



# OSPREY NEWS

OUR MISSION IS HIGH ACHIEVEMENT FOR THE WHOLE CHILD THROUGH STEM

## Monday, Sept. 16th

## Tuesday, Sept. 17th

LMU Osprey Pole  
Dedication 2nd - 5th grade  
Students 9:30 - 11:30

## Wednesday, Sept. 18th

## Thursday, Sept. 19th

5th grade parent meeting  
8:20 PVES Library

## Friday, Sept. 20th

### Upcoming Events

- ◆ 9/24 Volunteer Orientation
- ◆ 9/26 Pedestrian Safety Assembly for 1st - 3rd grades
- ◆ 9/30 No School Rosh Hashanah



Dear Playa Vista Family,

Good company, good food, and fun activities. The Friends of Playa Vista School put together a **great Back to School Picnic** that brought our school community together! Thank you to PVES and thanks to everyone who was able to come out for an afternoon of good times.

This **Tuesday, September 17<sup>th</sup>**, our second through fifth grade students will walk up to **LMU for the Osprey Pole Dedication ceremony**. The ceremony is set to begin at 10:00 and last about 45 minutes. Our students will have a special grassy area where they can sit and enjoy the festivities. Afterward they'll have an opportunity to look at the posters that have been put up with images and facts about ospreys. They'll begin the walk back to school around 11:00.

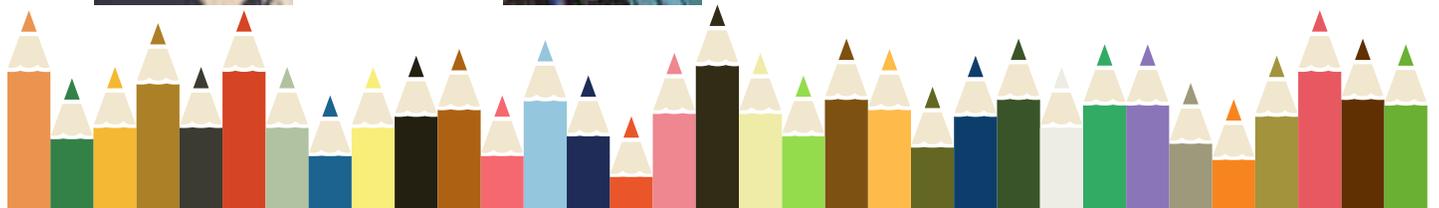
If you haven't done so already, be sure to **return the permission slip for the trip on Monday**. The slips were sent home last week. **Everyone should wear their school shirts on Tuesday** and parents are welcome to come along!

On **Thursday, September 19<sup>th</sup>**, there is a **meeting for 5<sup>th</sup> grade parents**. There are a several special events that occur during 5<sup>th</sup> grade and I want to make sure you have the dates in advance. The first big event is the weekend overnight trip to Point Fermin. We'll discuss this trip and much more. Please make every effort to attend.

We have a new flock of chickens! Many of you have already seen **our new flock** and I wanted to share the excitement with everyone. Our wonderful Henny Penny and Egghead went to live on a farm, honest!

Egghead was becoming too aggressive and it was difficult to enter the McMansion to add feed and water to their dishes.

So, we now have a flock of six hens made of two different breeds! Both breeds are known for being gentle and good egg layers. Here are some pictures of our new arrivals.





On the service yard



Up at tree!



Got you by the tail!



Safe at Alan's

And now for the story of the iguana who came to school! Monday afternoon I'm working in my office when Mr. Huff comes in and announces there is a nine-foot iguana on the service yard. As you can imagine I was a bit taken aback and not completely sure of the accuracy of this statement.

So, I made my way to the service yard and sure enough there is an iguana sitting calmly next to the table that holds supplies. While it isn't nine feet, it is around four feet and larger than I thought it would be. My brilliant plan was to lay a trash barrel on its side and then coax the iguana into the barrel. What soon became a group effort actually succeeded in, was chasing him up a tree and later over into the Sports Park!

With the fellow off campus I thought that was the end of the story. But no, on Wednesday morning, while I was discussing some matters with Kristina, Mr. Huff comes into the school office and asks me to step outside, quickly. Much to my surprise there is our iguana friend walking down the sidewalk next to the library!

