

Plaza Vista Principal's Newsletter

Irvine Unified School District

DOES SUPPORTING IPSF HELP PLAZA VISTA?

Congratulations to Danielle DeFrank, IUSD science specialist for 4th & 5th grade at Plaza Vista and Vista Verde K-8 schools! Danielle has been selected by the IUSD science specialists as the 2011-12 Teacher of the Year! Your Plaza Vista family is so proud of you Miss DeFrank! You are very deserving of this honor!

People sometimes ask "Does supporting the Irvine Public Schools Foundation help my child?" The answer is "absolutely!" Without IPSF support, Plaza Vista would be a different place.

- Imagine larger reading groups due to fewer instructional assistants

- Think about the loss of elementary music classes that inspire and shape young minds

- Picture a year without ACE classes and K-8 Summer Enrichment Academy to reinforce learning

- Consider your child losing the opportunity to excel in the Science Fair or Honors Concert

Your generous support of IPSF makes these programs possible, at our school and every school in IUSD. We want them to continue, but we need your help. Donations made to the Irvine Pub-

lic Schools Foundation by December 31 will directly impact the level of support for these programs at Plaza Vista next year.

There are only **three weeks left** until the end of the year.

Will you please consider making a donation to IPSF?

Every donation makes a difference. Every family's support is needed. Please go to www.ipsf.net to make a donation, or print and mail the attached form today. Thank you.

UPCOMING DATES:

- **Instrumental Concert—Monday, 12/5 @ Northwood High**
- **PTA General Meeting—5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, 12/14**
- **Vocal Concert—7 p.m. on Thursday, 12/15**
- **Last Day of Second Quarter (Minimum Day) - Friday, 12/16**
- **First Day of Third Quarter—Monday, 1/9**
- **PTA General Meeting—5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, 1/11**
- **MLK Jr. Observance (No School) —Monday, 1/16**

A NOTE FROM YOUR PTA PRESIDENT:

Hello Plaza Vista Parents, I don't know about you, but I am ready for a nice big turkey dinner! Our first quarter was filled with fun activities and special days and I would like to thank all the parent volunteers and PTA board members for all their dedication and hard work in order to make these events happen. I would also like to thank all the parents and kids who came out for Plaza Vista Family Night to see Magician Brock Edwards perform his supernatural magic show and to

watch our wonderful Principal Mrs. Phillips disappear before our very eyes!! It was an amazing evening! I hope you all had as much fun as I did.

We have a lot of exciting things planned for our next few quarters. Coming up soon will be another Plaza Vista Family Night, Kids Art Fair. We will be showcasing our children's artwork in an "Art Show" type setting. We have the jog-a-thon, bingo night, the spring book fair, bake sales, popsicle days, and of course our annual carnival! Please continue

to visit the Plaza Vista website and PTA section to stay up-to-date on upcoming events.

Again, I would like to thank all of you - the amazing Plaza Vista parents who continue to support our kids and our PTA with your pledges and donations. We couldn't do it without you. Pledges are still being accepted if you missed our pledge drive the first time.

Sincerely,

Kelli Peters, PTA President

IPSF UPDATE

Help IPSF Raise \$1 Million to Keep Irvine Schools Strong

Our 2011 Annual Campaign is underway, and we need your help to raise \$500,000 by December 31. Every dollar donated will be matched through the City of Irvine's challenge grant and could mean \$1 million for Irvine schools. These funds will make a difference where it matters most – in the classroom. In elementary schools, proceeds from this campaign will pay for instructional assistants, increasing the amount of one-on-one interaction. In our middle and high schools, funds will provide additional staffing hours, thereby reducing student-to-teacher ratios in critical subjects. We hope you will consider a donation of \$1 per day—or \$365- by the end of the calendar year, but donations in any amount bring us closer to our goal. Make your donation work twice as hard—give to IPSF today! Go to www.ipsf.net for more information and to make a donation.

Enter IPSF's Facebook Sweepstakes to Win VIP tix to See *Young the Giant*

Young the Giant's performance at the 2011 MTV Video Music Awards propelled them to the top of the charts. After touring internationally, the band is partnering with VIZIO to present two Hometown Holiday Benefit Shows for IPSF at the Galaxy Theater. As former IUSD students, the band is committed to IPSF's mission and will donate a portion of the event proceeds to IPSF. Tickets for both nights are SOLD OUT, but you can win two VIP tickets by entering our Facebook sweepstakes. To enter, "like" Irvine Public Schools Foundation on Facebook and complete the form to enter. Sweepstakes ends December 7th.

