



May 28, 2016

Dear PVES Family,

What a **week of celebration and performance!** Our students showcased their musical and dramatic talents as well as their creativity and academic abilities. The list of people to thank includes and is not limited to: Krstina Sebez working with our TK and kindergarteners, a great group of parents and teachers organized by Susanna Esquivias, Mrs. Camberos and Mrs. Shahabi who brought us the outstanding Latino/Hispanic heritage celebration, Mr. Weisbart who worked with and organized the 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> grade Tinker, Make, Innovate display, Diane Harris and her crew for the spectacular play performances, and Mrs. Patillo for the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade recorder concert.

Thank you to everyone who supported our PVES students in their endeavors!

The **second grade Chat** With the Principal also took place this past Thursday. One of the subjects that came up was the OLAST, the test taken by every second grade student to determine if they qualify as gifted. Mr. Little is our gifted coordinator and below is information he has provided to help answer some of the questions that were asked. **Here are the ways a child may qualify for GATE.**

Students must score 95 or better to qualify as gifted using their OLSAT scores. The district strives to identify as gifted the top 5% with this measurement tool. However, many children achieve a score that shows great academic promise and high achievement. Thanks to this assessment, we have more evidence and data verifying their abilities. With this you should know that the GATE program for the LAUSD is a leader in that it offers many pathways for referral and identification.

The first and only screening done for all students without any referral coming from teacher is the OLSAT for all second graders. It is unique in that all 2nd graders are given this chance. Students who score at 95% automatically qualify for GATE as high achievement category. OLSAT is administered once.

In all other grades, if a student is showing ability to work two years above grade level in reading and math, that child can be referred by a teacher or parent, for screening and possible testing. If the screening committee agrees the child's achievement and abilities merit referral for testing then the child may be tested for Intellectual by a district psychologist. Once a student has been tested that is the only time, as a student may only be tested once for intellectual ability.

If a child receives 4s in math and reading for 2 straight years a child can qualify as well. Other areas opportunities for identification are: Visual Arts, Performing Arts in voice, dance, or drama.

I hope you found this information helpful. The **First Grade Chat is on Thursday.** Please bring your questions and positive suggestions. We'll meet at 8:20 in the library. I'm looking forward to our conversation.

Denise Ishimaru, a parent here at PVES, brought a proposal to the PVEAB to help **reduce traffic during morning drop-off.** Denise has asked that the PV shuttle begin its rounds at 7:00a.m. instead of 8:00a.m. In this way students could ride the shuttle to school reducing the need for parents to drop them off. There are details to be worked out, but Playa Vista has agreed to begin the route at 7:00a.m. starting this next school year! Thank you Denise for your suggestion, bringing it PVEAB and to the PV Board.

### **Here is an announcement from the Friends of Playa Vista School.**

*Friends of Playa Vista School received nominations from 9 people who want to serve on the 2016-2017 FPVS Board. As previously announced, there were 9 Board seats up for election, and the election was scheduled to be held at the Annual meeting on Wednesday June 1. Because we received the same number of nominations as available positions, no election will be necessary on June 1, and all of those who submitted nominations will become Directors on the 2016-2017 Board. Below*

are the bios that the new Board members submitted so you can learn more about them.

### Steven Sills

*I am a proud PVES parent. I believe in public education. I believe a diverse student and parent body will best prepare our children for the future. I believe that teachers need to be empowered and supported to succeed. And I believe in Playa Vista Elementary. The founding parents and board members worked tirelessly and I want to express my gratitude to them by joining the board to continue and expand their work. I am a media producer and I intend to bring that skill set to communicating more visually within our community and in better portraying us to the general public, LAUSD and the school board. We are on the brink of overcoming our biggest obstacle – expanding to middle school and beyond – and we need the strongest parent community ever next year. Speaking in “Silicon Beach” lingo: we were a start-up and now we need to become a sustainable enterprise that can scale up.*

### Mellisa Sills

*Six years ago, I was privileged enough to join the founding board of Friends when PVES was still a dream and our fundraisers were bake sales at PV’s movie night. Witnessing how far the school has come on this, my son’s first year at PVES, I remain inspired by the strong parents who continue to share their time and money for all of our children. My experience this year as a room mother has been fulfilling and now I wish to make a deeper commitment to PVES as a board member. During my 20+ year career, I have worked as child English-language teacher, a professional actress and a touring musician. Through the process of adopting my sons and most recently in becoming a licensed foster parent, I discovered my second act’s passion and my proudest qualification for the board: being a parent. As a board member, I will continue Friend’s unwavering support for our faculty, our unique curriculum and Mrs. Johnson’s leadership. I love our school.*

