

# Plaza Vista Principal's Newsletter

*JUSD*



## Welcome to the 2011~2012 School Year!

Dear Parents & Students,

Welcome to the 2011-2012 school year! I trust that your summer break has been restful, joyful, and full of adventures with your family and friends. This is sure to be an exciting and memorable year! If you are new to the Plaza Vista family, you are entering a wonderful place for students to learn and grow. Our school community values positive academic and social growth; focuses on reinforcing values; believes in a rigorous, well-rounded education; values diversity and the cultural interests of our community and looks out for the best interest of children.

We are proud to announce and welcome new staff members to the Plaza Vista family. We have hired Kent Hammeras as our new 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade humanities teacher. Kent comes to us from Brywood Elementary, where he most recently taught 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade. He's also taught at El Camino and he's excited to take on the challenge of

middle school. We'd also like to welcome back Erin Harvey who will be continuing to teach 6<sup>th</sup> grade Language Arts. We are fortunate to have her back on the middle school team. Another new face: Esther Mylar will be sharing a contract with Kathy Lew in Kindergarten. She spent the last year working at Turtle Rock Elementary as an instructional assistant in Kindergarten and she previously taught 1<sup>st</sup> grade in Capistrano Unified. Last but not least, please welcome Cindy Danielian, who will be sharing a contract with Kelly Thompson in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. Cindy has subbed for many of our staff members over the past few years. As a parent, she has served on our PTA, SSC, and our PBIS Leadership Team. Cindy spent the beginning of her teaching career in Santa Ana Unified and she is thrilled to be returning to the classroom. You will notice that Sam Waterman has moved to fifth grade and is very excited and brings lots of experience and a positive

attitude to this new opportunity. Rebecca Nakagawa will be teaching third grade and brings a wealth of instructional expertise. As previously mentioned, Kathy Lew has moved to kindergarten and brings significant energy and classroom expertise to her new role.

Please join me in welcoming our new staff members along with our stellar team of veteran teachers back to school on July 28<sup>th</sup>. I look forward to a wonderful year of success for your children and honored partnerships with you to continue our legacy of academic excellence along with a positive environment and sense of family.

Warmly,

**Heather D. Phillips**  
Principal

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### *Important Dates:*

- Middle School Jump to Success/ Picture Day—Monday, July 25<sup>th</sup>
- New Family Orientation & Welcome—Monday, July 25<sup>th</sup> @ 5 p.m.
- First Day of School—Thursday, July 28<sup>th</sup> (Minimum Day)
- Back to School Night 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade—Wednesday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Back to School Night K-4<sup>th</sup> Grade—Thursday, August 4<sup>th</sup>
- Kinder-5<sup>th</sup> Grade Picture Day—Tuesday, August 9<sup>th</sup>
- School Site Council—Monday, August 15<sup>th</sup>
- Conference Week (Minimum Days) - August 29<sup>th</sup>-September 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Conference Day (No Students) - Tuesday, August 30<sup>th</sup>
- Labor Day Holiday—Monday, September 5<sup>th</sup>
- Family Lunch Day—Friday, September 9<sup>th</sup>
- Last Day of Summer Quarter—Friday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> (Minimum Day)

## Parent Involvement

Parent involvement is critical to the mission of Plaza Vista; it supports the staff and helps reinforce the importance of education to your child(ren). There are many ways to get involved. Two main ways are through the PTA and School Site Council (SSC). We also encourage parent volunteers.

### Parent Teacher Association

Our PTA holds meetings most months of the year and organizes fundraising and community building events. Please visit the link on our homepage for more information. The PTA will hold a new family orientation & welcome in the MPR at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, July 27th; please come to hear about the numerous volunteer and community opportunities that are open to all families at Plaza Vista. Your volunteerism and financial support is incredibly appreciated and invaluable. The home-school partnership is critical to overall school success.

### School Site Council

The SSC meets five to six times per year and the group's primary responsibility is to develop and recommend a plan for continuous school improvement in all areas of the curriculum. Following the approval of the IUSD Board of Education, the Council continually reviews the implementation of the plan and periodically assesses its effectiveness. The SSC is composed of equal number of parents and staff members. The majority of the staff membership is classroom teachers, as required by law. Classroom teachers Rebecca Nakagawa, Cindy Danielian, and Roberta Sagud, as well as Principal Heather Phillips, represent the staff on SSC. The parent community selects the parent representatives. Two new members were selected this past spring: Jennifer Culbertson and Maria Paras. They join Rita Karaoguz and Carrie Block as our parent representatives.

Terms are three years. All parents are welcome at our School Site Council meetings.