This time I succeeded in getting him up the tree just outside the library door! With some coordinated effort with our P.E. coaches, Mrs. Albertson, and Dr. Mohazab, the iguana was caught by the tail and then placed into an LMU box! Now what to do?

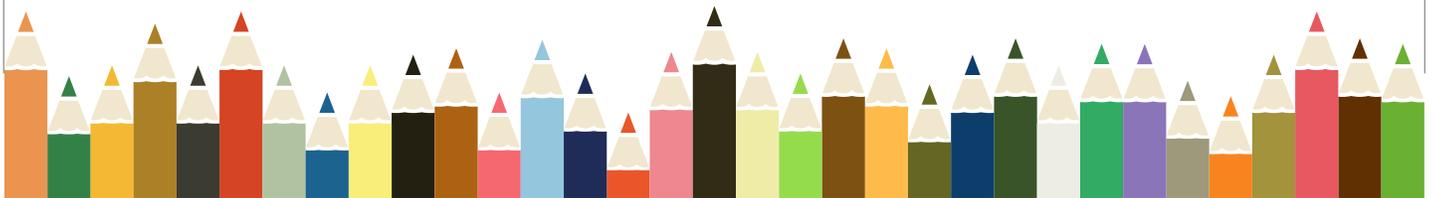
Animal control would not come out (we had called on Monday and were told they do not have the resources to deal with iguanas!). Eco Station informed us that they did not have the room for him either. So, I called Allen's Aquarium, a pet store I have frequented for decades. They said if I could bring him to the store, they would take him. Yea! I wouldn't be taking an iguana home after all!

Ashley helped me get him into the back of my car and off I went to deliver him hoping the whole way that he wouldn't escape from his box! We made it safely and now our iguana friend is in residence in his new home. If you'd like to visit him, Allen's is located on Pico Blvd. just east of Bundy.

PVES is most certainly an interesting place to be!

With the warmest of regards,

*Mrs. Johnson, Principal*





# QUALITY EDUCATION FOR PVES KIDS!

Share Together to Grow Together

CA & LAUSD can't fund everything anymore...



Parents want a stellar education for their kids!



## HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

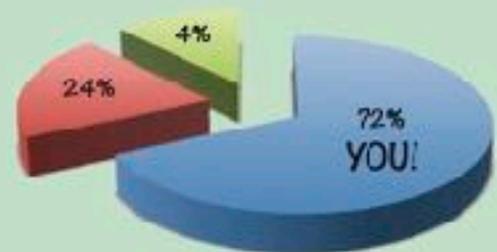
**\$500,000!**



## WHAT CAN WE DO?



Donate, Donate, Donate!



72% - Funding comes from YOU direct parent donations (includes matched donations from companies)

24% - Funding comes from various fundraising events

4% - Funding comes from corporate donations

**Recommended Donation Level = \$1,250 per child (\$125/month)**

Donate @:  
[www.playavistaschool.com](http://www.playavistaschool.com) and click "ANNUAL GIVING"

## FRIENDS OF PLAYA VISTA SCHOOL FAQ

### **Q: Who are the Friends of Playa Vista School?**

**A:** Friends of Playa Vista School (also known as the "Booster Club" or "FPVS") is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. The mission of the organization is to raise funds to support the academic achievement and enrichment of all students at PVES, and to help build a stronger PVES community through those efforts. All parents and guardians of students at Playa Vista Elementary School are part of FPVS and encouraged to participate in all FPVS meetings and activities. Meetings are held every month (check out our school calendar for upcoming meeting dates). These meetings cover a variety of topics from budget review, program overviews, to fundraising events preparation.

### **Q: Why do we need to fundraise at a public school?**

**A:** LAUSD's budget falls short of giving kids the kind of educational experience we are striving for at PVES. Without parent and corporate fundraising, the school would not have access to programs such as teacher's aides, PE program, arts programs, technology and technology instruction, school safety and even field trips would be severely diminished and in many cases eliminated.

### **Q: Where do the annual fund dollars go?**

**A:** All money raised by FPVS, including the dollars raised through annual fund donations, is used to fund programs that benefit PVES students. If you want to review the details of how the money has been allocated, you can click the link [here](#) to review the budget for this year and previous years.