IPSF's 2nd Annual Spirit of Excellence Gala Makes Profit of Over \$350,000

On October 22, nearly 400 members of the Irvine community attended IPSF's 2nd Annual Spirit of Excellence Gala & Auction at Kia Motors. The IPSF Spirit of Excellence award recipients were recognized for their achievements in the arts, science, music and athletics. The 2011 honorees were Oren Jacob, Chief Technical Officer at Pixar Films, Allen Adham, co-founder of Blizzard Entertainment, Eric Anderson, chameleon actor and musician, and Jason Lezak, Olympic gold medalist swimmer. The City of Irvine received the inaugural Visionary Award for its commitment to education in the Irvine community. IPSF would like to recognize our lead sponsor, Great Park Neighborhoods, as well as all the gala sponsors and guests who came together to celebrate excellence and to raise more than \$350,000 for the students of Irvine Unified School District.

COLD & FLU SEASON APPROACHES!

A NOTE FROM NURSE GORMAN

As flu season has arrived, we are concerned about maintaining a healthy atmosphere in our classrooms to keep the children safe and healthy. Here are a few things that you can do to help us during flu season.

- Keep sick children at home. If your child experiences influenza

like symptoms, please contact your health care provider.

- Teach your children to wash their hands often with soap and water when possible, and cover their nose and mouth with a tissue when coughing or sneezing (or a shirt sleeve or elbow if no tissue is available).

- Good nutrition and proper hydration are of utmost importance.

We want healthy students at school each and every day. We love teaching your children and being a part of their learning and growth.

MATH WEBSITE FOR PARENTS

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt/Holt McDougal has launched a brand new, easy to use, parent friendly website that will allow parents an opportunity to purchase inexpensive/high quality materials to help support their children at home! If you are looking for extra work to help enrich, extend or intervene with your children at home, take a moment to check out this website.

“When schools, families, and community groups work together to support learning, children tend to do better in

school, stay in school longer, and like school more.”

That's the conclusion of *A New Wave of Evidence*, a report from Southwest Educational Development Laboratory. The report, a synthesis of research on parent involvement over the past decade, also found that, regardless of family income or background, **students with involved parents** are more likely to do the following:

Earn higher grades and test scores
Enroll in higher-level programs

Be promoted

Pass their classes and earn credits

Attend school regularly

Have better social skills

Show improved behavior and adapt well to school

Graduate and go on to post-secondary school

With this evidence, we can be proud to invite family and friends to benefit from the quality educational products at www.hmhomeworks.com.

WALK TO SCHOOL WEDNESDAYS ARE BACK!

Plaza Vista School is participating in the City of Irvine's "Walk to School Wednesdays" program for the second year in a row! This program is aimed at strengthening the health & fitness of our elementary and middle school students by increasing the number of students who are walking or biking to school and decreasing the use of automobiles. Last year, the City had over 6,000 students and 7 schools actively participate in the program.

Each Wednesday, the number of children participating in the walking or bicycling program will be tracked by participating teachers. The purpose of tracking is to measure the progress of each student and school. Incentives are provided for individual effort and school participation. Tracking forms have been provided to each participating teacher and will be collected quarterly by the City of Irvine staff.

Each quarter, City of Irvine staff members will distribute prizes to the students

and schools that participate in the Walk to School Wednesday program.



Individual Student Incentives: Walk to School collectable key chain, entry into a raffle for other prizes

Grade Level Incentives: A Games Day program led by Community Services staff members

School Wide Incentive: Our school can be eligible to win the Fitness Challenge Program for our entire student body. The Fitness Challenge consists of 45-minute sessions of physical exercise that includes inflatable obstacle courses, plyometrics, strength training activities, cardiovascular exercises, teamwork

drills, and many other fun, but challenging activities.

Last year, our school won the school-wide incentive and received \$1500 worth of PE equipment. Our third grade classes won the Games Day led by Community Services staff members. We also had individual students win bikes, helmets, bike locks, iPod shuffles, pedometers and other fun prizes. Let's continue to stay healthy and walk or bike to school!