### Parent Volunteers

All parent volunteers are a valuable and integral resource to the success of our school. In order to promote clear understanding of the expectations and appropriate use of volunteers, we ask that all volunteers complete the appropriate paperwork before working on campus. Guidelines and forms can be found on our Plaza Vista website. We also ask that our volunteers appreciate the importance of confidentiality in regard to information about student work, progress, grades, and behavior. We truly thank our parent community for your continued support of our students and staff.



## From the Health Office ....

A healthy school environment is essential for student learning. Preventing the spread of infectious disease is one of the ways the school seeks to provide a healthy learning environment. The IUSD Health Services Department prepared the following guidelines to assist you in decisions relating to your student's health and school attendance. A student who has a temperature of 100

degrees F or higher, has an undiagnosed rash or experiences nausea and vomiting needs to stay home from school. Any student suspected of having an infectious disease/condition should also stay home and may not return to school until he/she has been symptom free for one full day or a physician provides a written statement that child is not contagious. A

student who has a cold needs to re-main home if he/she has an excessive runny nose, excessive coughing, elevated temperature, or is too un-comfortable to function at school. If your student has diarrhea two times within a day, he/she needs to re-main home until diarrhea subsides and no other signs of illness exists.

## Riding Bicycles to School

Here in Irvine, only students in grades 3 and up may ride bicycles to school. Skateboards, razor scooters, and in-line skates are not permitted. Also, shoes that have the ability to convert to skates are not permitted. If your child rides a bicycle to school, it must be licensed with the Irvine Police Department,

the child must wear a helmet, and parents must provide a lock for the bike while in the school bike rack. For the safety of all, bicycles must be walked once the student is on school property. These requirements are in effect beginning the first day of school.



## School Lunch Information

The Irvine Unified School District offers a hot lunch program for students. The cost of an elementary lunch is **\$3.25** per meal, the cost of a middle school lunch is **\$3.75 or \$4.25** per meal, and milk alone is **\$.75**. Each student has been assigned a personal identification number. Parents are asked to deposit funds in the student's account either electronically or by sending a check to school with your student. The goal for the school and the school district is to be cashless. Money will not be handled in the lunchroom—please do not take your money to the cafeteria.

**Option 1-** Go to the IUSD website [http://www.iusd.org/district\\_services/food\\_services/index.html](http://www.iusd.org/district_services/food_services/index.html)

**Option 2-** Send a check to the school office made payable to IUSD Nutrition Services. Include your student's Lunch Box number on the memo line of the check.

Another option to consider: the National Lunch Program. Complete a free/reduced lunch application by October 1st. If you qualify, your child

never has to purchase a lunch at school. Qualifications for free/reduced lunch is confidential. Applications are available on the school website.



## Family Lunch Days

Last year we instituted Family Lunch Days ~ one each trimester. This is an opportunity for parents to bring a lunch to school and eat with their children. Our first family lunch day is scheduled for Friday, September 9th at the PV lunch tables. Due to limited seating, parents joining us for the primary (1st-3rd grade) lunch should bring a picnic blanket and plan to eat on the field.

In order to ensure the safety of your children, it is imperative that we accurately log and limit the number of adults on campus during the school day. Because we have set aside this special time for you to

join us on campus during lunch, we request that parents not visit their children during lunch outside of these scheduled days. This includes dropping off a child's lunch at the lunch tables. Any lunch or school items that you may need distributed to children should be brought to the front office only. Now that we have 1st, 2nd & 3rd grade out for recess and lunch at the same time, our lunch area can no longer accommodate adult visitors on a daily basis. We appreciate your understanding and support.



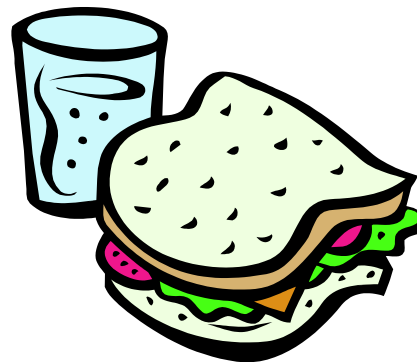
## Free & Reduced Lunch Application

Look for information online regarding free/reduced lunch. This confidential program ensures that all students receive breakfast and lunch; no Plaza Vista staff are privy to information.

If your family has a limited income, you may qualify to participate in

the free and reduced lunch program. A form is available at <http://www.iusd.org/pv>. Scroll down to the lunch application.

Please take a moment to look over the application to determine if your family can participate. It is a benefit to your family and our school.





