

OUR MISSION IS HIGH ACHIEVEMENT FOR THE WHOLE CHILD THROUGH STEM

## September is Annual Giving Month

### Monday, Sept. 17th

Volunteer Orientation  
8:20 PVES Library

### Tuesday, Sept. 18th

### Wednesday, Sept. 19th

Yom Kippur  
No School

### Thursday, Sept. 20th

5th Grade Chat  
With the Principal  
8:20 PVES Library

### Friday, Sept. 21st

Environmental Defenders  
Assemblies

### Upcoming Events

➤ 9/24 - 9/28

Natural History Mobile  
Museum for 3rd - 5th grades

➤ 9/27 - 5th Grade Chat  
With the Principal 8:20

➤ 9/28 volunteer  
orientation 8:20

Dear Playa Vista Family,

The **Chats With the Principal** began last week. TK and Kindergarten parents gathered to ask questions about some of our programs, homework changes, the growth of PVES, and more. One of the parents asked what was my personal focus for the school year. Interesting question.

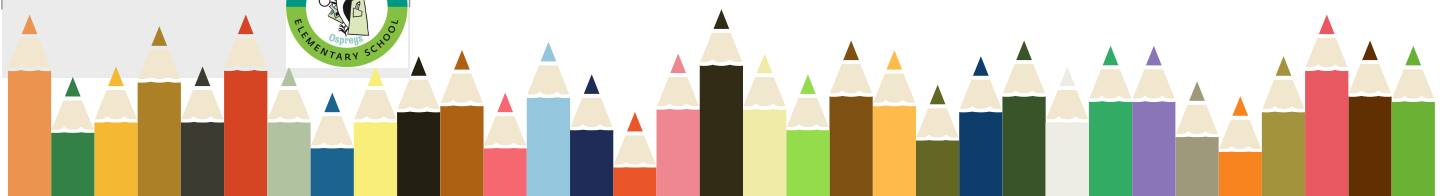
At Back to School Night I shared that there are two main areas that teachers are focusing on this year. One is assessment and the other is working on the vertical alignment between the grade levels. Remember that these are both elements in our vision that supports the accomplishment of our mission. While I shared this at the Chat, it does not really answer the question that was asked.

So, after pondering the question for the past several days here's my answer. **My personal focus for PVES** this year is the same as it's been from the beginning: to ensure, that as we grow, our standards stay high and to always be on the lookout for areas of improvement so that PVES stays as special as it has been from the beginning.

Having remarkable teachers who inspire our work every day and having a dedicated parent group that is so supportive, makes accomplishing these goals possible.

Another question that was asked referred to the **GATE program** at PVES. I've included the information about GATE and our cluster program. It follows this newsletter.

The **next Chat** is with the parents of our **5<sup>th</sup> grade** students. It's this **Thursday in the Library PD room at 8:20**. While the agenda is an open one, there are some things that are specific to 5<sup>th</sup> grade that will be discussed. We'll take a look at 5<sup>th</sup> grade events for the year, including the overnight camping trip, then open the meeting up for more interesting questions, concerns, and positive solutions.





Dearest Parents,

**Parking lot behaviors must improve before there is an accident.** Please read through the guidelines below and follow them. When you do this you are modeling the three main rules at PVES: **Be Safe, Be Kind, and Be Respectful!**

**When you wish to park your car:**

The courtesy you extend to the teachers and staff is very much appreciated when you park next to the Sports Park leaving the center parking lot available for school employees.

**School Parking Lot**

1. Do not create parking spaces where there are none.
2. Do not double park or block another care
3. *Do not park in the reserved parking spaces that have specific family names*

**Other Safety Guideline**

Please Instruct your children to remain in the monitored areas during pick-up. Students are not allowed to walk down to West Bluff Creek Drive to be picked up.

