



AVMS View

Jennifer Smalley, *Principal*
Sam King, *PTSA President*

FALL 2013 | Volume 21 Issue 1
WWW.AVMSPTSA.ORG

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Aliso Viejo Middle School
111 Park Avenue
Aliso Viejo, CA 92656
Office 949- 831-2622
Fax 949- 643-2784

Member of Capistrano Unified
Council PTSA, Fourth District
PTA and California State PTA

Dee Lewis-Faigin, Editor
To submit a story for publication
in The VIEW contact
dee@printservicegroup.com

Dear Falcon Families,

It is a pleasure to welcome everyone to the 2013-14 school year! It is always fun to see how much students have grown over the summer and we are enjoying getting to know our sixth graders. Below is some information about what is happening at AVMS.

Transition to Common Core Standards – This year our entire teaching staff will be transitioning to the Common Core Standards. Teachers will be implementing at least two Common Core units. All AVMS teachers will be incorporating what we call the 4C's into lessons: Critical Thinking, Communication, Collaboration and Creativity.

The Four C's	Rationale	What Students Need to Do
Critical Thinking	Teaching critical thinking and problem solving effectively in the classroom is vital for students. Learning critical thinking leads students to develop other skills, such as a higher level of concentration, deeper analytical abilities, and improved thought processing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reason effectively • Use systems thinking • Make judgments and decisions • Solve problems
Communication	Students must be able to effectively analyze and process the overwhelming amount of communication in their lives today. Which information sources are accurate? Which ones are not? How can they be used or leveraged effectively?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Express thoughts clearly • Articulate opinions • Communicate coherent instructions • Motivate others through powerful speech
Collaboration	Collaboration is essential in our classrooms because it is inherent in the nature of how work is accomplished in our civic and workforce lives. Fifty years ago, much work was accomplished by individuals working alone, but not today. Much of all significant work is accomplished in teams, and in many cases, global teams.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate ability to work effectively with diverse teams • Exercise flexibility and willingness in making necessary compromises to accomplish a common goal • Assume shared responsibility for collaborative work • Value the individual contributions made by each team member
Creativity	In the past, Americans perceived creativity and innovation as secondary in our national curriculum. Today, creativity and innovation are key drivers in the global economy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use a wide range of idea creation techniques • Analyze, and evaluate original ideas to maximize creative efforts • Develop, implement, and communicate new ideas to others

Creating opportunities for children to use the 4C's outside of the school day, while at home, on vacations, and in organized activities will provide additional practice with these skills.

Thank You - A BIG thank you to all of the parents who have volunteered to help AVMS get off to a great start! Our before school drive-up packet pick-up and walkthrough orientation ran so smoothly thanks to all the parents who donated their time and expertise.

Jennifer Smalley

Sincerely,
Jennifer Smalley
Principal

Aliso Viego Middle School

PTSA[®]
everychild.one voice.[®]

The Aliso Viejo View is published three times a year by the AVMS PTSA. The mention of any business or service in this newsletter does not imply endorsement by the PTSA.

President's Welcome

Dear Falcon Families,

On behalf of the AVMS PTSA, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all of you, Falcon families old and new, to the 2013-2014 school year. We have exciting programs and activities planned for you for the year.

The school year is off to a great start with successful registrations on September 3rd and 4th, followed by a warm welcome breakfast for teachers and staff. Thank you to those parents and students volunteers who put countless hours planning, staffing and serving to make the registration a smooth process.

We had our first PTSA membership meeting on September 19th. I'm pleased to report that the PTSA budget, programs and activities were approved for the school year. We continue to maintain the level of support for students, teachers with programs and curriculum enhancements that benefit all of our students. I encourage you and welcome you to join the meetings to hear what's happening at school from the principal and volunteers, and to get your voices heard. All meeting dates and activities are posted regularly on the website (www.avmsptsa.org).

The AVMS PTSA is run by a group of dedicated and talented parents and staff volunteers. I'd like to thank everyone who has made difference by contributing time and efforts. If you haven't already, please take a moment to consider joining our PTSA. It's the best \$10 investment around.

Great schools like AVMS take pride in having parents proactively involved. When parents take a direct interest in their children's education, the children become better students. I'd like to encourage more parents to become involved in the school. I'm sincerely hoping that you'd consider investing 5 hours a year at AVMS.

I'm looking forward to working with all of you, and to seeing you at the next PTSA meetings. Thank you in advance for your generous support. Together, let's make lives of our children better!