### Rebecca Cunningham

*My family joined the PVES community as an LMU family almost 4 years ago. Now, as the parent of a 3rd grader and a TKer, I am as committed as ever to making this school the best it can possibly be. During the second year PVES was opened, I had the honor of representing LMU on the School Site Council and serving as the Council’s Chair. At the end of that year, I worked intimately with LAUSD staff members as we interviewed and selected our current principal, Rebecca Johnson. In fall of 2014, I left my employment as a fundraiser at LMU which also resulted in an immediate resignation of my LMU seat on the SSC. Shortly thereafter, I was appointed to the board of the Friends of Playa Vista School to fill an unexpected vacancy. A year and a half later, I hope to continue to serve on the Friends board, however moving forward I hope to focus my time, energy and expertise to advancing our Annual Giving efforts.*

### Vicky Rouston

*I have been involved in many school activities and events in the roles of room parent, events chair and currently the co-president of the FPVS. I would like to continue to support the fundraising efforts and ensure that PVES continues to flourish as a STEM demonstration school. With 2 children currently enrolled, a rising 1st grader and a rising 4th grader, I plan to work hard next year to support the experiences, education and enrichment for all PVES students.*

### Lisa Weinbaum

*Since the beginning, I have been an active board member of Friends of Playa Vista School. I was one of the Founding Families who helped raise funds for the school before there even was a school! I served as Secretary for 2 years, Board Member at Large for 2 years, and just recently stepped into the position of Interim Co-Vice President. Along with these Board positions, I also*



## CALENDAR

**Monday, May 30th**  
**Memorial Day**  
**No School**

**Wednesday, June 1st**  
FPVS Annual Meeting  
8:30 PVES Library

**Thursday, June 2nd**  
1st Grade  
Chat With the Principal  
8:20 PVES Library

**Friday, June 3rd**  
2nd Grade Music and  
4th/5th Grade Chorus  
Performances  
8:30 MPR  
Parents Welcome!

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Thursday, June 9th**  
Kindergarten Promotion  
8:30 MPR

### 12:45 Dismissal Time

**Friday, June 10th**  
5th Grade Promotion  
8:30 MPR

**Last Day of School!**  
**12:45 Dismissal Time**

**August 16th**  
**First Day of School!**

*have experience as Room Parent Chair for four years and I have chaired our Silent Auction six times!! I believe in the mission of FPVS and, if elected, will continue to raise funds to support the academic achievement and enrichment of ALL students at Playa Vista Elementary School.*

**Barsam Kasravi**

*Having spent the past year focused on corporate sponsorship and recently elected to the Playa Vista Advisory Board, I hope to continue my service on the board to ensure funding for all the great programs we have at PVES. As a physician executive on various boards and managing over 300 staff, I also have experience in business and organizations. I hope to be part of a team with all the parents to continue to improve our school.*

**Sunita Sinor**

*I am putting forth my nomination to the Friends of Playa Vista board. I have been an active member of the Playa Vista Elementary community since the school doors opened in August 2012 when my daughter started Kindergarten. I brought the Art in Action program to the school last year and continue to manage it, working with key parents and Kelly Keeler to integrate science topics into the art program for a fully integrated curriculum. I am currently a member of the Advisory Board as well as an EdD student at USC with deep interests in making public education better for all. I look forward to serving this community as a FPV board member to make our school the best it can be!*

**Jenn Goldberg**

*I have been a PVES parent since the school opened in 2012. I have a son, Adrian, in 5th grade, and another son, Cameron, in 1st grade. I have served as the General Counsel for the Friends of PVS Board since 2013. In addition to my Board responsibilities, I have been the Chair of the "Playa Vista's Got Talent" annual Talent Show for the past two years, and I have been a room parent each of the past 3 years and been a volunteer for numerous other school activities and events. In my professional life I am Senior Counsel for Kaiser Foundation Health Plan., specializing in labor and employment law, litigation and investigations and compliance matters. It has been a great privilege to work with the amazing parents and members of the PVES community, and I would like to continue to contribute to that work through another term on the FPVS Board.*

**Jenny Fan**

*I have been a founding member of Friends of Playa Vista School since it's inception back in 2011. I have served as Treasurer on the board for the past 5+ years. I am also the Program Director at UCLA Center for Prehospital Care with over 18 years of experience in EMS education and business management. I look forward to continuing my volunteer service to this school and all the students for the upcoming year. I am extremely proud to be a part of this amazing community and it has been a privilege to serve on the board.*

The FPVS annual meeting is this Wednesday. As a parent at PVES you are automatically a member of the FPVS. All are welcome. We meet in the library at 8:20.

Enjoy the rest of your weekend and your Monday off!

With the warmest of regards,

Mrs. Johnson

Principal

Hello Playa Vista Elementary Families,

Can you believe that there are only 2 weeks of school left before summer break? Time sure does fly when you are having fun. I have many pictures to share of all the recent fun our students have been having within our STEM units! Is it possible that they have had SO MUCH fun at school that they came home and told you all about it too (wishful thinking?)