**Arrive early to ease traffic congestion!**

On Friday, your child will enjoy an assembly entitled *Environmental Defenders Rock the Planet – You Can Change the World!* The assembly leads students in grades K-5 to identify environmental problems and possible solutions children can do themselves to reduce pollution. The assembly uses music, call-and-response, and audience participation to effectively communicate environmental concepts including:

- The Four R’s (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Rethink)
- Stormwater Pollution Prevention
- Household Hazardous Waste
- Water Conservation

For more information about the assembly you can visit their website [EnvironmentalDefendersLA.com](http://EnvironmentalDefendersLA.com).

The **Natural History Mobile Museum** is coming to PVES September 24<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>. During the week, our 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students will visit the museum trailer and have lessons with a Natural History Museum educator. On the Tuesday of that week, September 25<sup>th</sup>, there will be an Open House from 1:38 to 2:38. Parents may visit the mobile museum during this time. Be sure to mark your calendars!

Enjoy the rest of the weekend!

With the warmest of regards,

Mrs. Johnson

Principal





## Playa Vista Elementary



### PVES' GATE PROGRAM OVERVIEW

We are excited to be recognized as having an exemplary GATE program. The three district requirements of an exemplary GATE program are to have specific learning opportunities and instruction the includes the following:

1. Implementation of depth, complexity, novelty, and acceleration.
2. Programs and services to support social-emotional needs of gifted/talented learners.
3. The use of instructional technology to develop 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills (communication, creativity, critical thinking, and collaboration).

At PVES, our GATE program is organized so that each upper grade classroom, 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup>, has a cluster of GATE students. The number is dependent on the total of GATE students in a particular grade level. This is the widely-used cluster and takes place in the classroom during the normal instructional day. It occurs alongside and involves all PVES students. Here at PVES we are so fortunate to have a curriculum developer who works alongside our teachers to create, plan, teach, and evaluate STEM lessons that incorporate the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills giving students the opportunity to meet and exceed the Next Generation Science Standards and grade level content standards. In essence, all students benefit from our curriculum design, a design that is considered best practices in gifted education. These lessons also allow for final products that often involve student choice of format and vary to accommodate for students' diverse learning styles and preferences.

Each teacher will know who their GATE identified students are and will plan accordingly. In addition to involving them in our STEM curriculum, teachers will find was to challenge each GATE student. They will deepen their knowledge and thinking about topics by creating unique activity prompts that address depth and complexity of subject matter and plan effective questions that allow students to use higher levels of thinking. When appropriate, students may be grouped in homogeneous or heterogeneous groups for specific instruction. Grouping is fluid and flexible throughout the year. A GATE coordinator supports the teachers' ongoing learning of instructional strategies that benefit gifted/talented students.

Technology is used by teachers to enhance instruction. It is strategically used to accelerate when appropriate or to allow GATE students to work at their current level. Teachers promote students' continued growth through the use of Front Row and Think CERCA for both differentiated reading of nonfiction texts, writing and leveled practice in all strands of math. Other sites used for differentiated instruction are SumDog, No Red Ink, News ELA, Accelerated Reader, Kahn Academy, TenMarks, Nearpod, and many others.

We look forward to supporting all of our GATE students and promoting their continued growth intellectually while engaging in our outstanding STEM curriculum and enrichment programs made possible by your generous support.



## Open House

Come see what's happening inside the  
Mobile Museum: An Archaeology Experience

The Archaeology Experience is a unique educational space that simulates an archaeological site in the Santa Monica Mountains. During the program students learn about Chumash peoples of the past and natural resources of Southern California. Designed for students in 3rd through 5th grade.



The Archaeology Experience is brought to you by the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County with funding by The Max H. Gluck Foundation.

### Important details:

- Staff, teachers and family are welcome!
- Maximum of five students per one adult at all times
- No food or drinks allowed on the Archaeology Experience

### Open House Date and Time:

Date: Tuesday, September 25<sup>th</sup>

Time: 1:38 - 2:38

The Archaeology Experience is parked on your school campus