

Osprey News



Playa Vista Elementary, 13150 West Bluff Creek Drive, Playa Vista, CA 90094

December 5, 2014

Dear Families of Playa Vista Elementary,

I spent this past Thursday and Friday at the National Science Teacher Association Convention in Long Beach. What a treat! There were presentations about the Next Generation Science Standards, instructional tips for science journaling, how to use sketching observations as a bridge to scientific writing, the importance of teaching the skill of argumentation, and so much more. I heard presentations from National Geographic, the writers of the Environmental Education Initiative curriculum, the California Science Center, and teachers from across the country. While I learned much the experience reminded me of how our mission to bring STEM education to all of our students, beginning in transitional kindergarten, is truly cutting edge!



This coming week we celebrate Computer Science Education Week with the Hour of Code.

Ms. Shany will be doing special activities with our students during their computer lab time and some classes have special activities planned. I've included a letter from Danny Pezzotta, co-owner and the academic director of Planet Bravo, that contains more information about the week and some tips for activities you can do at home.

And speaking of technology I'd like to say a special thank you to Brian Galli. Brian has volunteered many hours of his time and donated time of one of his employees, Edward Rodriguez, to get our Ipad carts running properly. Brian's company is called Xperts Unlimited and they truly know their way around Apple computers! Thank you Brian and Edward, your support is very much appreciated.

Speaking of fixing things our fifth grade students are hard at work designing a clean water system for our chicken coop. Engineers solve problems and we have a problem keeping the water clean for our chickens. When they scratch the ground the birds put either dirt or straw into their water.

The project started with fifth graders working in teams to create solutions. They presented their designs to me and they were given feedback and asked some clarifying questions. Next the students took what they learned to combine and improve their water system proposals. The final two designs were presented this past

week. Again I gave feedback, asked questions, and again the students are back at work hoping to have a working solution soon. This is engineering in action and an impressive example of our STEM curriculum!

December is a busy month! Friday, December 19th, is the date for the annual Holiday Program. Our learning community has grown large enough now that, in order to accommodate all of our families, we will have two performances, one at 9:00a.m. and one at 1:00a.m. Both programs will include every class and be exactly the same. Each performance can accommodate 300 people. Please sign up for the concert that fits your schedule best using the link provided here and I hope you enjoy the show! <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0444a4ad2da31-playa1>

The Holiday Basket Auction, our December fundraiser, is now online. The baskets will be on display and available for bidding during the Friday Osprey Cafes and the two holiday programs. Bidding will close after the 1:00p.m. holiday program on Friday, Dec 19th. Here's a link to the auction where you can see the baskets and place your bids. <http://www.32auctions.com/holidaybasket2014>

Our first rainy days went well. More rain is predicated for the end of this next week. Remember to give yourself plenty of time to get to school and to take care when dropping your child off in the morning. It's best to have extra time in the morning and keep your child safe. Thanks for your cooperation.

Enjoy your weekend!

With kind regards,

Rebecca Johnson

Principal



CALENDAR

**December
8th - 12th**

Hour of Code Week

Holiday Basket Auction

<http://www.32auctions.com/holidaybasket2014>

December 19th
Holiday Program
9:00a.m and 1:00p.m.

THIS WEEK'S FLYERS

Hour of Code letter
From Danny Pezzotta

SSC Committees

Pitfire Pizza Fundraiser

Santa Clause is
Coming to Town



PlanetBravo
1545 Sawtelle Blvd. Ste. 31
Los Angeles, CA 90025
danny@planetbravo.com

12/1/2014

Dear Parents,

As many of you know, Computer Science Education Week is coming December 8th-14th. This annual event has become a school favorite over the past two years thanks to the efforts of code.org, and the many celebrities who have endorsed it. PlanetBravo could not be more enthusiastic or supportive of learning how to program/code your own applications, websites, and machinery.

Once again, code.org has heavily promoted the event called "an Hour of Code" that takes place during this special week, and we wanted to fill you in how your children will be participating at school. First of all, the Hour of Code was created for schools that do not have computer teachers or computer science (programming) classes already in place. The purpose is to introduce coding to everyone!

The good news is - most of our grade levels at school *already* have programming built into their weekly technology classes with PlanetBravo. From second grade onward, we use several tools including **Scratch**, **GameSalad**, **Multimedia Fusion**, **HTML/CSS**, and the **Python** programming language to teach students how computer applications are made. This is already happening here!

