

Principal's Newsletter

I R V I N E U N I F I E D S C H O O L D I S T R I C T

FYI:

At the end of November and the beginning of December, there were several coyote sightings reported on Paseo Westpark and also on Harvard. Since we have many students who walk to school, we wanted to make you aware of these sightings.

Remember to be vigilant!



E M E R G E N C Y N E W S - K E E P I N G C O N T A C T I N F O R M A T I O N U P - T O - D A T E

At Plaza Vista we practice all year long preparing for many different types of emergencies such as: Earthquakes, fires, police lock-downs and chemical spills.

If we have an emergency, one of the most important aspects is to keep you informed and your children safe. If there were a chemical lock-down or an intruder lock-down we could only have you pick up your child when it is safe. To this end, we need to always be up-to-date with your email, home phone, and cell phone numbers.

To keep you in communication with events here at school, we will utilize a variety of communication tools, such as those mentioned



above. To make sure that your information is always up-to-date, check the MyIUSD parent portal. If the information is not up-to-date, parents can update all

the information. The only information that you can't change is your address. In order to change your address, you need to bring in 2 utility bills and Ms. Petersen will update that information for you.

Please keep all your information up-to-date and in case of an emergency, we will maintain a flow of information.

Thank you,

Gary Downes

Emergency Coordinator

U P C O M I N G D A T E S

School Resumes	1/9
MLK Jr. Observance (No School)	1/16
PTA General Meeting	1/18
Lincoln Birthday Observance (No School)	2/13
Volunteer Tea	2/15
Family Lunch Day	2/17
Washington Birthday Observance (No School)	2/20

W I N T E R A C E C L A S S E S T O B E G I N !

Winter ACE will be starting the first week of February. Registration begins January 20th. We have a couple of new classes this session: *Robotics*, *Puterbug computer class* and *Sports Camp*. Back by popular demand - *Karate* with Master Robert. And of course, all your favorite

classes like *Mad Science*, *Chess*, *Cooking*, *Lego Engineering*, *Cartooning*, *Golf*, *Tennis*, *Clay-time Ceramics*, *Video Game Design* and *Young Rembrandt's*. The kids will get to meet the instructors and see demonstrations the last week of January. Keep an eye out for ACE flyers in

your children's conduits coming soon. If you have any questions please email your parent volunteer at :

only4thegroovy@aol.com.



PLAZA VISTA STUDENT WINS RED RIBBON WEEK 2011 CONTEST

The National Family Partnership (NFP) announced that Ethan Frazier, a fourth-grade student from Plaza Vista, won the 26th annual Red Ribbon Week's contest: "It's Up to Me to Be Drug Free." Frazier won \$1,000 for Plaza Vista and an iPad 2 for his family. Students from throughout the United States entered the contest by decorating their homes together with their parents. Parents uploaded

photos to NFP's website and Facebook page, then friends and family voted and the entries with the most votes won. Ethan's mother, Melissa Frazier, stated: "This was a great way to get the message of drug prevention out there into the community. We used this as an opportunity to continue these important dialogues with our young children. The fact that this contest was tied to a

drug-free campaign really made me feel good about asking our friends and family to support our project by voting for our entry. It was so much more than just a random contest—this promoted such a positive message." The winning entries are online at www.redribbon.org/winners.



YOUNG THE GIANT CONCERT BENEFITS IPSF



Jim Shute (Northwood HS), Sameer Gadhia (Lead Singer), Connor Shute (Sierra Vista MS), Francois Comtois (Drummer), Kaylea Danielian (Plaza Vista), Tori Shute (Santiago Hills Elementary) and Michael Danielian (Plaza Vista).

Lucky concertgoers at *Young the Giant's* sold-out Hometown Holiday Benefit Concerts in December were treated to an amazing night of music and community spirit. Members of the band (all of whom attended IUSD high schools) put on an incredible

show and shared their passion for music education and their hometown.

"Irvine is a great place to grow up, we know we were fortunate to have a great education and enrichment in the arts and music...and we hope that future generations have the same opportunities," said Sameer Gadhia from the stage. As a result of the gen-

erosity of these inspiring young alumni, IPSF received donations of \$30,000, including contributions from the band, technology equipment from corporate partner VIZIO and the City of Irvine's challenge grant.

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

Thank you to the families who have supported Plaza Vista School by sending in their Box Tops! So far this year we have earned over \$800 for our school. To see how our school is doing, visit www.boxtops4education.com You can visit the website to find out easy ways to earn

Bonus Box Tops for our school, as well as download a product list! You can click on different categories to see which products carry Box Tops coupons or print a complete list of participating products. Last year, America's schools earned over \$59 million from Box Tops! If you

have any questions about Box Tops, please contact our Plaza Vista PTA at ptaplazavista@gmail.com.





POSITIVE DISCIPLINE for Building Capable Kids

Real Life Strategies for Developing Capable Young People at any age

This innovative class teaches parents of *children and teenagers* of all ages to use kindness and firmness at the same time, to teach life skills, and encourage self-respect, self-discipline, cooperation, good behavior and problem-solving. Learn positive discipline strategies that work better than punishment while you **promote responsibility and mutual respect for everyone in your home**. This information will change the way you parent! Save your sanity on a daily basis and help children and teens become capable and resilient. They will do better because they feel better.

You will raise capable, competent kids for the 21st century.

