



March 2016

The Pleasant Valley Post

Pleasant Valley PTA 3.6.30 * Monthly Newsletter
Serving the Pleasant Valley Community
Battle Ground School District
PTA Presidents: Rachel Selders & Betsy Fahndrich
Editor: Rebecca DeMoss

www.pleasantvalleypta.com

PTA General Membership Meeting

General Membership PTA Meeting
on May 17 at 6:30 PM
in the Small Gym.

Everyone is welcome, childcare is provided.

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Upcoming Events

MARCH

23 - Early Release ,
PM Kindergarten,
Parent/Teacher Conf

24 - Early Release ,
PM Kindergarten,
Parent/Teacher Conf

25 - Pride Ticket
Redemption/Ice Cream
Party

3/28 PVM Spirit Week
- 4/1

3/31 - Jump Rope for Heart

APRIL

4-8 - No School - Spring Break

20 - Early Release ,

Dear Pleasant Valley Families,

Happy Spring!

We just finished up our largest fundraiser of the year, our annual auction! We're still calculating final totals but this year was one of the best! Thank you to everyone who donated time, resources and items to make this event successful once again!



Many of you may not be aware, but the playground at the primary school will be pulled out during spring break due to safety issues. Thanks to all our amazing parents, teachers, staff and community members, we were able to raise money towards a new playground on auction night! We're going to be sending a flyer home soon with details and ways you can help raise more funds so PTA can help get the structure replaced as soon as possible.

BINGO night was postponed, but will be back on the calendar soon and Movie Night has been scheduled for April 15th. These are both super fun family events, so be watching for more details.

We are looking for someone to chair Stuff-the-Bus, an event we do every year to raise food & resources for SHARE House. This is a great event that the kids get in to and allows us to give back to the community. If you're interested in more information please feel free to contact us!

We are currently looking for volunteers for the board of directors for next year. There are a variety of positions available with varying levels of time commitments, and this is a great way to become more involved. Please don't hesitate to contact us with questions; new faces and ideas are welcome.

As always we encourage questions, comments or suggestions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Rachel Selders and Betsy Fahndrich

PV PTA Co-Presidents



Academics
Activity
Advocacy

PV PTA Executive Committee

Rachel Selders and
Betsy Fahndrich
PV PTA Co-Presidents

Heidi Palena and
Lori Norton
PV PTA Co-Vice
Presidents

Aimee Walter and
Rebekah Conklin
VP - Communications

Melinda Darley and
Leisa Houlahan
Co-Treasurer

Tina Yorke
Secretary

Shylah Graham
Legislative Chair

COMING SOON!



A NEW PVP PLAYSTRUCTURE

Thank you to everyone who donated at the Auction to the play structure for the PVP playground. We are still accepting donations! If you would like to donate, please make your check out to PVPTA and write

MAY

- 11 - Early Release ,
PM Kindergarten
- 17 - PTA General
Membership Meeting
- 30 - No School
Memorial Day

PTA Volunteer Awards

PTA IS TAKING NOMINATIONS FOR OUR VOLUNTEER AWARDS!

Please take a moment and submit a nomination today.

Golden Acorn ~ a volunteer who has provided exemplary volunteer service to youth in our school community

Honorary Life Membership ~ a volunteer who has provided exemplary volunteer service to youth and the Pleasant Valley Community; spanning several years and primarily focused on this organization.

Outstanding Advocate ~ honors an advocate for continued and dedicated service to all children and a demonstrated commitment to helping create strong policies related to health, welfare, safety and education of children and youth

Outstanding Student Advocate ~ a STUDENT advocate who has made significant contributions through leadership and service in their school and community. (this award is always misunderstood)

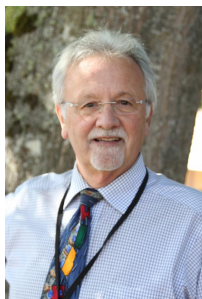
Outstanding Educator ~ honors an educator who demonstrates continual exceptional service to our school community; a teacher, an assistant, bus driver, administrator or community leader

Recommendation forms can be found in each school office after spring break (4/11).

The deadline to submit nominations to the green PTA box is April 29th.

Awards will be given out during the last General Membership PTA meeting on May 17.

Pleasant Valley Primary A note from Principal Ron Hutchinson



It is hard to believe that we are only 3 months from the end of the school year. One of the many important tasks we will be doing at PVP is 'student placement' for next year. This is a decision that we do not make lightly or do without considerable thought. The creation of a classroom community is one, among many, of the vital decisions we make in determining a student's educational pathway at Pleasant Valley Primary. As a staff, we take a wholistic approach as we determine a classroom's student composition that is balanced; for example: number of boys, girls, an individual's current level of academic performance, ELL level of English acquisition, sociability, relationships, emotional maturity, special needs, and learning styles. The school staff is very knowledgeable, thoughtful, comprehensive, and student-centered, as we develop each classroom's composition of students. If you have any special considerations, thoughts, and/or information that you believe would be helpful to us, as we determine your child's placement for next year, please pick up a "Classroom Placement Input Form" at the front office. The forms will be available April 11th and must be turned back to the office by 4:00 p.m. Friday, May 6th. If you would like to talk with either Diane Castle or myself, about any specifics that you rather not share on the form or have questions, please call and make an appointment (885-5550), prior to May 6th.

