and making suggestions for improvement to the community throughout the school year. This plan will keep us focused and help us to continually move forward to reach our goals. If you would like to see a copy of this plan, see Cheryl Nickelson in the school office.

New Reading Program

Last year, our district adopted Harcourt Storytown curriculum for reading and language arts in 4th -6th Grades. This school year, we have adopted the same curriculum for K-3rd grades.



Parent Teacher Conferences

Don't forget to attend Parent-Teacher Conferences the week of October 26-29th. Your attendance is vital to your child's success. Watch for further information from teachers on your scheduled time.

Thank you.

Village Vista Elementary Award

Did you know that last May, our school won a reading contest with Bookman's Bookstore? Only two schools in Arizona won. We won for our region. The kids earned \$5000 for our school to go toward reading programs, listening centers, computer programs and all school supplies such as a new microphone for the Multipurpose Room. Hooray for our VVES Students!





2009 Paradise Valley School District Report Card Available for Parent View

The Paradise Valley Unified School District report card that is compiled by the Arizona Department of Education is now available on their website. To access the document, please do the following:

- ★ Go to the ADE website: www.ade.state.az.us/
- ★ Select "School/Dist/AZ Report Cards" in the left margin, then "Find a Report Card"
- ★ Highlight "District" in the Search by window, then type "Paradise Valley" in the Search window.

The following information is included in this document: certified teaching staff experience and qualifications; district level AIMS test data disaggregated by various student subgroups; district and school level information concerning the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) component of the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) legislation; the AZ LEARNS state label earned by each school. If you are interested in a specific school, you may download individual school report cards at this same location.

Little Viking Reminders



Morning Arrival:

Students should NOT be on campus before 8:30 a.m. unless they are attending a school event. Our school supervision begins at 8:30 a.m. This is a very important safety issue! All Kindergarten students are supervised in the Kindergarten playground area in the front of the school beginning at 8:30 a.m. If it is necessary for your child to be on campus prior to 8:30 a.m., please contact the Mascot Club by calling Community Education at 602-449-2200.

Tardiness:

The first school bell rings at 8:55 a.m. Children are to be in their classrooms by 9:00 a.m. All students arriving after 9:00 a.m. must enter through the front office and report to the front desk to receive a tardy slip to report to their classroom. Please help us provide the maximum instruction time for your child by being on time.

School Attendance:

A very important aspect of your child's education is their attendance at school each day. If your child will be absent, please be sure to call the attendance line (602-449-3601) by 10 a.m. In scheduling appointments, please try to arrange appointments before or after school hours. If that is not possible, it is better for your child to be a few minutes late or to leave a few minutes early rather than leaving during the middle of the day. If you take your child to lunch, please be back in 40 minutes. We usually find that 40 minutes is not enough time to sign out, leave campus, order and eat lunch and then return to school. Please try to help us maximize your child's learning time by limiting out to lunch times.

Visiting Campus:

Please make sure to stop by the front desk to check in when visiting our campus. This is important for the safety of your children.

Thank you for your support. Working together, we truly think this will be an outstanding year. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the school office at 602-449-3600.



School Site Council

The mission of Village Vista School Council, in partnership with staff, parents and community is to provide leadership in supporting the school's vision to provide all students the opportunity.



Tax Credit

Have you taken advantage of this program? For ANYONE who pays Arizona State Income Taxes, you can REDIRECT money the State Collects, directly to Village Vista. Write us a check, complete the form, and receive an income tax credit for the full amount you contribute. For more information, please feel free to call 602-449-3600 or contact your tax consultant

