

October 2017

# Vista Views

Alta Vista Newsletter

Larry Thomas, Principal

Denise Clay, Superintendent



## Principal's Desk

### Calendar

October 16-20:	CELDT Testing
October 16:	Site Council Meeting
October 19-25:	Book Fair
October 21:	Walkathon
October 31:	Halloween Parade
November 2:	Family Science Night
November 6-17:	Parent/Teacher Conferences – school dismissal at 1:15pm daily
November 9:	Staff Development Day – No School
November 10:	Veterans' Day observed – No School

### Parent/Teacher Conferences

The first parent-teacher conference is designed to recognize your child's strengths and needs, to coordinate school and home support, and to better familiarize the classroom teacher with your child. In fact, it is a sharing time whereby parents and teachers discuss and plan how best to assist the child in the learning process.

This year, conferences will be held November 6-17(excluding Wednesdays). **We will be on early release days 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grades (school is out at 1:15pm) everyday from November 6-17.**

Conferences are scheduled in time blocks set by the teachers. We ask your cooperation in being prompt to your conference time and date so there will be maximum time to talk about your child.

Please consider the items below before the conference to help with your conversation with the teacher:

- What are your child's strengths and needs?
- Does your child enjoy reading and/or writing?
- Does your child have an interest in math and/or science?
- How does your child show interest in art, drama and music?
- What physical activities does your child enjoy?
- How do you support school learning at home? How often do you read with your child?
- Is there educational, family, and/or medical history that may affect your child's education growth that should be shared with the teacher? (This information will be kept confidential.)

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Research shows that parent involvement in a child's education is a critical factor in determining the degree to which a child will be successful in school. Please make attending the parent/teacher conference one of the ways you will be involved in your child's education.

Together we can make a difference.

## **Parenting in the Digital Age**

Our kids are "digital natives" — they have grown up in a world of online access and ever changing media devices. Do you wonder how to teach your child responsibility and ethics online, how to ensure they are aware of their actions, and how to best parent them in the digital age?

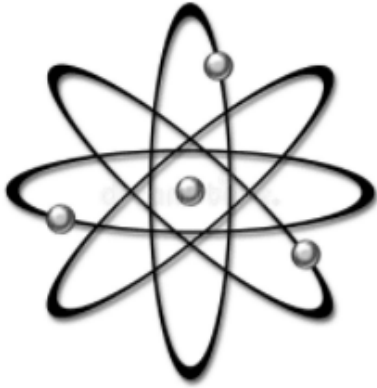


Come join My Digital TAT2 for a highly engaging and informative discussion on Thursday, November 30th from 6:30 - 8:00 PM. (The site for the meeting is still to be determined...but save the date!) Recommended for anyone interested in an overview of the digital landscape and learning about thoughtful ways to navigate media with your children. You will come away with strategies that support both you and your child. It is an event you will not want to miss!

## **Project Cornerstone Update**

This past month our Cornerstone volunteers visited their classrooms to introduce students to the book *Friends to the End-For Kids* by Bradley Trevor Grieve. The kids loved the adorable photographs of animal friends and learned “Ten Ways to Build Relationships”.

This month our ABC Parents will be reading the book *Giraffes Can't Dance* by Giles Andreae. This is the darling story of Gerald the giraffe who is able to dance to his own tune when he gets some encouraging words from an unlikely friend. In this lesson students will learn about personal power and practice using their positive personal power to benefit both themselves and others. Students will be reminded that making other people feel good is a great way to fill their own buckets, too! To reinforce this lesson at home you can encourage your child to try new things and offer praise for their willingness to try and practice. You can also encourage your child to “switch the channel” to re-frame their inner dialogue to create an “I can do it!” attitude when faced with negative situations.



## Join Us For Family Science Night!

**Thursday, November 2  
6:30 - 8:00pm  
Alta Vista Cafeteria**

### **Toy Box Physics**

Did you know that there is science hidden in your toy box? Explore simple machines and other cool concepts as you design a windmill pinwheel, build a springboard catapult, and create a Wibbly Wobbly that uses inertia and momentum to get along!

We need parent and/or responsible high school student volunteers to help run the stations.