NOTE: A change from previous year's process of notifying you of your child's teacher by being posted on the school's windows in the fall; your child's classroom teacher will be indicated on his/her final report card in June. Please know that each year there is always some staff changes that take place.

Ron Hutchinson
Pleasant Valley Primary Principal

Pleasant Valley Middle School A note from Principal Tamarah Grigg

Dear Pleasant Valley School Community, March Madness is here!

Basketball fans like me love the month of March! The term March Madness was used to describe the excitement surrounding the Illinois state high school basketball tournaments, and first appeared in print almost sixty years ago. It was coined by Henry V. Porter, who started his career as a teacher and coach at Athens High School in Central Illinois in 1924. The term also describes Pleasant Valley during the month of March as we work hard to help students reach high levels of learning.

Progress reports were posted via Skyward on March 11th and the staff will continue to collaborate around the learning of each and every student. All of this leads up to Spring Break and, hopefully, some great weather. Great weather means planning trips, weekend get-a-ways or long vacations. How

far can you drive on an empty tank? Not very far. If your tank is full, you can drive for a long, long time. When you are out of gas, however, let's hope the AAA card is in your back pocket! As a mother, and a principal, I have learned the principle of "Filling the Emotional Tank." Imagine that each individual has an "Emotional Tank" which is similar to the gas



play structure on the memo line. Checks can be deposited in the green PTA boxes. The new structure is scheduled to be installed over the summer.

Spring Break Opportunities through BGCE

YMCA - Y Chef Goes Scientific:

Hands on science experiments with common kitchen items. Projects may include making quicksand, a homemade lava lamp and an orange peel lamp.

The hypothesis is: fun will be had by all. April 4 - 8, 8:30 am - 2:30 pm, Lewisville Campus C21, Ages 7-12, \$186. April 4 - 8, 9 am - 12 pm, Lewisville Campus C21, Ages 4 - 6, \$119

Storybook Cooking Camp:

Once upon a time there were children who loved to hear stories, cook up fun foods and draw amazing pictures!

Together they went to a class over Spring Break to do such things! Older children are allowed to mentor along with the younger ones. April 4 - 8, 10:30 am - 12 pm, Lewisville Campus Media Center, Ages 4 - 10, \$65

QuickStart Sports Basketball Camp:

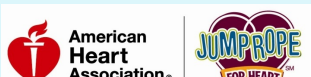
Focus will be on developing each players shooting skills, dribbling skills, passing skills, defense and much more.

As with every QuickStart Sports camp, they incorporate their core values system throughout the camp. April 4 & 5, 9 am - 12 pm, Lewisville Gym, Grades K-5, \$55

Rugby Oregon Day Camp:

Try the fun, fast and inclusive team sport. Rugby is about all players having the same opportunity to run with

JUMP ROPE FOR HEART



Mark your calendars for
this years event -
Thursday, March 31st!!

Donation forms came
home last week and kids
have been earning their
lanyards and super dogs
like crazy! Use the
provided form to sign up
and either bring a heart
healthy snack or volunteer
at the event

WORKING SMART PHONES NEEDED!!!



If you have one (or more!)
older, working smart
phones laying around,
please consider donating
them to PV PTA. They are
needed to be used in the
classrooms with 3D
viewers that were recently
purchased by the PTA.

Contact Betsy Fahndrich
with any questions.

Check out the National PTA's
Our Children Magazine at
PTAOurChildren.org
for great articles and content.

Battle Ground School District
has announced key dates for
the 2016-17 school year. You
can find the list of dates on the
district website at
[www.battlegroundps.org/about-
us/school-calendars](http://www.battlegroundps.org/about-us/school-calendars).