WHAT EVERY FAMILY SHOULD KNOW ABOUT HEAD LICE

It Could Happen to Anyone...

Head lice are just plain lousy. Not only do they get in your hair, literally, but they also make kids miss school, parents miss work and make everyone's lives frustrating. By learning the facts about lice and a few simple tips for treating them, you can successfully combat this pesky, little invader.

Facts about Lice:

- Head lice do not discriminate and can affect anyone: rich or poor, young or old, male or female.
- Head Lice don't jump or hop or fly. They are mainly transmitted by head to head contact and by sharing objects such as combs, brushes, headbands, hats, hooded coats or sweaters with an infested person.
- Head lice don't thrive on animals. They're human parasites.
- Head lice don't infest environments. They require human blood to live. However, lice can survive off the scalp several hours, and the eggs can last longer.
- Head lice aren't seasonal. They can be contracted year-round in any climate.
- Heat from a hair dryer won't kill head lice. Extreme temperatures (too hot for a person's scalp) are needed to successfully kill them.



Here are things you can do to keep head lice out of your hair:

- Watch for signs of head lice, such as frequent head scratching. Check the scalp regularly for lice and their eggs, called nits, using a good source of light. Lice are reddish brown insects about the size of a sesame seed. They may turn colors from white or gray to red or dark brown. Nits are grayish-white, always oval shaped, and are glued at an angle to the side of the hair shaft.
- Avoid confusing nits with hair debris like dandruff. Dandruff is usually irregularly shaped and easy to remove, while nits are tear-shaped and difficult to dislodge.
- Only those infested should be treated. Treatments should not be used to **prevent** infestation.
- Consult a pharmacist or doctor before using a lice treatment on someone who is pregnant, breast feeding, has allergies, asthma, epilepsy, or other medical conditions or has lice or nits in the eyebrows or eyelashes.
- Remember that all lice-killing products are pesticides. Follow package directions carefully. Use the product over the sink, not in the tub or shower. Always keep eyes covered.
- Remove all nits. Separate hair in sections and remove all attached nits with a lice removal comb. Nits you can't remove by combing can be removed by cutting them out with scissors or picking them out with your fingernails. - Clean nails immediately if you use them to remove nits.
- Wash bedding, towels and recently worn clothing in hot water and dry in a hot dryer for at least 20 minutes. Combs and brushes should be soaked in hot water for 10 minutes. Vacuum all carpets, rugs, upholstered furniture mattresses, non-washable bedding, fuzzy toys and car interiors (seats and headrests) thoroughly.
- Notify your child's school, camp, child-care provider, neighborhood parents and friends about the outbreak so they can be on the lookout.
- For more information, visit the following web sites: www.headlice.org, www.liceout.com, or KidsHealth.org.

PICK UP & DROP OFF PROCEDURES FOR PLAZA VISTA

- ☑ Students are not to be on school campus until **15 minutes** before the start of school. There is no adult supervision until that time.
- ☑ First & Second grade students are asked to wait/play on the playground until the bell rings to signal the start of the school day. At that time, they may proceed to line up outside their classroom doors. We ask that parents and guardians wait on the “Star Terrace” (the grassy area directly across from the first and second grade classrooms) to alleviate congestion and so that students may enter their classrooms in a timely manner.
- ☑ When walking your children to school, please refrain from bringing dogs and other animals with you. As stated on the sign near the school entrance, this practice is prohibited.
- ☑ Once school is dismissed, **ALL** students need to go home in a timely manner. We supervise the school for 15 minutes after the bell rings. Our role is to make sure that students are picked up and/or on their way home and not to supervise additional play time. Students are not allowed to play on the playground or the structures **AT ALL** during this time, even if parents are there.
- ☑ No children, of any age, are permitted to play on the playground or the play structure during school hours unless under the direct supervision of Plaza Vista Staff. The playground is for current classes and their PE requirements. Non-Plaza Vista children and students already dismissed from school who play on our playground pose a safety hazard. It is important to note that during school hours parents are not considered “supervisors” of children and therefore the above mentioned rules apply.
- ☑ **K-3** students are **NOT** permitted to wait until their older siblings are dismissed.
- ☑ **4th-8th** students in the upper grades are also required to go home once school is dismissed. “Hanging out” around the sides of the school, by the baseball diamond, around the basketball courts or at the park is strictly against the rules and places our children in a risky situation. If students are waiting to be picked up, they should wait on school grounds until the designated pick up time, then proceed to the agreed upon meeting place. For example, if a student is dismissed at 2:30 and the parent is picking up a student at the park at 2:45, the student should wait at school until 2:45, then proceed to the park.
- ☑ Plaza Vista does not become a public park until after all school related activities are finished.