Warmest regards,

Sam King

Sam King

President, Aliso Viejo Middle School PTSA
 AVMSPresident@avmsptsa.org

2013 - 2014 PTSA Meetings

Mark Your Calendars

Thursday, September 19, 2013	6:00 PM	Library
Thursday, November 21, 2013	6:00 PM	Library
Thursday, January 16, 2014	10:00 AM	Library
Thursday, March 20, 2014 *	6:00 PM	Library
Thursday, May 15, 2014	10:00 AM	Library

* Election of 2014-2015 Officers

2013-2014 PTSA Board

President	Sam King
Executive V.P.	Luci Vees
Secretary	Catherine Patience
Treasurer	Elizabeth Neufeld
Auditor	Melisa Coletto
Historian	Mindy Frosto Swank
Parliamentarian	Iris Arabshahi
Ways and Means	Lisa Bowen
Legislation Rep	Mike Pouraryan
Parent Education	Agnes Swanson
Hospitality	Iris Arabshahi
Reflections Chair	Angela Geiser
Special Education	Rosemary Allen
Newsletter	Dee Lewis-Faigin
Communications	Kathy Westling

PTSA Volunteers!

Thank you for filling out an AVMS PTSA volunteer form! Throughout the year I will send you emails about volunteer opportunities at AVMS; we are using the website volunteerspot.com to organize our events and you will receive email from myself and/or the website.

I am the Historian/Volunteer Coordinator for Aliso Viejo Middle School. In addition I am also the Volunteer Coordinator at Aliso Niguel High School and the Volunteer Coordinator for the 2013-2014 Taste of Aliso Niguel (PFAN-Parents For Aliso Niguel) so if you should have any volunteer questions about ANHS or Taste of Aliso let me know!

Thanks again for volunteering at AVMS!

Mindy Frosto-Swank
 mindyfs@hotmail.com • Cell: 949-683-3398

Aliso Viejo Middle School
 AVMS PTSA Historian/Volunteer Coordinator
 2013-2014

AVMS PTSA Website • Follow us on Facebook!

Welcome Back Falcon Families!

This is my third year as Aliso Viejo Middle School's Assistant Principal. It is great seeing all of the staff and students back after summer vacation. Our first week of school was an exciting one. On day one students came back and spent the day making connections with other students and staff here at school. Day two was also an activity filled day with students participating in activities about the correct way to behave at school and reviewing the rules in a fun and positive way. We had a drawing for prizes and gift cards and gave out many falcon pride tickets. Falcon Pride Tickets can be used in the Falcon's Nest student store on Wednesdays, and they can spin the prize wheel on Friday. Also on the first week we kicked off our magazine sales with an exciting assembly.

It is amazing that I am still meeting new students every day and I am looking forward to another great year at AVMS. Do not forget that school can also be a great resource when challenges arise. If your child is having any difficulties feel free to speak with someone in the office so we can help out in any way possible. We also have resources for students who are having challenges at school. Our counselor and myself always have an open door policy and also check the bully box, found in the library, the online bully form, found under news once you are logged into Schoolloop and our emails regularly, in case someone reports challenges they are having here at school. Thank you for trusting us with the awesome responsibility of teaching your children.

Greg Hauser

Greg Hauser, Assistant Principal

School Staff

Jennifer Smalley	Principal jsmalley@capousd.org
Greg Hauser	Assistant Principal gmhauser@capousd.org
Janice Thomas	Office Manager jthomas@capousd.org
Sally Graves	Academic Advisor sgraves@capousd.org
Kathy Westling	Academic Advisor kkwestling@capousd.org
Mary Schnitzer	Guidance Secretary mcschnitzer@capousd.org
Chrissy Rogers	Attendance Secretary cfragers@capousd.org
Pam Rinehart	School Clerk II parinhart@capousd.org
Kyne Thompson	Health Office knthompson@capousd.org
Jinkee McFadden	Library jlmcfadden@capousd.org
Sandy Evans	Community Liaison syevans@capousd.org
Amelia Koskella	Psychologist aakoskella@capousd.org
Maureen Byrne	Counselor mesmith@capousd.org
Jen Jacobson	ELD Coordinator jrjacobson@capousd.org
Alison Nero	ASB Advisor alnero@capousd.org
Vic Mosconi	PAL Coordinator vwmosconi@capousd.org
Megan Persinger	Yearbook mkandrews@capousd.org

The Lunch Sports Program

The Lunch Sports Program at AVMS provides an opportunity for students to form their own teams and compete against other students in their grade level. It's a great way for students to be active and play sports in a structured environment. Students sign up their teams, then check the window in front of room 106 to see when their team plays. This year students will compete to be champions in Dodgeball, Flag football, Basketball, Soccer, and Ultimate.