If you're interested in volunteering, please sign up here: <http://bit.ly/FamilyScience2017> or you can contact Cheryl Bergman at [BergmanC@unionsd.org](mailto:BergmanC@unionsd.org). Volunteers will need to arrive at 5:45 for a mini-training.



### **The Fall Scholastic Book Fair is Coming!**

**The Scholastic Book Fair will be held October 19-25 in the cafeteria. It will be open during lunch and after school and during the Walk-a-thon from 10am-3pm.**

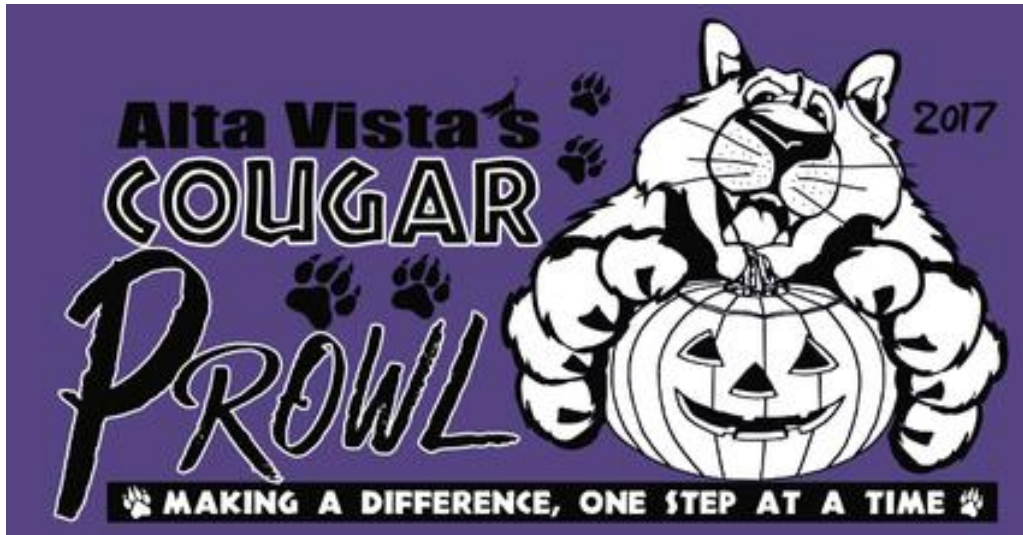
#### **Shop Online!**

Support our school by shopping online. Order books for all ages and grades October 19-November 8.

<http://www.scholastic.com/bf/altavistaelementaryschool4>

**Volunteers are Needed!** No experience is necessary, and shifts are no more than one hour.

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090945adac2fa02-alta>



## Register & Collect Donations for Alta Vista's Annual Walk-a-Thon!

We are looking forward to seeing everyone at our Alta Vista Annual Walk-a-Thon, on **Saturday, October 21st, 9am-3pm!** Register to participate in this event online at our Walk-a-Thon website:

<http://www.altavistawalkathon.org>

### **Walk-A-Thon Information!**

The Walk-a-thon is a very big and important fundraiser and it's also a day FULL OF FUN!

- The Snack Shack will be open all day, offering a variety of food, snacks and drinks for purchase.
- While the main goal of this event is to keep our kids walking, there are lots of fun things for them to do when they need to take a break. We will have a crazy hair booth, pumpkin decorating, a raffle, and much more!
- Bring sunscreen, lawn chairs, and beach umbrellas to make the day more comfortable. Parents are welcome to accompany their children during their lap walking. Please make sure your children come to the event hydrated and take frequent water breaks during the day.

**Register Online and Start Collecting Donations!** The profits from your donations and pledges will go directly back to the school to fund enrichment programs, library, maker-space lab equipment, classroom supplies, and more. There are several ways to win fun prizes for your participation in the Walk-a-thon.

**5th grade students** - This is a wonderful opportunity to raise funds for 5th grade science camp. All money raised beyond \$40 will go directly toward your science camp and is tax-deductible. Learn more - read [5th grade science camp letter](#) (PDF).

**Volunteer** - Parents, teachers, grandparents, and students... this event will not be possible without all you - our amazing volunteers who generously give your time and talents. We have over 300 volunteer slots -- Sign up here: [http://avhsc.ivolunteer.com/wat\\_2017](http://avhsc.ivolunteer.com/wat_2017)

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**