



Weekly Wildcat News

October 10, 2016

Happy Monday Wildcat Families,

The countdown is on to the 2016 Skechers Friendship Walk on Sunday, October 23rd! Please join my family and I, as well as our teachers and staff in registering for this fun family event. If you can't join us, please consider supporting Alta Vista as a *virtual walker*. For the price of every registration, Alta Vista Elementary will receive DOUBLE back. We have been the leading school for the last five years, bringing in more than \$18,000 that I was able to use to directly back in classrooms on instructional materials for math. Neighbors, out of state relatives, and even your pets can register for the walk! Don't forget to join team "Alta Vista" and mark the Redondo Beach Education Foundation when registering. Last year, team Alta Vista had 364 walkers/virtual walkers. This year, our goal is to get to 400. What new way will I embarrass myself this year if we hit our goal? Stay tuned for this year's humiliation...See more detailed registration information below.

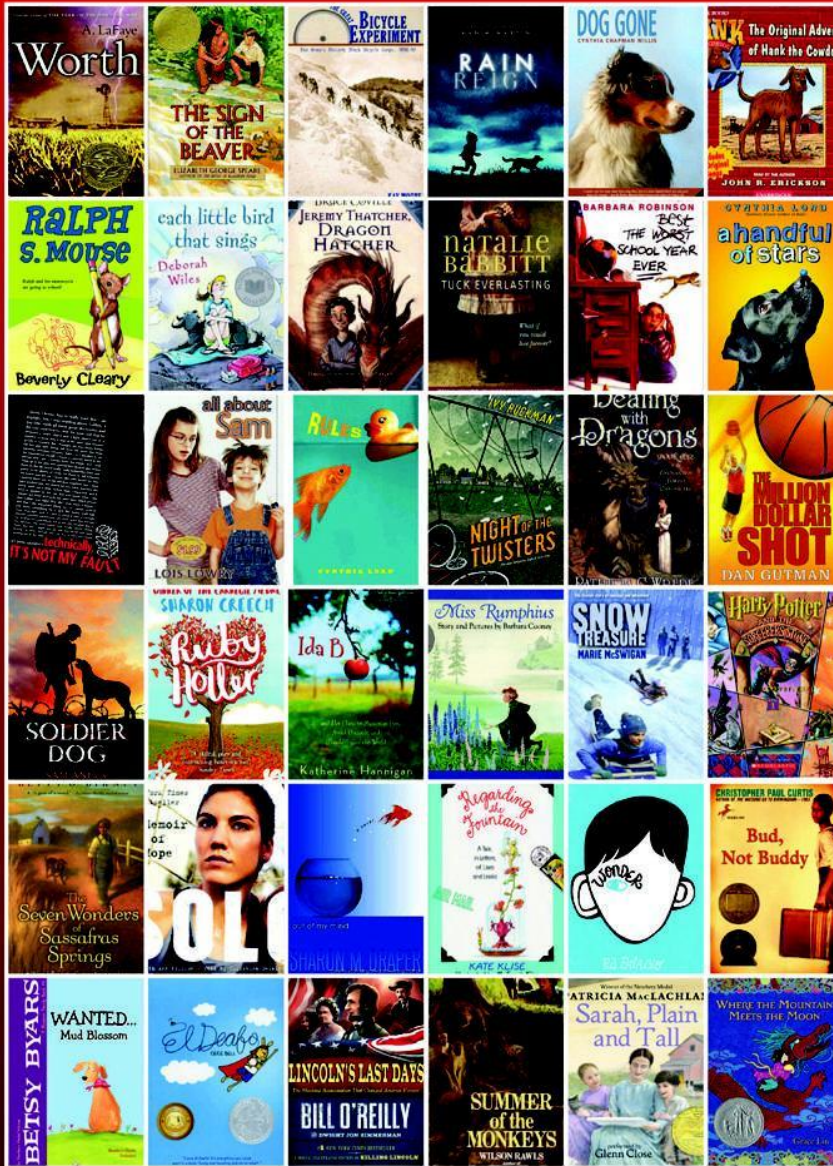
Important Dates this Week:

Wednesday, October 12th - No School, Local Holiday

Thursday and Friday, October 13th & 14th - Hands On Art Docent training in the AV Cafeteria

ALTA VISTA PTA PRESENTS THE 2016-17

BATTLE OF THE BOOKS



START READING TODAY!



