



# Principal Newsletter

## Dinner Night Out

We have scheduled a fundraiser with Elephant Bar on Tuesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>. A flyer is attached and has also been sent home with the students. We'd like to encourage all to attend ~ you are welcome and encouraged to pass this flyer on to as many people as possible. Plaza Vista will receive 20% back from anyone who has one of Plaza Vista's flyers and eats at the Elephant Bar (located on Culver & Walnut) anytime on 11/3. The Elephant Bar will also be giving \$5 gift cards

for every \$25 purchased.

All the money raised from this fundraiser will go towards a fund to help finance an organic garden in honor of one of our 8<sup>th</sup> grade students, Casey Strale. Casey was diagnosed with cancer at the end of September and has been a warrior throughout the process. Casey still has a long road of recovery and will not be back in school any time soon but, he will be back. Please go to [www.caringbridge.org/visit/caseystrale](http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/caseystrale) if

you want to write to him and hear more of his story. There is an organization called Savannah's Organic Ranch whose mission is inspired by Savannah Lee Sachen's belief that eating an organic diet has tremendous health benefits and is a sustainable environmentally friendly lifestyle. If you would like detailed information, please visit [www.savannahsorganicranch.org](http://www.savannahsorganicranch.org).

## 10,000 IRVINE STUDENTS TAKE IMPORTANT STEPS FOR HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT

More than 10,000 students in the Irvine Unified School District walked or biked to school on Friday, October 23, 2009 in support of the Third Annual **Walk to School Day**, sponsored by the Irvine Public Schools Foundation and Irvine Uni-

fied PTA Council.

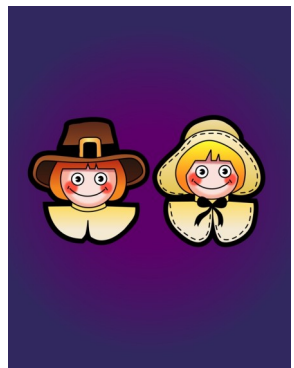
**Irvine Mayor Suhkee Kang** and members of the City Council, along with **IUSD School Board President Gavin Huntley-Fenner**, school officials, local dignitaries and business leaders

joined students to walk to local schools. Plaza Vista students and staff participated in the annual event. Many walked together throughout the neighborhood. Thank you to all who participated!



### Upcoming Dates

Elephant Bar Fundraiser	11/3
PTA Meeting	11/4
Rachel's Challenge Assembly	11/9
Veteran's Day (No School)	11/11
Report Cards sent home	11/13
PTA Magic Show (Evening Event)	11/20
Thanksgiving Holiday	11/26 &



# Active Parenting of Teens

A seven-week video/discussion series with the information and skills you need to parent effectively during the pre-teen and teen years

Being a parent today seems more difficult than ever before, with kids and families facing social and family issues that are far different than in the past.

**Active Parenting of Teens** is a highly acclaimed, award-winning, 7-week video based workshop for parents and others which will help you gain the knowledge and skills needed to provide positive effective parenting with pre-teens and teens. Join us for this series and learn effective ways to instill courage and self-esteem, deal with negativ-

ity, develop responsibility, win cooperation, give consequences, increase positive communication, and deal with challenging topics like values, sexuality, alcohol and other drugs. **If you have children ages 12 or older**, give yourself the gift of this workshop to gain confidence, make sense of your teen's behavior and get real, practical skills to put into practice.

Presented by the

Irvine Family Resource Center

THURSDAY MORNINGS\*

9:30 am to 11:30 am - 7 Weeks

Starts November 5

Led by Cheri Wood, IUSD Guidance Resources, Certified AP Trainer

**LOCATION:** Irvine Family Resource Center on Woodbridge High School Campus

**REGISTRATION FEE:** \$50 per person for 7 weeks/\$65 for couples (includes book and handouts)

**\*NOTE:** Evening class will be offered Tuesdays, 7pm to 9 pm. starting January 12, 2010

## REGISTER FOR FALL 2009 ACE CLASSES!

Catalogs are now out for our Fall ACE classes. Registration began September 23<sup>rd</sup> and there are still openings in many of our classes. Classes start on November 2<sup>nd</sup> and run for

6 weeks. Some of the offerings include: hip hop, tennis, golf, art, boot camp, cooking, cartooning, chess, karate, science, musical theater, sewing, crochet, yoga and homework

club. Go to [www.acewise.org](http://www.acewise.org) to register.