Furthermore, during the week of December 8th, we will pause wherever we are in our classes to formally address what Computer Science is, and participate in various "Hour of Code" activities such as those found at www.code.org/learn. This will happen in Grades K-8 at our various schools.

At home, you can also support this direction by accessing tools such as Scratch, Tynker, CodeHS, Lightbot, KhanAcademy, Codecademy, Kodable (app), and Hopscotch (app), to name a few. Together, we can get closer to achieving the vision of American children understanding the language of computers. From there, any invention or technology innovation is just a creative thought away.

To learn more about this engaging movement, please visit www.code.org.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Danny Pezzotta".

Danny Pezzotta
Co-Owner, Academic Director
PlanetBravo
www.planetbravo.com

Dear Playa Vista Families,

The Playa Vista School Site Counsel is looking for amazing and dynamic parent and community leaders to join our exciting new committees. We have two new committees that will begin meeting this winter to work towards bettering our already amazing school.

Each Committee will be mad up of LMU, School Staff, and Parent community members. If you are interested in joining the team please please email Mrs. Albertson at salbertson@pves.net.

Thank you,

The School Site Counsel

Parent Engagement Committee

This committee will be working with School Staff, LMU, and the parent community to:

1. Communicate Budgets and School Needs
2. Plan and organize school tours
3. Work with room parents to increase parent involvement
4. Plan Parent Workshops
5. Plan Family STEM Night

We are currently looking for One Parent and one LMU Staff member to be chairpersons for this committee and committee members at large. Requirements for Parent Chairperson role:

1. Booster Board Member and or Room Parent liaison
2. Ability to meet once a month with committee members

Curriculum Vision Committee

This Committee will meet once a month with School Site Staff Members, LMU and Parent Community members to:

1. Bring new programs to school attention
2. Look for resources to enhance curriculum
3. Look for community resources to enhance curriculum
4. Look for resources to enhance STEM Curriculum
5. Look for resources to enhance technology instruction

We are currently looking for One Parent and one LMU Staff member to be chairpersons for this committee and committee members at large.

Technology Committee

This Committee will meet once a month with School Site Staff Members, LMU and Parent Community members to:

1. Look for resources to enhance technology curriculum
2. Look for resources to help with IT
3. Build a plan to encourage and streamline technology use in the classroom

We are currently looking for One Parent to be a chairperson for this committee and committee members at large.

Budget Committee

This Committee will meet once a month with School Site Staff Members, LMU and Parent Community members to:

1. Brainstorm ways to engage school community on budget needs
2. Survey school community on budget priorities
3. Recommend to SSC budget priorities

We are currently looking for One Parent to be a chairperson for this committee and committee members at large.

PLAYA VISTA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FUNDRAISER

at



on

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8th from 5pm – 9pm

***10% of all checks' subtotals (excluding tax and gratuity) will be donated
back to the school.**

PITFIRE ARTISAN PIZZA: 12924 W. Washington Blvd., Culver City, CA 90066 PH: 424-835-4088

Santa Claus is Comin' to Town!



Wednesday,
December 17th 2014
5:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Santa and all the elves will be making a special visit to Westchester and Playa del Rey with the help of the Los Angeles Fire Department and the LAPD Sleigh.

Santa will make his way through the streets of residential Westchester and Playa del Rey waving to children, handing out candy canes and posing for photographs.

Listen for the music and look for the Santa stop signs!

Keep looking out your window 'cause Santa Claus is comin' to town!

In case of rain, Santa will be at Fire Station No.5, 8900 Emerson Avenue, Westchester between 5:00 and 7:00 p.m. to share some holiday cheer.

Santa's Route: (approximate times)

PLAYA DEL REY

5:15 p.m. Earldom & Redlands

WEST BLUFFS

5:45 p.m. Shore Cliff Drive Cul-de-sac

KENTWOOD

6:15 p.m. 83rd & Westlawn

NIELSON FIELD AREA

6:45 p.m. 8800 block of DeHaviland Avenue

WESTPORT HEIGHTS

7:15 p.m. Abernathy Drive at Piper Avenue

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For more information, please call 310.306.8525

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10% of sales generated by Playa Vista Elementary will be rebated for Playa Vista Elementary.
All year long, Just tell us you're from Playa Vista Rey Elementary.