PTA REFLECTIONS CONTEST

VISUAL ARTS

Primary:

1st place: Brian Hwang

2nd place: Rachael Bae

3rd place: Katelyn Yee

Intermediate:

1st place: Marina Lu

2nd place: Kelly Yen

3rd place: Julie Hwang

Middle School:

1st place: Caroline Hu*

2nd place: Caroline Hu

3rd place: Julian Lin

Honorable Mentions in Visual Arts:

Audrey Kim

Donna Kim

PHOTOGRAPHY

Primary:

1st place: River Vecchio-Lasinski

2nd place: Samuel Lomaka

3rd place: Varun Engineer

Middle School:

1st, 2nd & 3rd place: Meherzeen Engineer

LITERATURE

Primary:

1st place: River Vecchio-Lasinski

Intermediate:

1st place: Leigha Singh

Middle School:

1st place: Michelle Chuang

2nd place: Samar Hayat

3rd place: Rajan Paul

MUSIC

Primary:

1st place: Ashley Chu*

Middle School:

1st place: Ariel Smith*

This year’s theme was “Diversity Means”. Congratulations to all of our participants and winners! Those students with an asterisk (*) next to their names are district finalists and will be honored at City Hall. A huge thank you to our PTA Reflections Chairperson, Autumn Singh.



A NOTE FROM OUR EMERGENCY COORDINATOR ...

Plaza Vista recently participated in the "Great American Shake Out", a state-wide emergency drill on October 20th. Now that Plaza Vista is prepared for an emergency, **IS YOUR HOME READY FOR THE QUAKE?** Take a look around your home. If a major earthquake struck today, would you know where the danger and safety spots were in each room? If you were separated from your family, would you know where to be reunited? If you had to be self-sufficient for 72 hours or more, would you have enough food, water, and supplies to last?

We ask you to do the following:

1. Decide where your family will reunite if separated.
2. Choose an out-of-state friend or relative whom family members can call after the quake to report whereabouts and conditions.
3. Know the safe spots in each room: under sturdy tables, desks, or against inside walls.
4. Conduct practice drills. Think about how people will exit, especially from a second story. Physically place yourself in a safe location.
5. Learn first aid and CPR from your local Red Cross chapter, or other community organization.
6. Keep several lists of emergency phone numbers so that you'll be sure to be able to get at least one.
7. Everyone should know how to shut off gas, water, and electricity in case the lines are damaged.
8. Check chimneys, roofs, and wall foundations for stability. Make sure your home is bolted to its foundation. Call a licensed contractor if there are any questions.
9. Secure the water heater and appliances that could move enough to rupture utility lines.
10. Keep breakable and heavy objects on lower shelves.
11. Secure hanging plants and heavy picture frames or mirrors (especially those over beds).
12. Put latches on cabinet doors to keep them closed during shaking.
13. Keep flammable or hazardous liquids in cabinets or secured on lower shelves.
14. Maintain emergency food, water, and other supplies, including medicine, first aid kit, and clothing in an accessible place.
15. Know the danger spots: Windows, mirrors, hanging objects, fireplace, and tall furniture.

What to do if an earthquake happens and your children are at school.

1. Students will be evacuated from the building to the rear of the school.
2. To pick up your student, come to the student release area between the multi-purpose room and the basketball courts.

PARENT COOPERATION NEEDED TO COMPLETE EMERGENCY SUPPLIES

Parents are urged to help Plaza Vista School in its emergency efforts. In the event of an actual emergency your child may be with us for some time. We would appreciate it if you might be able to donate any of the following:

1. First Aid kits for classrooms
2. Games (checkers, monopoly, etc...) for classrooms
3. Triangular/large bandages for Medical Team
4. Neosporin for Medical Team
5. Batteries (all types) for Search & Rescue Team

I would also like to thank the PTA for purchasing supplies for the entire school in case of an emergency!

Sincerely,

Gary E. Downes