The winning teams are recognized with an AVMS FALCONS CHAMPIONS T-shirt. The winning Football and Basketball teams will get the chance to play the champions of Don Juan Avila Middle School.

Contact for more information:

Keith Herbold — Algebra 1 and 1A
Aliso Viejo Middle School
ksherbold@capousd.org

AVMS School Awards

Aliso Viejo Middle School also known as AVMS proudly holds the follow school awards

- Previously Recognized for California Distinguished School
- Previously Recognized for National Blue Ribbon
- California Business for Education Excellence 2011, 2012.

AVMS is a dynamic, exciting middle school where all of our energies are committed to doing what is best for students. At AVMS, we are proud of our challenging, rigorous academic program, parent and community support, safe and affirming environment, collaborative culture, and committed and enthusiastic staff.



**CALIFORNIA
BUSINESS
for Education
EXCELLENCE**

WeROCK – We Run Orange County’s Kids is currently recruiting new members!

We Run Orange County’s Kids is a nonprofit, public-service corporation that provides after-school intervention programs for Middle and High School students in the Orange County, California area.

Based on the idea that life is like a Marathon, the mission of WeROCK is to teach our community’s teenagers the important life skills of goal setting, self-reliance, discipline and self-confidence through the design and delivery of instructional

programs focused on the proper training for, and completion of, a marathon.

Whether you love to run...or not...we challenge you to put one foot in front of the

other and see how far you can go! Our non-competitive program meets the needs of both the highly athletic to the timid beginner.



For more information:

Head Coach:

Paula Dorr, AVMS@WeRunOCKids.org

www.werunockkids.org

Guidance Department

Our Guidance Staff:

Sally Graves, Academic Advisor
sgraves@capousd.org

As an Academic Advisor at AVMS my duties vary and may include the following: provide information regarding academic planning for high school, schedule and orient new students, register students for classes for the following school year, attend and participate in various meetings such as Student Study Team meetings, Individual Education Plans, Parent/Student/Teacher conferences, coordinate and present orientations for students at elementary schools, plan and participate in parent orientations, assist with revision of curriculum guides, ensure grade reporting is completed and progress reports and report cards are prepared, assist in the development of the master schedule and any other duties that are assigned. In September, I attend California State University and University of California Conferences for Academic Counselors to learn of the latest/current changes for admissions requirements to our state's colleges, which facilitates the academic planning for our students.

Kathy Westling, Academic Advisor
kkwestling@capousd.org

I am a part time Academic Advisor available in the morning hours only. I am responsible for working with our principal and coordinating the standardized testing in the fall and spring as well as general intervention analysis and participation in Parent/Teacher/Student conferences throughout the year. I also am responsible for the various intervention programs at AVMS, including Math Support classes and Homework Club. I coordinate and implement various aspects of student recognition, including Student of the Month, Honor Roll, the Falcon Service Award program and Eighth Grade Awards.

Maureen Smith, Counselor
mesmith@capousd.org

As the counselor here at AVMS I provide social and emotional counseling, as well as offer academic encouragement and support. I believe that if a student has a sense of well-being, and can build a solid foundation by learning to be in charge of his/her emotional life, then school and its responsibilities will become a place of fulfillment, success, and ultimately happiness.

Students may request counseling services on a self-referral basis or as a parent, you may contact me if you are concerned about your son or daughter. Conversations between myself and your student are confidential, unless your student discloses information that presents clear and imminent danger to the student or others. Referrals to outside resources are available.

**Mary Schnitzer, Guidance Secretary/
Registrar, mcschnitzer@capousd.org**

If you will be enrolling a student new to our district or are interested in Open Enrollment for our school, I may be

your first contact here at AVMS. I will verify that AVMS is your home school and explain our enrollment procedures. I also maintain records on interdistrict and intradistrict transfers, and Open Enrollment applications. In addition, I arrange parent/teacher conferences, SST conferences and maintain our student cumulative records, update our student database, and provide clerical assistance to the guidance department.

Sandy Evans, Bilingual Community Service Liaison: syevans@capousd.org

This is the third year that I am privileged to serve our community of families at AVMS as a part time Bilingual Community Liaison available during morning hours.