FOR PARENTS OF K-12 – MONDAY EVENINGS - 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm – 7 WEEKS – starts January 23, 2012

Meets at Creekside Education center – Room N-25 - Led by Vibha Galal, certified Positive Discipline Trainer

COST: \$50 per person/\$65 for couples

Active Parenting of Teens

FOR PARENTS OF 12 to 18 – Teens and Pre-Teens

As parents today, we are facing social and family issues that are far different than in the past.

Active Parenting of Teens is a highly acclaimed video-based workshop for parents and others that will help you gain the knowledge and skills needed to provide positive effective parenting with pre-teens and teens. Learn effective ways to instill courage and self-esteem, deal with negativity, develop responsibility, win cooperation, use consequences and problem-solving, increase positive communication, and deal with challenging topics like values, sexuality, violence, alcohol and other drugs.

Led by Cheri Wood, MA, IUSD Guidance Resources, certified Active Parenting Trainer

THURSDAY EVENINGS from 6:30pm to 8:30 pm- 7 WEEKS – Starts January 19, 2012

COST: \$50 per person/\$65 for couples

Class meets in Room N21 – Creekside Education Center – 3387 Barranca Parkway, Irvine

Active Parenting Now

FOR PARENTS OF 2 to 12 year olds

Being a parent today often seems more difficult than ever before. Kids and families face social and emotional pressures far different from those in the past. Positive parenting skills and healthy family communication are more important than ever. Learn effective alternatives to punishment, eliminate power struggles, increase positive communication and teach crucial life skills. Help your kids develop responsibility, self-discipline and resiliency through this video-based workshop.

Led by Cheri Wood, IUSD Guidance Resources, certified Active Parenting trainer

TUESDAY EVENINGS – 6:30pm to 8:30pm – 7 weeks Starts January 17, 2012

COST: \$50 per person/\$65 for couples

Class meets at Room N21 at Creekside Education Center – corner 3387 Barranca Pkwy., Irvine

FREE Parent Support Group for Parents of K-12 Children

This group will meet weekly and is open to all Irvine parents of children and teens of any age. Come and get some support in a relaxed setting, learn some positive parenting skills, and make some new friends. We use Active Parenting and Positive Discipline strategies to problem-solve parenting challenges and we support each other while we learn. Topics covered in discussion may include: handling anger in the family, how to listen and communicate with respect, homework issues and school challenges, stress and anxiety, and building assets for school and life success.

MONDAY MORNINGS – 10am - 12:00 pm – ongoing – Starts January 9, 2012 – no charge

LOCATION: This **FREE** group meets at Paradise Perks Café – corner of Irvine Center Drive and Jeffrey

Led by Cheri Wood, certified Active Parenting instructor, IUSD Guidance Resources

Helping Your Child Succeed In School

For Parents of K-6 Students

Dealing with Homework, Problem-Solving School Challenges, Encouraging Motivation, Learning about Test-taking, Understanding Your Child's Learning Style, Encouraging Positive Attitude and Good Social Skills for School Success, Positive Discipline and Active Parenting Strategies

FRIDAY MORNINGS – 10:00-11:30 – 4 weeks - Starts January 20, 2011

Meets at Creekside Education Center – Training Center-room N25 – cost \$25 per person

Led by Cheri Wood, certified Active Parenting instructor, IUSD Guidance Resources



CALL TO SIGN UP NOW FOR A CLASS! You must register ahead for ALL classes: Call Susan Holt @ 949.936.7502. Classes fill quickly, so call soon! Some scholarships are available. IFRC regrets that they are not able to offer childcare—these are parent only classes!

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.IUSD.ORG/PV/



Join us at Irvine International Film Festival -
5 Days 90 Films 30 Countries!

Edwards Westpark 8 Theater, Irvine, CA

The Irvine International Film Festival -
Jan 12-16 at the Edwards Westpark 8 Theater. Get a
glimpse of the best independent
movies before they are released. US & World Premieres.

Come out and support our local Irvine K- 12
films. Screening Saturday, Sunday and Monday morning.

Meet the directors and actors & participate
in Q&A. For a complete line-up of movies and festival
schedule visit [http://irvinefilmfest.com/IrvineFilmFestival/
Line-Up.html](http://irvinefilmfest.com/IrvineFilmFestival/Line-Up.html)

Click For Tickets & Showtimes [http://irvinefilmfest.com/
IrvineFilmFestival/Line-Up.html](http://irvinefilmfest.com/IrvineFilmFestival/Line-Up.html)

Some IUSD students have been selected to show their
films at the Film Festival through the Reflections Program!

IPSF THANKS YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE 2011 ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

While the last checks are still coming in and being counted, we would like to thank everyone who supported our 2011 Annual Campaign. Through the generous support of our community and the matching funds provided by the City of Irvine, IUSD students will enjoy smaller class sizes at the middle and high school level and additional instructional assistance to enable small group instruction at the elementary level. IPSF had an amazing year and was able to donate more than \$1.4 million

and provide \$1.9 million in programs to IUSD schools for 2010-11. From the Donald Bren Honors Concert and Tee It Up for Schools Golf Tournament in the spring to the 2nd Annual Spirit of Excellence Gala and the Annual Campaign in the fall, our community came together to support our schools and our students.

In the coming months, IPSF will be bringing you the Parents Appreciating Teachers & Staff (PATS) program, giving you the

opportunity to recognize special IUSD staff members and support Innovative Teaching grants. And while the 2011 Annual Campaign has concluded, it's never too late to support our schools! IPSF will continue to offer K-3 music instruction, classroom support, Summer Enrichment Academy, Afterschool Classroom Enrichment (ACE) and more so that Irvine students continue to receive a world-class education. Go to www.ipsf.net to make a donation or learn more.