

Buena Vista Elementary School

Tiger Times

October, 2006

Mark the Dates!

October

- 2 Walk your child to school day; Official Count Day
- 2 Arts a palooza
- 4 Parent Volunteer Training-Primary Only; 4-5pm
- 4 Picture Day
- 9 PTA Meeting – 6pm in Gym
- 11 BV Birthday Party and Re-dedication; 3-4 pm
- 11 Skate City “Skate Night”
- 12 Parent Training-Denny McLaughlin 6:30 pm (tentative)
- 23 BAAC Meeting – 6:30 pm in Gym

November

- 3 Fall Carnival
- 13 PTA Meeting – 6pm in Gym
- 27 BAAC Meeting – 6:30 pm in Gym

Buena Vista Fundraising

This year the PTA is using a new program called Adopt a Block Campaign. Students will get pledges from their neighbors in exchange for cleaning up the block on a monthly basis. Students will also participate in the Wal-Mart “Kids Recycling Challenge.” Both programs were chosen to offer lessons in community service, taking care of our Earth, as well as an opportunity for family time. Information is being distributed to students and will be posted on the school website at www.d11.org/buenavista.

Buena Vista 95th Birthday Party

On Wednesday, October 11th, we will be re-dedicating Buena Vista at 3:00 pm. The much anticipated Peace Pole will be un-veiled and Alan Rasmussen will be honored as Buena Vista's “longest reigning principal.”

Coronado Homecoming Parade

Buena Vista will be participating in Coronado's Homecoming parade on October 7th. Students and families can bring their wagons, bikes, trikes and non-motorized scooters to the gym on Friday, October 6th for a decorating party. The PTA is providing decorating supplies for the “Viva Las Vegas” theme. Our Tiger mascot will be making a personal appearance for the parade. Wear your school t-shirts and meet Saturday morning at 7:00 am to march with the school banner.

Dear Parents & Guardians,

Wow! The school year has really gotten underway. It is so exciting to have our cottages back and see children and parents on the greens-with our new benches. Thank you so much to Mr. & Mrs. Carlson for finding and organizing their purchase. Thank you Kathy New and the Carlsons for funding that beautification project. The children love them.

We have a very busy and exciting fall coming up. October starts with Arts-A-Palooza a new event for our school. It will be October 2nd in the afternoon and will be a music, dramatic arts and fine arts field day. If you are an artist or know any artists that may want to volunteer for a booth that day please contact the office so we can have more awesome opportunities for our children.

October 11th will be BV's 95th birthday and rededication. The superintendent will be here to help kick off our birthday party.

Thank you so much to everyone for understanding and being patient with us here at BV. With so many new changes, we have not been as proactive as we would like to be with communications. We will be working hard to improve this area. We want parents to know what is going on and in a timely manner. Thank you again for your understanding. Please remember to check our website, the brand new marquee, Friday folders, and teacher newsletters for information.

Sincerely,
Brenda Smith

CSAP Results (% proficient and above)

	<u>Reading</u>	<u>Writing</u>	<u>Math</u>	<u>Science</u>
3 rd	77%*,**	46%	50%	
4 th	80%*,**	57%*,**	74%*,**	
5 th	52%	28%	52%	28%

*above district average

**above state average



Parents-When dropping off/picking up your children, please do not park in the staff parking lot or between the cones in front of the school. The coned area is reserved for day care vans only.

Buena Vista Skate Night at Skate City

This evening offers an opportunity for families to spend quality time together doing something active.

Buena Vista Elementary receives a portion of the proceeds with a minimum of 50 paid skaters. The funds go toward funding Field Day and recess equipment purchases/repairs. So come join the fun!! Call Carrie Delius (328-4125) with any questions.

Time: 6 – 8 pm

Where: Skate City, 1920 N Academy Blvd

Cost: \$4 /person

Skates: Bring your own or rent them. \$1 for regular skates and \$3.50 for inline skates

Transportation: Free Skate City Fun Bus leaves BV at 5:30 sharp or you can drive on your own.

Want to put a little class in your life?

District 11 Community Education offers a virtual smorgasbord of courses appealing to many tastes. Choose from foreign languages, dance, yoga, and a number of general interest classes such as managing rental property, home decorating, nutrition and much more. For information, call 520-2384 or visit our website at www.district11.org/communityed.

School Directory

This year's school directory will provide an opportunity for parents and family members to place words of encouragement for students and local businesses to advertise their services. Dedications for students are only \$5 for family and advertisements are \$25. The directory will be provided free to each student. Use it for trying to remember someone's name, getting homework help, planning parties, writing Valentine's and more! Call Lisa Hyde at 687-0364 for more information.

