

December 2017

Vista Views

Alta Vista Newsletter

Larry Thomas, Principal

Denise Clay, Superintendent



Principal's Desk

Calendar

December 4-8:	Computer Science Education Week – Hour of Code
December 12:	Chorus Concert @ 6:30pm
December 15:	1 st Grade Sing @ 2:00pm
December 22:	Kindergarten Nutcracker play
December 23-Jan 7:	Winter Break – No School
January 8:	Welcome Back – Smart Start Day
January 9:	AVHSC Meeting @ 6pm
January 15:	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – No School
January 16-19:	5 th Grade Science Camp



Computer Science Education Week Begins December 4th!

December 4th marks the start of [Computer Science Education Week](http://csedweek.org/) (<http://csedweek.org/>). Highlights of this week are the [Hour of Code](http://csedweek.org/learn) exercises (<http://csedweek.org/learn>). An “Hour of Code” is a one-hour introduction to computer science, designed to demystify “code” and show that anyone can learn the basics to be a maker, a creator, and an innovator. They provide a variety of self-guided tutorials that anybody can do, on a browser, tablet, or smartphone. (No experience is needed)

Happy Holidays

As 2017 comes to a close in the next couple of weeks, I take time to look back on all the good the year has brought. I want to thank all our staff, students and parents for all that you do to make Alta Vista such a wonderful place. Our dedicated staff is second to none. Our students are inquisitive, motivated and kind; and our parents are so supportive and giving of their time and resources. When I look back on 2017, it is amazing how much has gone on at school. First and foremost, our students have learned a tremendous amount. As I observe in the classrooms, the growth in students between September and now is astonishing. In addition, we have: participated in Back to School Night and Parent/Teacher Conferences; had fun at our Back to School Picnic/Movie and our Walkathon. It is simply amazing...and I can't wait to see all that 2018 will bring at Alta Vista.

On behalf of the entire Alta Vista Staff, I wish you a most wonderful holiday break and Happy New Year!

New Year's Resolution: Perfect Attendance!

Start the New Year off right by making a commitment to be at school on time every day. Missed time in class equates to missed instruction that is important for a child to continue making progress towards meeting standards. Being on time is a life skill that we want every student to have. With colder and rainy weather, it can require more time to get ready in the morning and to get to school. Let's all plan ahead.

Food Banks and Other Resources

If you or someone you know may be in need this holiday season, here is a resource that you can pass on:

- Second Harvest Food Bank: Call the Food Connection line at 800-984-3663. They help people in need of food find resources in their neighborhood.

A full list of resources is available at Alta Vista in the main office.

Smart (re)Start Day on January 8th: Let's do something fun!

We are doing a Smart Start day on January 8, the first day back from winter break. We know that coming back after a long break can be hard for many students. Instead of jumping right back into our typical daily schedule, we wanted to have a day of activities that get our students reinvigorated for school and puts them in a positive mindset for the New Year. Each grade level has come up with a plan for this special first day back....be sure to talk with your students on the evening of January 8th and see what they did.



Walk-a-thon Update

Thank you to Jill Brehmer and Anne-Marie Hart for co-chairing another terrific Walk-a-thon! Thanks to the entire Walk-a-thon committee and all of the volunteers in our community who made this event such a success. We achieved and exceeded our goal of raising \$60,000, thanks to all of the students and parents who participated and raised money for our biggest event of the year. Congratulations to Lucas O. for the most laps walked by the boys this year (96), and to Delaney W. and Emily L. for breaking the girls' record of most laps walked by the girls with 95 laps!

Shopping for Dollars: See's Candy

Give the gift of chocolate to your co-workers, boss, teachers, family, friends, babysitter, pet sitter, mail carrier, house cleaner, gardeners or yourself this holiday season. Orders forms were sent home in the Wednesday folder before the holidays and are due to the office by the end of the day on December 13th. Remember to make checks out to AVHSC.

Shopping for Dollars: Amazon

Another great way to give back to Alta Vista during this holiday season is to shop at Amazon! If you make purchases at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) through the school's website, Alta Vista receives part of the proceeds. Since the amount received by Alta Vista is about 4% of the total spent, the benefit to the school is significant!

Please note, if Amazon prompts you to redirect to Amazon Smile to give money to your favorite charity, please do NOT click to redirect to Amazon Smile as it only gives Alta Vista .05%.

In order for your purchases to 'count' for Alta Vista, **you must access the [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) site via the links below.**

URL to Amazon: <https://www.amazon.com/?tag=a099f57-20&camp=1&creative=446025&linkCode=ur>
For Amazon Gift Cards - <https://www.amazon.com/gift-cards/b?ie=UTF8&node=2238192011>

Dining for Dollars at California Pizza Kitchen

On Thursday, December 7th, we will be having a Dining for Dollars event at the **California Pizza Kitchen at Oakridge Mall in San Jose**. Do a little holiday shopping, grab dinner and support your child's education all in one trip to the mall! A portion of the proceeds from both Dine-In and Carry-Out purchases made on this day will go to Alta Vista.

Dining for Dollars at Firenza Pizza in Los Gatos!

Purchase \$12 vouchers for Firenza Pizza through our school store in [My School Anywhere](#). 20% of the purchase price of every voucher purchased will go to Alta Vista. Purchase your pizza vouchers today and save them for a rainy day...or any day you don't want to cook at home. Take your family, meet some friends, enjoy dinner, and raise money for Alta Vista too!!



Valentine's Family Dance

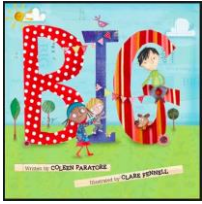
Get ready for Alta Vista's Annual Valentine's Family Dance on **Friday, February 9th** at 6:30pm in the cafeteria. Come dance with your family and friends, check out the photo booth and eat some snacks. Tickets will go on sale in January in MySchool Anywhere.

Spring Auction - Saturday, March 3rd

Save the date for a fun 80's-themed parents' night out! The Spring Auction is one of our biggest fundraisers, and our 2018 Auction will be held on Saturday night, **March 3rd** at the JCC in Los Gatos. The funds raised from this event will go directly to support the school's enrichment activities, such as our wonderful music program, Recess 101 and PE programs, Art Vistas, clay, technology, library, Project Cornerstone and more. **We will be selling tickets at "Early Bird" prices for just two weeks, starting December 6th.** Stay tuned for more information on the event and how to purchase your tickets. You don't want to miss this fun parent-only event.



November/December Cornerstone Corner



November's Cornerstone book *Big* by Coleen Paratore encourages students to become BIG people. The discussion encourages students to understand intrinsic rewards, rather than extrinsic. Students will look within themselves to see how they can tap into their personal power to become a valuable member of their family, school, neighborhood, community, country and world.

In December our Cornerstone volunteers will read *When Sophie Gets Angry—Really, Really Angry...* by Molly Bang. Students will talk about how each of us experience a wide variety of emotions and the Cornerstone readers will share different ways that we can choose to behave when we encounter complicated feelings.



Upcoming Events:

- Thursday, December 7, 2017 - Dining for Dollars at California Pizza Kitchen
- Tuesday, January 10, 2018, 6pm - AVHSC Meeting in Staff Room (All are Welcome)
- Monday, January 15, 2018 - Dining for Dollars at Mooyah
- January 31 - February 3, 2018 - Drama Club Presents: My Son Pinocchio, Junior
- Friday, February 9, 6:30pm - Valentine's Family Dance
- Saturday, March 3, 6:00pm - Spring Auction at Los Gatos JCC
- Friday, May 11, 2018 - Fantasy Faire