### **Q: Are the funds raised this year used for this year's programs?**

**A:** The money we raise during the current year is actually used to fund the programs for the following year, as many of our vendors need payment before the year starts in order to hire staff for our school. We need to plan at the end of each school year for the following school year, so we must fundraise a year in advance. That means every TK, Kinder or first year student is benefiting from funds raised prior to their arrival. We hope that those families will "pay it forward" when they reach their culminating year.

### **Q: How are the programs determined?**

**A:** Near the end of every school year, the Playa Vista Elementary Advisory Board (PVEAB) distributes a Priorities Survey to all parents, teachers, and administration at PVES. This survey allows all stakeholders to indicate which programs are most important to them for the coming year. While we strive to continue all programs every year, this survey will help determine which programs to cut out, if necessary.

### **Q: How was the suggested amount of \$1,250 per student determined?**

**A:** The suggested donation amount was determined by considering our annual budget and the number of students in the school, as well as on historical donation amounts. Every year we must strive for the total amount needed to continue the amazing programs we are able to offer at PVES. We want each family to make a donation that is meaningful and feasible for you; we understand this amount may be out of budget for some families and that others can offer more, so we encourage everyone to give what they can. Your extra dollars can help make up the difference for someone who can't give the suggested amount.

### **Q: Do our HOA dues and/or Mello-Roos payments go towards the school?**

**A: NO** - While the school benefits greatly from the amenities provided by PVPAL, such as the Sports Park and Discovery Park, no funding for the school's programs comes from residents' HOA payments. The

Playa Vista Mello-Roos is a bond the city uses to pay for infrastructure in the community. No funds from this go to the school.

**Q: Does the developer pay for the school?**

**A: NO** - Brookfield Residential, the master developer of Playa Vista, has made a very generous donation to the school. However, those funds are earmarked for specific uses at the school, specifically part of the salary for our curriculum writer. All the annual programs that enhance learning at PVES are paid for from the annual fund.

**Q: With direct parent donations, why do we need other fundraising events?**

**A:** If every family gave the suggested amount per student to the annual fund, we could eliminate many of the other fundraising events that take place during the year. Some of the big events help to build community, such as Boo Fest, Gala & Auction, and Rock, Roll & Run, so we wouldn't want to eliminate all events even though they can be a lot of work.

**Q: Is it more important to have 100% participation versus meeting our overall fundraising goal?**

**A:** The reality is that both are crucial. 100% participation is important for the community to work together to reach the goal as well as can open some avenues to grants, which might not be otherwise available. However, it is also critical to reach the overall goal so that we can afford to continue all the programs. If we had 100% participation, but everyone only shared \$20, then we would be at risk of losing most programs.

**Q: Don't we get any grants and/or corporate donations?**

**A:** While we do get some grants, each grant has a separate application and someone must take the time to apply for it. Grants are also earmarked for very specific uses and cannot be used as part of the general funds. Corporate donations have only made up approximately 10% of the total fundraised dollars in the last few years, so those are a small percentage of overall funds. Corporate donations are also often earmarked for specific uses.

**Q: My child is in fifth grade and won't benefit from the programs next year. Why should I contribute?**

**A:** As mentioned above, all students, in their first year of attendance at the school, benefit from donations from the year prior to their attendance. The hope is that all families will want to "pay it forward" to invest in the school's future, in the community it serves, and in the educational experiences of all students.

**Q: Who are the members of the Friends of Playa Vista School Board?**

**A:** President – Natalie Shoemaker; Vice President – Melissa Mascn; Secretary – Nazie Spantman; Treasurer – Shirley Wang; General Counsel – Nazie Spantman; Annual Giving Chair – Jason Hill; Corporate Sponsorship – Jessica Entner Janis and Sarah Ali; Communications – Natalie Shoemaker; Room Parent Coordinators – Heather Ward and Nicole Oshiro; Board Member at Large – Kristin Hutchinson; Events Coordinator – Amanda Goldman; Board Member at Large – Leigh Norton-Moss; Board Member at Large – Sunita Sinor; Board Member at Large – Tricia Talerico

**Q: How are the Board Members elected?**

**A:** FPVS holds elections at its Annual Meeting, which takes place in May or June shortly before the end of school. Prior to that meeting, parents who are interested in serving as Board members have an opportunity to nominate themselves. The election at the Annual Meeting will fill vacancies for the Board the following school year, and the elected Board members then determine which members hold specific officer positions. The term for most officers is 2 years.