4th and 5th Grade Battle of the Books

- The Battle of the Books is a fun and exciting tournament of reading.
- Competitors will be assigned to teams. On the day of the Battle, students will answer questions about the books on the reading list to win points for their team.
- The 4th and 5th Grade School Battle will be held on Wednesday, April 5, 2017 after school.
- One team from each school advances to the Championship Battle.
- The Championship Battle will be held on Wednesday, April 26, 2017 at 6:00pm at Lincoln Elementary School.
- There are 36 books on the book list. You do not need to read all 36 books but you need to read at least 12 books on the list to compete.
- The Book List is available in the library and will be emailed to you upon the close of registration. Copies of the books are available in the library.
- Each student is encouraged to read as many books as possible to be most prepared for the Battle.
- If you wish to participate in the Battle, return the attached form to your teacher or email to michelleskinman@yahoo.com by **MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2016**

Email Michelle Kinman at michelleskinman@yahoo.com with questions.



Skechers Friendship Walk & The Redondo Beach Educational Foundation

It's that time of year again!!! Last year, \$18,200 for ALTA VISTA! Last year, we were in 1st place for the third year in a row! Let's continue to support an event that brings SO MUCH MONEY directly to Alta Vista.

All proceeds from the RBUSD team of walkers will come straight back to RBEF . Each school will receive the funds in proportion to the number of registered walkers we have. For example, if our school has 50% of the RBUSD walkers, we will get 50% of the proceeds RBEF receives. Let's get a big team together for a fun, family-friendly event for a great cause. (Note: If you can't join us at the event, please consider registering as a virtual walker...you can register and show your support without attending the event. You can also encourage family members, friends and co-workers to join!)

How to Register for the Skechers Friendship Walk – Sunday,

October 25th

1. Go to www.skechersfriendshipwalk.com
2. Click on **Register**
3. Select **Join An Existing Team**
4. If you registered last year, log in using the same email and password. If not, sign up using an existing social network account or create a Friendship Walk Account.
5. You will be asked to **Join or Form a Team** - enter "Alta Vista Elementary" to find the school team and click **Search for a Team**.
6. Scroll down and click the **Join** button next to your team
7. Follow the **Next** prompts to finish registering.
8. Remember to **select the Redondo Beach Educational Foundation** to benefit from your contribution.



Alta Vista PTA

Thanks for Your Support!

Thank you to the families to who came out to join us on Friday night for Family Movie Night! Thank you also to the 5th grade parents, in particular our 5th grade coordinators, Kristi Thompson and Angela Gains, and everyone who donated baked goods. It was a fun evening and the 5th grade parents were able to raise money to help with Science Camp scholarships.

Last Reflections Art Contest Workshop - Oct. 18th

Reflections is a National PTA art program. This year's theme is "What's Your Story" and there are multiple categories including visual arts, dance choreography, film production, literature, music composition and photography. See attached flyer, rules and entry form. PTA has hosted a series of workshops to provide information, materials and guidance for this great program. The third and last drop-in workshop will be after school on Tuesday, Oct. 18th from 2:30-4:00. The deadline for entries is November 2nd. Please see attached workshop flyer and contact our reflections chair, Jackie Brann at Jackie@5branns.com with questions.

Save the Date – Parent Ed Night – Nov. 18th

Please save the date for our first Parent Ed night of the year. On November 18th, Paul LeBron will be joining us for a presentation titled "*Pop Culture and the Noise it Creates*", in which he will discuss with us the effects of social media on our children and other important issues. Childcare will be provided. Please stay posted for

further details.

This event will follow a brief PTA meeting, at which time we will be voting to adopt minor amendments to our bylaws, which are required to be updated every 3 years. Members may contact our Parliamentarian, Shannon Lee, for a summary of these amendments and to request a complete copy of the proposed amended bylaws.

Let's hear your ROAR! Join PTA Today!

Our Donation and Membership drive is going strong. Currently we are at approximately \$20,000 in flat fee donations – thank you to everyone who has contributed so far! We need your help to reach our \$35,000 goal, which is \$10,000 more than last year because there will NOT be a Fall catalog fundraiser this year, and the Fun Run is not until Spring! Join PTA today for only \$10 and make a flat fee contribution starting at \$50 and receive a FREE gift! (see attached flier for details). Your donations are critical because they help support over \$112,000 of funding for programs such as Hands on Art, field trips, assemblies, teacher educational funds, and much, much more! Free gifts will be delivered to your student's classroom by mid-October.