Did You Know?

- ☞ Mrs. Paula (Strobl) will be finishing her Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction.
- ☞ Ms. Catherine Gamboa will be getting married in November of this year.
- ☞ Ms. Smith (the principal) is getting married in October.
- ☞ Ms. Weakland is coaching volleyball at Coronado.
- ☞ Ms. Ruth & Ms. Leigh have finished their Montessori training.
- ☞ Ms. D will soon be able to remove her cast.
- ☞ Our own Mr. Jeff LOVES the LSU tigers almost as much as our Ms. G Loves the Broncos.

Building Advisory and Accountability Committee (BAAC) Flash

The Building Accountability Advisory Committee is changing its meetings to the 4th Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Buena Vista gym. We will meet on Monday, September 25 to begin this schedule. We have a sub-committee working on a proposal for adding 6th grade to our program. Another subcommittee is forming to review the original Montessori proposal to the Board of Education and help develop a report that will review what has been implemented so far and what the future implementation goals are. If you are interested in serving on the BAAC and/or this subcommittee, please call Brenda Smith at 328-4100 or Lynne Casebeer at 237-6949. The subcommittee will have its first meeting on September 25 at 6 p.m., prior to the full BAAC meeting.

PTA Message

During our first meeting in September, the new PTA board was introduced. Ruth Roland has stepped up to be president since health problems prevented Toni Fleming from serving her term. We discussed the new directory, participating in the Coronado Homecoming Parade, BV's 95th birthday party and this year's fundraising programs. If you haven't joined the PTA yet, it's not too late. We are looking forward to an exciting year of student enrichment programs and we need your participation to be successful.

Volunteer Corner

Please consider volunteering in some capacity at BV. We need you to make BV a great place and your child will appreciate your involvement and interest in their school. We will need volunteers for the Arts a Palooza on October 2nd and the Fall Carnival in early November also takes a lot of parent volunteers to run smoothly.

We have some new volunteer positions and committees so each month we will highlight some of them. A very important new position for each classroom is Room Parent. We need 1 or 2 parents who will assist their child's teacher with holiday parties, parent communication, classroom needs, field trips and other teacher needs. It will be an important way to get the word out as well on important school events. If you are interested in helping, please place a note in the volunteer mailbox or call Grace Blea-Nunez at 630-7953 with any questions.

Program News

News from the gym...

We've started out the school year focusing on Physical Fitness and are measuring our own fitness levels with the "Fitness Gram". All students measure their cardiovascular fitness level. Additionally, older students will be measuring their flexibility, along with their muscular strength and endurance. Students will bring home a printed report of their results. We'll be learning:

- ?about the different components of physical fitness
- ?how the ability to do these things leads to a healthy life, a longer life, and a better quality of life
- ?about setting goals to maintain and/or improve fitness levels
- ?how to incorporate fitness into everyday life

We will continue to devote a portion of our class to a fitness routine throughout the school year. Remember the BV Skate Night at Skate City on October 11th! It's a great opportunity to incorporate a fun fitness activity into family time together.

Yom Kippur

Yom Kippur is on Monday, October 2nd. Jewish students absent from school on this date to observe Yom Kippur may receive an excused absence.

Art

Before you throw it away or recycle it. . . I am looking for families to donate small plastic containers with a lid (yogurt, margarine and small sour cream containers work well) to Buena Vista's art classes. These will be used to store art supplies that easily dry out. Please send them to school with your child as you use them. If you have any questions, please call 328-4144. Thank you so much! Jessica Feis, art teacher

Buena Vista Breakfast program

Buena Vista participates in the National School Breakfast program which makes it available for all students, including those who qualify for free or reduced meals.

Breakfast is an important meal for all students and we want to make everyone aware that it is served daily. Research has tied eating breakfast to improvements in both academic achievement and improved behaviour. Students are better able to concentrate and learn and have lower rates of tardiness and absenteeism.

The breakfast program can parents by helping to ease the hustle and bustle at home in the morning. The meals are convenient and nutritious. Cost is \$.95 and \$.30 for reduced fee students and are served from 7:30 am – 7:55 am.

Student Work

What we do in Montessori -- By Adelia and Hayley

Montessori is a very fun way to learn. You get to use fun and exciting new ways to learn, you can work freely and at your own pace. You get to set up your own time that you want to do something with a friend. Just recently we have started to work on our garden. We also have demonstrated Origin of the Universe. In Montessori you get to work individually.

That is what we do in Montessori plus more. I hope maybe some day you will come and visit our class room.