## Mobile Recreation Program



All 4<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grade students are welcome to participate in the Mobile Recreation Program. Free games and

activities will be provided to youth ages 10 and up. This service is offered through the City of Irvine and will be here at Plaza Vista every Monday from 3-5 p.m. on the playground. We'd love to see as many students as possible come join the MRP to focus on personal development, leadership

skills, positive relationships, social and recreational activities, teamwork and fun! For more information, call 949-724-6789 or visit [www.cityofirvine.org/dept/cs](http://www.cityofirvine.org/dept/cs).

## California Healthy Kids Survey

---

The Irvine Unified School District will be administering the California Healthy Kids Survey (CHKS) in November, 2009 to all 5<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade students. The survey gathers information on behaviors such as physical activity and nutritional habits; school safety; alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use; as well as environmental and individual strengths and assets. The survey is anonymous. No names or other personal identifying information

is connected to the answers. Participation in the survey is voluntary and will take approximately 30 minutes of classroom time. In October, 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade parents were asked to sign and return a survey consent form. We hope you gave permission so that your child's opinion and knowledge can be part of the results that are used to improve district prevention programs and services.

**For Further Information:** The statewide survey was developed by WestEd, a public, non-profit educational institution. If you have any questions about this survey, or about your rights, call the district at 949-936-7980. You may examine the questionnaire at the district's website [www.iusd.org/guidance\\_resources](http://www.iusd.org/guidance_resources).

## Rachel's Legacy Assembly

---

On Monday, November 9th, Plaza Vista's middle school students will be participating in a year two assembly and training called, "Rachel's Legacy". Last year our middle school students attending the year one assembly called "Rachel's Challenge". Rachel Scott was the first person killed in the Columbine High School tragedy on April 20, 1999. She left behind an amazing legacy and a simple challenge to any-

one who will accept it—treat others with kindness and compassion and you just may change the world you live in. Her story is one of courage and hope.

Rachel's acts of kindness and compassion coupled with the contents of her six diaries have become the foundation for Rachel's Challenge. During the assembly, our middle school students will hear and see powerful audio/video

footage.

For additional information on this program, check out the website at [RachelSchallenge.com](http://RachelSchallenge.com). Plaza Vista was also on FOX 11 News last school year (April 20th—10 p.m.) You can check out the news clip at [http://www.myfoxla.com/dpp/news/local/Students\\_Meeting\\_Rachels\\_Challenge\\_20090420](http://www.myfoxla.com/dpp/news/local/Students_Meeting_Rachels_Challenge_20090420)

## SAVE THE DATE ~ FAMILY SKATING NIGHT

---

Casey's Angels are hosting a family skating night at 949 Roller Hockey Center on Barranca in Irvine on November 14th from 6:30-8:30 p.m. The cost is \$5 per person and profits will be

divided equally between the Strale Family and CHOC oncology. All skaters must have skates, a helmet, elbow pads and knee pads. More information and waiver to come soon.



# Pick Up and Drop Off Procedures

The safety of our children here at Plaza Vista is of the utmost concern to parents and staff alike. With over 900 students attending our school and the “traffic” associated with such a large school, it is vital that all community members are aware of, and comply with our safety rules and regulations. **Please take the time to thoughtfully review the bullets below and create a plan for your year at 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.
- 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, that 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.
- **4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>** 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 is strictly against the rules and places our children in a risky situation.
- If you are dropping off lunch for your child, you **must check in with the office every time.**
- Plaza Vista does not become a public park until after all school related activities are finished.

It is important to understand that these rules and regulations are put in place for the safety of all students. Irvine schools and the neighboring communities benefit from our open campuses in many ways. Because we have this welcoming environment, it is important that all community members understand the importance of these rules, as it does make it more difficult to supervise. Please help us keep Plaza Vista as safe and secure as we can.

Thank you all very much for your time and energy in addressing these very important issues.

## EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS UPDATE

Last September 10<sup>th</sup> we had our first emergency drill. We simulated what we would do in case of an earthquake. To be sure, we still have more to do, and we can always improve. Some of the areas we still need to improve include: use of walkie-talkies, student release, and how we would coordinate with the community and communicate with parents. All that said, I wanted to share with you some comments by Officer Ray Chips of the Irvine Police Department, an observer at the emergency drill of September 10<sup>th</sup>.

“I was very impressed with your drill this morning. I have attached my observation notes. It would serve the IUSD well if your drill process could become a model for compre-

hensive drill that tested multiple components of school emergency planning in a half-hour time-frame. A rare achievement in any emergency drill. I am hopeful that



your district leadership will consider adopting the “Plaza Vista Model” for all school earthquake/evacuation drills. Keep up the great work!”

Officer Chips also shared with me some ways we could improve, but I wanted each and every one of you to know the time and effort the staff of Plaza Vista puts into training for the “real” emergency.

Thanks for all your support,  
Take care and be safe,  
Your Emergency Coordinator

*Gary Downes*