Donations can be made and PTA memberships, select Wildcat gear items and Yearbooks can be purchased at our web store at <https://AltaVistaPTA.myschoolcentral.com>, or by completing and submitting the attached 2016-2017 PTA Order Forms and returning them to our front office or your teacher.

Last Call for Emergency Kits

If you have not yet purchased or submitted your own emergency kit, now is your chance to purchase one for only \$5. A limited quantity of emergency kits are now available for purchase on our web store at <https://AltaVistaPTA.myschoolcentral.com> while supplies last. The kits will be delivered to your classrooms.

Ways to Connect with Alta Vista PTA

Check out our website at www.AltavistaPTA.org and Like us on our **new** Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/altavistapta>

Stay tuned for upcoming new ways to connect with us!

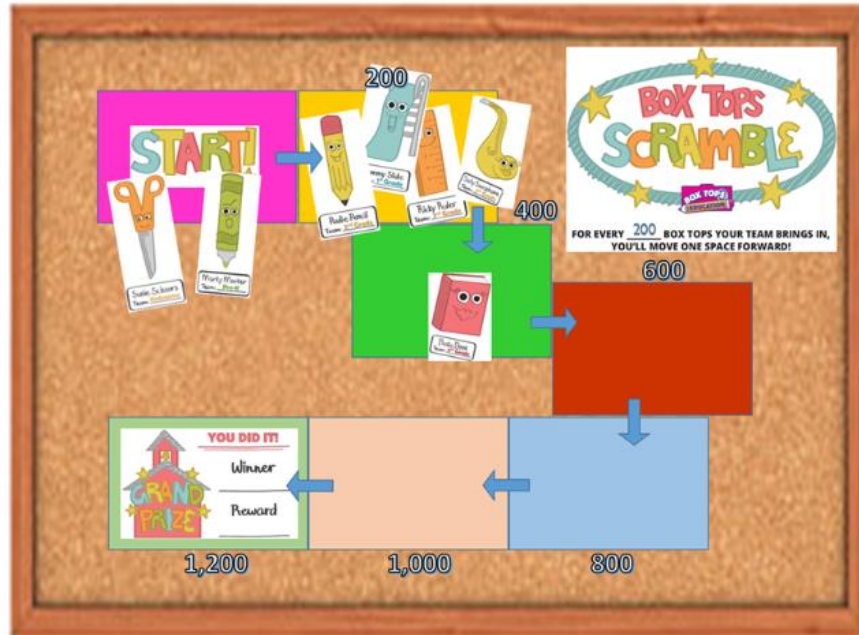


ALTA VISTA BOX TOPS SCRAMBLE CONTEST UPDATE

Week 2 of the contest - A shout-out to the following teams that have advanced on the contest game board:
The 1st, 4th and 5th Grade Teams onto the second tile, with over 400 Box Tops submitted
The 2nd and 3rd Grade Teams onto the first tile, with over 200 Box Tops

FIRST TEAM REACHING 1,200 BOX TOPS WINS!

We've organized our school into teams to see who can turn in the most Box Tops the fastest. The winning team will receive free ice treats from Rita's. There are 7 teams for the 7 grade levels - from Pre K to 5th grade. Bring your Box Tops into school **labeled with your child's name and classroom** so we can credit your team. Your team will move forward a space on the board for every 200 Box Tops it brings in. All Box Tops submitted since the beginning of the schoolyear will be counted toward this contest. You can clip Box Tops from hundred of products. Each unexpired Box Tops clip earns 10 cents for our school.



College-Going Culture Corner

It is never too early to educate yourself on the cost of college so that you can know what the expected financial commitment will be when your child reaches college going age. All colleges and universities that participate in the federal financial aid programs are required to publish a college calculator on their website. Once you have an idea of what to expect to pay, you can start to map out a plan to save and chart your child's path to college.

Using the U.S Department of Education FAFSA4caster (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) you can see what federal student aid you may be eligible for. Federal student aid is defined as money that helps students with their expenses while in college. It can be split into four categories: grants, loans, scholarships, and work study. Grants consist of money that typically does not need to be repaid. Work study programs allow for students to work during college to help pay for tuition. Stafford loans can be applied for at the subsidized

and unsubsidized level. Subsidized loans are available to students who meet certain financial need criteria, where unsubsidized are generally available to all college students.

The U.S. Department of Education's website (www.ed.gov) is a great resource to look at in researching higher education's funding options.