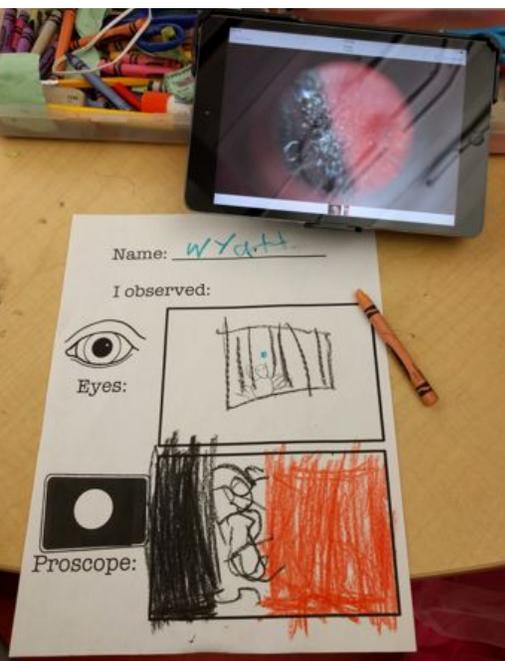
Take a peak at what we have been up to recently:

**TK:** Our TKers just finished up STEM rotations on the 3Rs and how we can use the 3Rs to take care of our Earth. They rotated from one station where they reused corks to create original art, to another station where, on the computer, they sorted trash from recycling, to another station where they went outside and made observations on how much air pollution was caught on their debris catchers, to a final station where they sorted recycling into piles and counted how many items were in each pile. Overall, these small group STEM rotations were a great learning experience for the TK students.



**Kinder:** Our Kinder students are busy wrapping up the school year and getting ready for culmination. There is a lot to do before they become BIG 1<sup>st</sup> graders! I did sneak into one Kinder class to do a lesson using technology that were generously donated to PVES' STEM curriculum. This new tool is called a Proscope. It attaches to the back of an iPad/iPhone

where the camera is located. You can use it to look at things even more closely than the naked eye can see, all while snapping pictures and videos. To say the students had fun with this new tool is an understatement, for sure!



**1<sup>st</sup> Grade:** Our first graders were very lucky to a guest speaker come in and tell them everything he knows about light. Thank you so much, Mr. Chris Greulach, for donating your time and expertise. The students truly benefitted from hearing about how you use the behaviors of light in your career! Some of the first graders have also had an opportunity to explore more with the behavior of light while trying to tackle a maze game using lasers.



**2<sup>nd</sup> Grade:** Our second graders are finishing up their designs for their hand pollinators. They were given a certain flower type, had to locate where the pollen is stored in that flower type and



then had to engineer a hand pollinator that would not only pick up pollen from the flower, but also carry the pollen and drop it off at another flower. What a great way to learn how plants and animals interact to keep a habitat thriving!



**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade:** Our third graders wrapped up their weather and climate unit with a field trip to UCLA to the atmospheric science department. They got to speak with an expert in the field AND see how he uses tools to help measure our daily weather. What an amazing experience! Now, the third graders are culminating the school year with a team-building project. They are collaborating in groups to create a “marble run” rollercoaster that is made out of paper. Working together will be the key to a successful rollercoaster!



**4<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Our 4<sup>th</sup> graders have been busy these past few weeks! In partnership with LMU's Seaver College of Science and some of the Microbiology faculty and staff, our 4<sup>th</sup> graders were given the opportunity to grow bacteria, from a location of their choosing on PVES campus, on an agar plate in the LMU lab. We related this back to our studies on energy with a discussion of the abundance of bacteria on earth and how scientists are researching ways to convert bacteria into a form of energy we can use. Our 4<sup>th</sup> graders also explored with the laser mazes as a means to understand how energy is converted from one form to another, in addition to, making discoveries about the behavior of light and how that relates to how we see.



Bacteria Growth: Boy's Bathroom (left) versus Girl's Bathroom (right)

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Our fifth graders have also been busy getting ready for their culmination! It is hard to believe that they are really ALMOST in middle school. They got the opportunity to visit The Aerospace Corporation. Thank you so much to one of our PVES parents, Mike Forney, for setting this up for them. They enjoyed being about to sit at Mission Control and participate in the steps it would take to launch a rocket into space. What a neat experience for our students!



As you can see, our students participated in so many amazing STEM experiences in the past few weeks. As we wind down the year, I want to wish each and every one of you a wonderful summer break with your families. We could not be the STEM school that we are without your support and the efforts of our motivated teachers! If you have any questions about anything curriculum-related, feel free to email me at [kelly.keeler@lmu.edu](mailto:kelly.keeler@lmu.edu).

Have a wonderful rest of the school year!

Kelly Keeler

**I AM APPRECIATED!**

The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society  
**extends a special thank you to**

**PLAYA VISTA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

**for participating in Pennies for Patients**

**Martha Mendoza, Campaign Director**

**May 5, 2016**

for The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society

Date

\$1,160.<sup>00</sup>

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