Individual has an Emotional Tank which is similar to the gas tank in a car. If the tank is empty, one won't get far. If the tank is full, an individual can go the distance. This is an important principle to recognize when you're teaching or parenting. On the physical level, if a child hasn't had enough sleep or eaten healthily throughout the day, they won't perform at their best. On an emotional level, if a child has lost a pet, forgotten their homework, been sick, has no positive adult connection, or is being disciplined for something, their tank isn't full, and is often a challenge for them to feel motivated or positive during those moments. It's crucial to notice when "Emotional Tanks" are low. Kids will tend to be pessimistic, sad, and give up more easily. On the other hand, when children's tanks are full, they tend to be optimistic, deal better with adversity, and are more able to hear what you have to say and do what you ask without assistance. There are several key tools to remember when filling emotional tanks. Praise that is truthful and specific is essential. Simply stating "that was a good job" isn't specific enough for a child, and in some instances can be perceived as insincere feedback. "Thank you for being so kind to your classmate when you helped him pick up his papers" or "I noticed that you made use of the clarifying reading strategy while reading that paragraph" is much more specific and digestible for a child than simply "Good job." Research shows the characteristic of grit is a key to success in life. Grit is having passion and perseverance over a long period of time. We want our students to develop this important characteristic as it leads to developing a growth mindset, a belief that they can acquire any given ability provided they invest effort or study. "I am so proud of your effort and how you did not give up when things became difficult" is a great way to praise grit and make it a "Tank Filler." Catch a child doing something right and acknowledging them for it is another way. Adults too often emphasize what's not going well. We might criticize, correct, ignore, or make non-verbal gestures, such as a frown, and these behaviors drain tanks. Finally, if adults simply listen and use non-verbal cues, like nodding, clapping or smiling, children's tanks will fill. Research from two different sources indicate that there is an ideal ratio of positive to negatives for filling anyone's emotional tank. Whatever fills the tank is a plus, and whatever empties the tank is a negative. Research suggests that 5:1 is the ideal ratio of positive to negative comments in any relationship. Achieving a 5:1 ratio is not easy, especially since parents and teachers need to teach and correct kids if we want them to improve. This is not to say that feedback is not essential and that "sugar coating" or being direct is inappropriate. It does suggest, however, that adults be mindful of how they communicate feedback. Giving feedback is tricky business.

Here are some techniques:

1. Avoid non-teachable moments- Identify the appropriate lesson at the appropriate time. For example, the ride home after a student has been rejected by a peer or has just

received feedback on work that is disappointing, may not be the time to lecture on friendship or procrastination.

2. In Private - People can hear criticism in private better than in front of a crowd.

3. Ask Permission - By asking a child if he or she is open to a suggestion, it changes the dynamics and makes the criticism less of a minus. If the child says, "No", honor that and come back to it later. It's likely they'll be curious not to wait.

4. If / Then statements- Sometimes it's more palatable to

the ball, pass the ball and play defense. Open to all experience levels. There will be no tackling. April 8, 9:30 am - 2:30 pm, Lewisville & Chief Umtuch Fields, Ages 8 - 14, \$35

Junior Golf Camp at The Cedars on Salmon

Creek: Purpose of the Junior Golf Camp is to introduce young people to the game of golf in a fun and interactive atmosphere. Campers will learn how the game is played, some history of the sport, along with fun activities that will teach the fundamentals of golf. April 4 - 7, 10 - 11am, Cedars on Salmon Creek Golf Course, Ages 8 - 13, \$100

Adult Classes:

Did you know?
Community Education has opportunities for all ages! Offerings include, art, music, dance, fitness, safety, online courses, and more!

Classes must have a minimum number of students enrolled in order to run, please register ahead of time.

Contact Battle Ground Community Education for more information at (360) 885-6484 or visit us online at bgce.battlegroundps.org where you can register and schedules.

Quick Links

[Washington State PTA](#)

[Battle Ground Community Education](#)

4. If / then statements - Sometimes it's more palatable to receive feedback when it's framed with an "If" and a "Then": If you hold your pencil at an angle, then your cursive line will flow more easily, "as opposed to "Do it this way, or "You're doing it wrong."

So, remember to stop and assess the "Tank Empty" gauge when teaching and parenting-it's not only a way to give important feedback, but also a skill to strengthen relationships. Yes, it's hard work to be diligent about "Tank Filling," yet the effort pays true dividends for kids and their self-esteem as well as their willingness to go the distance with you or your task. Don't all kids deserve this?

Sincerely,
Tamarah Grigg
Principal Pleasant Valley Middle School

Thank You to all the wonderful volunteers who made our Auction a success!

Jason & Melinda Darley, Mark & Aimee Walter, Betsy & Joel Fahndrich, Shylah Graham, Dana Phillips, Leisa & Chris Houlahan, Ceri Howell, Rebekah Conklin, Lori Norton, Patrick & Amber Gagnon, Rob & Heidi Palena, Christopher Lewis, Rachel & Matt Selders, Amy Pace, Tina Yorke, Rebecca Demoss, Rob Wassom, Barb Holterman, Jolene McCombs, Marci Bohac, Cindy Moore, Jennifer Merit, Yvonne Trainor, Curtis Michael & Family, the generous teachers and staff who offered services to the auction, Evan Irwin and the amazing Pleasant Valley Jazz Band to all the students and families who donated money and items to classroom baskets.

We couldn't do this without you!

CONGRATULATIONS to the Pleasant Valley Unicycle Club





who are featured in the Reflector this week.

http://m.therelector.com/mobile/news/article_66e60a98-eb06-11e5-bbaf-1b26b9543273.html

Please send March Newsletter submissions to Rebecca DeMoss
no later than February 10, 2016.

Pleasant Valley PTA | <http://www.pleasantvalleypta.com>
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Vancouver, WA 98686

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