College cost should not be a deterrent to going to college. A college degree is always in demand and still pays dividends over a lifetime, opening doors to individual success. Early knowledge, planning and preparation can help make your child's college dream a reality.



Homework Survey

Wildcat Parents and students:

The 2016-17 school year is fully underway, and in an effort to continue to be mindful and gather feedback to improve our instructional practice, we are asking all of our 1st - 5th grade families to provide some feedback about homework in your child's life.

Please take a few minutes to complete the following survey. We appreciate your time.

<https://goo.gl/forms/3U552tyUX8GIKaxp1>



How to have a productive reading conversation with your child - prompts for supporting your reader

Productive Talk Question #2: What are some of the challenges that the characters face in the story? What do they do/say/feel about them?



Growth Mindset Corner

How will it help my child?

Research has shown that children with a growth mindset do better in school. In a study with middle school students, Dr. Lisa Blackwell found that students with a growth mindset earned higher math grades when compared to students with a fixed mindset. Students in Washington, D.C. who were taught a growth

mindset outperformed all of their peers on standardized tests in the district. Many studies show that children who have a growth mindset behave differently when confronted with a challenge, and end up learning from their mistakes instead of being paralyzed by them.

Student Absences

Just a reminder that all student absences need to be reported to our main office at 310-798-8650 every day that your child is going to be absent. Our office calls all of the families of absent students if we do not hear from you by 10am.

Our district is happy to announce a new consolidated site for all district flyers featuring community events. Please [click here](#) to view all of the latest flyers available to families and our community. Looking for a flyer specific to Alta Vista and our after-school programs?

[Click here](#) to be directed to our home page that houses all of our latest flyers.

Important Dates for the Next Few Weeks:

- Wednesday, October 12th - Local Holiday, No School
- Thursday & Friday, October 13th - 14th - Hands on Art Training in AV Cafeteria
- Wednesday, October 19th - Unity Day
- Thursday, October 20th - 10:30am Great California Shakeout
- Friday, October 21st - 8:30am Flag Ceremony
- Sunday, October 23rd - Skechers Friendship Walk
- Monday & Tuesday, October 24th & 25th - School Pictures Day
- Wednesday, October 26th - LIFT Pupil Free Day
- Thursday, October 27th - MINIMUM DAY - Staff Professional Development
- Friday, October 28th - 8:30am Halloween Parade
- Monday, October 31st - NO SCHOOL, Teacher Professional Development Day
- Wednesday, November 2nd - LIFT Pupil Free Day, LIFT OFF Double Day
- Thursday & Friday, November 3-4 - Hands on Art Training in AV Cafeteria
- November 7 - 10 - Fifth Grade Science Camp
- Thursday, November 10th - Reflections Contest Entries Due
- Friday, November 11th - No School, Local Holiday
- November 14th and 15th - 4th grade classes to UCLA
- Wednesday, November 16th - Career Dress Up Day
- Friday, November 18th - 8:30am Flag Ceremony
- November 21st - 25th - Thanksgiving Break - No School
- Tuesday, November 29th - School Picture Make Up Day
 - National Day of Listening

Ways to Support Alta Vista:

- Join the PTA!
- Consider donation to the Redondo Beach Educational Foundation. Go to www.rbef.org/donate
- Student absences cost the school \$38 per day per child. Families are welcome to repay that cost directly back to Alta Vista if able.
- Do you shop Amazon as much as I do? Try Amazon Smile instead! Go

to <http://smile.amazon.com> and designate Alta Vista PTA and a portion of all your purchases will go back to support our school.

- Looking to purchase a new lunchbox or lunch gear? Go to www.mightynest.com where 15% of your purchases will go directly back to Alta Vista.
- Don't forget to collect and return your General Mills Box Tops for Education. Every boxtop is money for our school!
- Go to mycokerewards.com/school, enter your Coca-Cola product codes and donate to our school. Our school can redeem the points for much needed physical education equipment.
- Keep collecting your Galleria receipts! Just shop and log receipts from any South Bay Galleria stores and restaurants until December 31, 2013. Receipts can be logged at Guest Services anytime during the program. Remember to tell your family, friends, neighbors and co-workers to log their receipts. Anyone can support AV in the Galleria School Rewards Program!
- Stopping by Jamba Juice on a warm summer day? Just show the PTA Jamba Card when making a purchase.

Have a wonderful week,

Mrs. Wildes