## Other Important Plaza Vista School and IUSD Information

### Class Assignments & Parent Portal—

Class lists for the new year will be posted after 4:00 on July 25, 2011 as well as on the website for those with a parent portal account. Although most of you already have an account (we had an incredible 98% of our families with an account), some new Plaza Vista families may not have set one up yet, please do so as it is your ticket to your student's grades, report cards teacher information, attendance, etc. Follow the link below for all directions: <https://my.iusd.org> Please look for school newsletters to be mailed every other month. If you are not receiving our email updates, or would like to add an email address, see this link: <http://www.iusd.org/schools/pv.html> Throughout the year, we encourage parents to keep their contact information updated by logging into the Parent Portal and informing the office of any changes.

**First Day of School**—We will be ready for all students to start on Thursday, July 28th. This first day of school is a minimum day. If you know of new families in the area that will be enrolling, please let them know that the office is currently open. The first day of school is always very busy. Please do your best to walk your child to school as the parking lot and surrounding streets are very impacted; there will be a parking variance in place, so you will be able to park on the street!

**Report Cards**—Last year IUSD moved to all electronic/on-line report cards for the school year. If you need help setting up your myIUSD.org account (as referenced above) please see us in August. If you already have an account you do not have to do anything! You will be able to access your child's grades online.

**Parents' Rights**—Along with the move to online report cards, in the continuing efforts to be not only a green school but a green district, IUSD is again placing the Parents' Rights Brochure online this year. The student services department has directed all schools to refer parents to the following link: [http://www.iusd.org/parent\\_resources/ParentsNotification.pdf](http://www.iusd.org/parent_resources/ParentsNotification.pdf). If you desire a hard copy you may down-

load one from the site above or we will provide you one once school starts. One of the forms in the first day packet will be an acknowledgement form of this brochure. Important information included in the Parents' Rights Brochure includes the following:

- Expulsion and Suspension Procedures - [http://www.iusd.org/board\\_of\\_education/board\\_policy/adminregs/ap5144.htm](http://www.iusd.org/board_of_education/board_policy/adminregs/ap5144.htm)
- Vandalism - [http://www.iusd.org/board\\_of\\_education/board\\_policy/policies/5131\\_5.htm](http://www.iusd.org/board_of_education/board_policy/policies/5131_5.htm)
- Sexual Harassment - [http://www.iusd.org/board\\_of\\_education/board\\_policy/policies/5145\\_7.htm](http://www.iusd.org/board_of_education/board_policy/policies/5145_7.htm)
- Replica Guns - [http://iusd.org/parent\\_resources/documents/ReplicaGuns.pdf](http://iusd.org/parent_resources/documents/ReplicaGuns.pdf)

**First Day Packet and First Day Homework**—the first day of school all students will have the same homework. As part of our commitment to our core values of PRIDE (Partnership, Respect, Integrity, Determination, and Empathy) all K-5 families will review our Plaza Vista Code of Conduct and all 6-8 families will review our middle school handbook. Please look for this on July 28th. Also, there are many important forms to review and sign that first week of school. Please read and respond promptly. If you were to misplace a form they will be placed on the website for you to access and print again.

**Arrival & Dismissal**—Students may not be on campus prior to 15 minutes before their school day begins and all students must be picked up and/or must leave directly and go home after school as supervision is not provided. The school grounds are for the sole use of Plaza Vista students during the school day and are not open to pre-schoolers or older/younger siblings during school hours. Thank you for your assistance with enforcing these rules.

**Attendance**—If your child is not in school for any reason, please telephone the attendance line before 9 a.m. at 949-936-6951 to report your student's absence. Each stu-

dents must sign in at the front office if he/she is tardy.

**Dropping off Items at School**—in regards to forgotten items (lunches, musical instruments, homework assignments), we are attempting to minimize classroom interruptions and encourage responsibility. At the same time, we also do our best to take the nutritional needs of our students into consideration.

- K-3—If a parent delivers lunch for a K-3 student, office staff will ensure that the lunch is delivered to the student or the teacher is notified so they can send the student to pick up his/her lunch in the office.
- 4-5—If a parent delivers lunch for a student in 4-5, office staff will notify the classroom teacher via email. Students are also informed by teachers at the beginning of the year that if they forget their lunch, they should check up in the office.
- 6-8—Students are informed by their teachers at the beginning of the school year that if they ever forget their lunch, they should check up in the office.

Of course, if there are extenuating circumstances in regards to the child's health, exceptions are made. We also encourage parents to place money into their child's Lunch Box account in the event their child does not remember to bring lunch. Students who do not have lunch can go to the cafeteria and they are given milk and crackers.

The school office staff works hard to provide the best quality services to children, staff, and parents. We ask that you sign in with the office and pick up a visitor or volunteer badge before visiting the instructional area. The office is open from 8 a.m.—3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Plaza Vista School maintains its own website to provide information about the school, including school calendars, bell schedules, grade level supply lists, newsletters, school policies, staff contact information, classroom information, and parent involvement. Our website can be viewed at [www.iusd.org/pv](http://www.iusd.org/pv).