Montessori Class -- By Joey

Montessori is super fun all the time. We love it. You get a lot of free will. Plus the stuff is duper cool and you get to do science stuff that is real instead of sitting at a desk all day. I think that you should stop by and see for yourself. If you do stop by do not be alarmed if you can't spot the teacher because she is usually helping a student with something.

Interviewing Leo -- By DeAndre

I interviewed Leo because I wanted to learn about snakes.

Q: How long have you been studying snakes?

A: 6 years

Q: Can all snakes go in water?

A: Yes

Q: How long can a sea snake get?

A: 6 feet

Q: What do snakes eat?

A: Rats, birds, and mice.

Q: How many types of snakes are there?

A: 365.

Classroom News

Ms. Caroline, Ms. Catherine and Ms. Paula's Primary classes are all settling in to our routines and enjoying learning together. The Kindergartners have been very helpful in assisting the new 3 and 4 year olds as they have joined the classes. We are doing Flower Arranging in the classrooms right now – if anybody has garden flowers or wild flowers that are surviving the cool nights, please bring them to class and we will use them in this activity. We will start working in our gardening areas soon – any parents who would like to volunteer to help with this project should contact your child's teacher. We will also be collecting autumn leaves for making bookmarks.

Please be on the lookout for Scholastic Book Orders coming home monthly. This is a wonderful, inexpensive way to add to your child's collection of books and encourage reading!

If any of our parents have special talents (artists, musicians, craftspeople) you would like to share with all our Primary classes, please let your teacher know – we'd love to have you contribute!

Finally, please be aware that some of the children in our classes have severe allergies to peanuts and tree nuts. Any snacks that are sent to school should be nut/peanut free to avoid any problems for these children. *If you are interested in volunteering in the classroom, please mark your calendars for October 4th from 4 – 5 p.m. when we will be holding another training session for parents interested in helping in the classrooms.*

Ms. Hasting's Lower El class has been working on creating a peaceful, quiet classroom. On September 11th the children shared things that make them feel peaceful. Here are some of their thoughts:

- ✍️ I feel peaceful when my mom hugs me.
- ✍️ I feel peaceful when I'm asleep.
- ✍️ My kitten really makes me feel peaceful.
- ✍️ I feel peaceful when I play legos.
- ✍️ I feel peaceful at a river. You can hear the waves. It's kind of like silence.
- ✍️ I feel peaceful when I eat dinner.
- ✍️ I feel peaceful at home.
- ✍️ I feel peaceful when I'm working.
- ✍️ I feel peaceful when I'm watching wrestling with my dad.
- ✍️ I feel peaceful when I play with my friends.

In September, **Ms. Ruth's Lower El** class reviewed many of the lessons from last year in math and are now ready to move on to new concepts. We are learning about the hydrosphere, atmosphere, and weather this month. At the end of this unit, we will write reports about severe weather systems. In botany, we've been studying the parts of a fruit. We have cut open, drawn, and labeled a variety of fruits and vegetables. Finally, our word study cards are completed. Everyone enjoys working with them, learning about compounds, suffixes, prefixes, etc.

Mrs. Neuharth's 4th graders have had a great start to the new school year and I am so happy to have moved up to fourth grade with my class!! This quarter we have begun our water science unit with a few cool experiments testing surface tension, and plenty more to come. I am very excited about our new reading series with many topics to research and to write about in our writing journals. We also have a fabulous link on the Buena Vista web site. Mr. Moser has done a great job getting us linked up and educated on using the web. When you have chance, please check it out. I will have the parent page up soon. It's easy to reach me simply email me at rickscl@d11.org or 328.4141. See you soon! Come and check out what we've been looking at!! www.D11.org/buenavista

If we had a film that would characterize our year, it would be "The Fast and the Furious." No, we aren't street racing, but **Ms. Garsoe's 5th** graders are really moving fast. What a wonderful class. They are funny, smart, great high level thinkers, good writers, terrific mathematicians, and to be around them is heaven. They fill my ARFF every day.

Ecosystems is the Science theme, and we are building our own ecosystems complete with snails and duckweed and little fish and grasshoppers. Last year I killed the grasshoppers, so wish me luck this year.

The poetry books are coming into shape, and your students read their poems beautifully. Timed math tests, geography, and measurement (using our rulers really carefully!) take our time as well. Finally, what great singing voices they have. We have learned one song already and will have many more in our repertoire.

Percentages for attendance are strong (99% for August,) planners are being signed (the student's responsibility to show it to you,) and homework completion is 98%. Well done.