

2011 - 2012

September 2011



# Cubs Connection



## Valley View Elementary School

### *Principally Speaking ...*

September is always a time of new beginnings. As summer draws to a close, thoughts turn to the coming new school year. Students and parents begin to anticipate the new school year and are excited about a whole new beginning.

Just as in January when we form our New Year's resolutions for the new year, at Valley View we start the new school year with renewed expectations and hope that this year will be the best year yet. Perhaps our children will resolve to study a little harder, try to learn a little more, or establish good work habits.

Whatever the area of focus, it takes encouragement and support from parents for our children to be able to achieve these resolutions. Sometimes, in the busy pace of our daily lives, we wonder just what difference an extra fifteen minutes of story reading at night or reviewing what happened at school will really make. While we may never know the impact we make on our children, consider the familiar starfish legend when you find yourself wondering what difference you really make.

As the old man walked along the beach at dawn, he noticed a young man ahead of him picking up starfish and flinging them into the sea. Finally catching up with the youth, he asked him why he was doing this. The answer was the stranded starfish would die if left until the morning sun.

"But the beach goes on for miles and there

are millions of starfish washed ashore," countered the old man. "How can your efforts make any difference?"

The young man looked at the starfish in his hand and threw it safely in the waves. "It makes a difference to this one," he said.

*Anonymous*

*Parents Make the Difference.* We need to remember that no matter how small the task, the little bit of encouragement or the extra time we spend with our children can be strong and enduring. Enjoy this school year with your child as you learn together in a shared partnership of cooperation, communication and caring. If the following steps are followed, you will be pleased with the product – guaranteed.

- P** – Participate in your child's learning
- A** – Accept only the best your child can do
- R** – Read to your child and with your child every night
- E** – Exemplify those behaviors you would like your child to copy
- N** – Nurture the attitude in your child that he or she *can* learn
- T** – Talk to your child, and *listen*
- S** – Snuggle. Have you hugged your child lately?

Participate and be active in our school events and activities. The partnership between the home, the school and the child is a key factor in your child's success in school. You are an important part of what makes Valley View so special.

*Sincerely,*

*Shari Anderson*  
*Principal*



## Valley View Elementary School

### Blue Thursday Folders

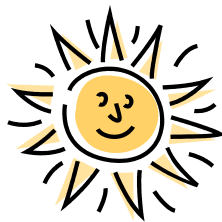
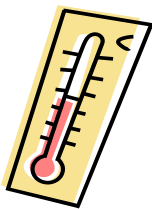
Every Thursday, your child will bring home a blue, Thursday folder. Please empty the folder, read the information included in the folder, sign the paper in the folder next to the date for the week and return the folder to your child's teacher on Friday. Our PTC has provided these folders to help us effectively communicate with our parents. Thanks!

### New Staff at Valley View

This year Valley View welcomes Janine Elliott – Speech Pathologist, Cynthia Quintero – Psychologist, Mark Alfaro – English Language Specialist, Christina Dominguez – Library Aide, Amy Suggs – Computer Lab Aide, Sara Gardner – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher, Nichol Weber – 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher, Keri Smith – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher, Julie Morse – SDC Teacher, and Stefanie Birnbaum – Teacher, PCOE. Please join us in welcoming these fine folks to our Valley View family! Our enrollment is 502 students!

### Dress Code

With the warmer weather still with us it is easy to forget about the Valley View dress code. A few highlights from our School Handbook are: *thongs or backless shoes/sandals are prohibited. See through or fish net fabrics, halter tops, off the shoulder or low cut tops, tank tops, torn off sleeves, bare midriffs and skirts or shorts shorter than mid-thigh are prohibited.* Please review the dress code, found in our and book on pages 24-25, with your students.



### Parking Lot 101

Pick up and drop off your children safely!

Please help us create a safe environment before and after school when dropping off and picking up your children. Here are ways to make our parking lot safer:

1. Grade 1-6 parents only use the big parking lot adjacent to Kid's Junction.
2. First Graders: Crossing for Early/Late Readers is available at 8:40 a.m. and 1:20 p.m. in the Kindergarten lot only.
3. Kindergarten parents only use the parking lot adjacent to the kindergarten rooms.
4. DO NOT LEAVE CARDS UNATTENDED IN YELLOW OR RED ZONES.
5. Come at 7:35 sharp to drop off your child or wait until 2:25 to pick up your child.

If you could do at least one of these suggestions, delays will be minimal and our students will be safer.





## Valley View Elementary School



*Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.*

Margaret Mead

### **Interested in Volunteering at Valley View?**

Volunteer packets are available in the office along with Live Scan fingerprinting forms. If you have any questions, feel free to call Lynn or Carol at 435-4844.



Without you, we are up a tree!

### **Library Volunteers Wanted**

Every week at Valley View's library, we get over 1,000 books checked in that must be put back on the shelves. If you can spare some time to help in the library, please contact our library aide Christina Dominguez at [cdominguez@rocklin.k12.ca.us](mailto:cdominguez@rocklin.k12.ca.us), or stop into the library (her part-time hours vary by day). Just 15 minutes or an hour of your time will help.

### **GATE Fall Testing**

The Rocklin Unified School District will be conducting testing for the identification of Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) students in grades 2 – 6 in early October. (Students in Grade One will be tested in the Spring). To access the "Parent Request Form" for your child to be GATE tested, you may pick one up at our School's front office or download it from the RUSD Website at [www.rocklin.k12.ca.us](http://www.rocklin.k12.ca.us) (form is called "Request for Student to be Tested for GATE" under the Curriculum and Assessment Tab/GATE). **Please return the form to the District Office, attention Jordan White, no later that September 17.** Once students have been tested, parents will be notified of the results, by mail, approx 10-12 weeks after the GATE evaluations are completed. The only additional testing session for grades 2 – 6 will be a "make-up session" in April. For more information regarding GATE testing, please contact Jordan White at 630-3307 or [jwhite@rocklin.k12.ca.us](mailto:jwhite@rocklin.k12.ca.us).



### **From the Cafeteria:**

Are you wondering what's being served for lunch today, tomorrow or next month? Log on to RUSD's website ([www.rocklin.k12.ca.us](http://www.rocklin.k12.ca.us)) and click on Departments, Food Service and then Menus. To find out the balance on your child's lunch account email Lisa DiPinto, our Food Services Worker, at [ldipinto@rocklin.k12.ca.us](mailto:ldipinto@rocklin.k12.ca.us).



## Valley View Elementary School

### CHARACTER CORNER

Focus for September/October is **RESPECT**

Valley View Elementary staff believe strongly in values as a building block of character. This year we will be enhancing our Character Education program in many ways. Each month of the year, we will focus on one of the Six Traits of Character, including Respect, Caring, Citizenship, Trustworthiness, Responsibility and Fairness. On Monday mornings starting with Sept 12th, there will be announcements which will also highlight the trait for the month with definition, examples, quotes, stories, interviews and/or skits. We will also be recognizing students who demonstrate these characteristics at different times and habitually. Students can earn 'Character Counts Awards', be invited to sign the Principal's Book, have a picture taken for our "Kids of Character Wall" and also have an opportunity to be entered into weekly drawings that will be announced during the Monday Message time. We hope to infuse these concepts in all we do. It is our hope that you will also focus on the Six Traits at home. Home and school need to work together to promote and foster values that will benefit our school and society. Thank you in advance for taking the time to do so. We are excited to "watch" our students display their greatest qualities to one another. If you have any ideas to support this program, please drop me a note in the office.



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Valley View Website  
[www.vves.rocklin.k12.ca.us](http://www.vves.rocklin.k12.ca.us)