As a Community Liaison my duties include to serve as a liaison between the school and home, to assess various needs of new families to our school, encourage parents to participate in school activities, secure social services and health services for children in need, interpret during IEP meetings, SST and parent/teacher conferences. I also provide assistance to our Academic Advisors, Guidance Secretary and our School Counselor.

Attendance

Important Information for Parents

Good attendance is essential to the success of our students. When students miss school, they miss out on instruction and activities that occur in the classroom and it can be challenging for them to make up work.

If your student will be ABSENT, please make sure to call the school each and every day they will not be attending school. Contact Chrissy Rogers in Attendance at 831-2622. Our phone line has a 24 hour answering machine so if you know the night before you can call in at that time. Also, please take note, your child is tardy if they arrive at school after their 1st period has started. If they do not come into the office to clear their absence they will be credited with an unexcused absence. You will receive a call from the school regarding an absence if you have not called in. If we call and leave a message, please respond as soon as possible. Unexcused absences are unable to be changed after 72 hours.

If your student must LEAVE SCHOOL EARLY, a parent must come into the office to sign out the student.

Thank you for your help and support!

Falcon Family Fundraiser and Friends of the Library

This year our Falcon Family Fundraiser and Friends of the Family library support program was again very successful! These are the major fundraisers that the PTSA does to fund activities during the year including department grants, parent education, safety supplies, technology support, the newsletters, website and PTSA legislation activities. The PTSA again received over \$8,600 from our wonderful AVMS Falcon Family Fundraiser as well as close to \$2,600 from the "Friends" of the Library! We could not have done it without your continued support. *Thank you for your participation!*

Alba-Brown Family
Ames Family
Ayers Family
Bach Family
Belknap Family
Bentley Family
Bjerke Family
Bjerkoe Family
Boden/Goodman Family
Cameron/Tkachuk Family
Carranza Family
Casey Family
Chang Family
Chen/Lao Family
Cheong Family
Coffey Family
Conrad Family
Cruz Family
Daly Family
Deang Family
DeBie Family
DeCorte Family
DeCorte Family
Einhorn Family
El Hasan Family
Elam Family
Elkins Family
Fagan Family
Faigin Family
Feibush Family

Fox Family
Frosto-Swank Family
Geiser Family
Gibson Family
Graham Family
Greco Family
Gregerman Family
Grodahl Family
Guivian Family
Gyimah Family
Haberlin Family
Harris Family
Hayes Family
Hogancamp Family
Holman Family
Holmes Family
Huber-Munemura Family
Hunter Family
Hunter Family
Ibarra Family
Ingebrigtsen Family
Inlander Family
Jaeger/Tover-Streitfeld Family
Jafari Family
James Family
Jarpe Family
Jussenhoven Family
Karlous Family
Kawaguchi Family

Keaney Family
Khatib Family
Kuo Family
Kuwayama Family
Lange Family
Lee Family
Leish Family
Leisner Family
Leonard Family
Loy/Dukes Family
Lynds Family
Macias Family
Mahaffey Family
Martin Family
Martinsen Family
Mathes Family
Mathes Family
McDaniel Family
Modjaby/Mishkanian Family
Moore Family

Morgenstern Family
Mortenson Family
Muench Family
Nabizadeh/Iranikhah Family
Nadan Family
Nagai Family
Naguib Family
Neufeld Family
Nguyen Family
Novida/Wang Family
Nugent Family
Oberholzer Family
Okura Family
Ordish Family
Orrill Family
Parker Family
Paymozd Yazdi Family
Phillippy Family
Pimentel Family
Pouraryan Family
Quinlan Family
Rafizad Family
Ragazzo/Wilson Family
Robertson Family
Robertson Family
Robles Family
Robles Family

Runneboom Family
Rush Family
Sadighi Family
Salazar Family
Sedlak Family
Slusiewicz Family
Soumeh/Hosseinpour Family
Spragle Family
Steiert Family
Stevens Family
Stevens Family
Stoddard/Bruno Family
Strohman Family
Stubbs Family
Swanson Family
Tarnovsky Family
Tran Family
Travis Family
Valentyn Family
Vuong/Chao Family
Wagner Family
Waldner/Vazquez Family
Walenta Family
Weidhaas Family
Winograd Family
Zinn Family

Special Recognition

We would especially like to recognize the following contributions:

Kim & Adam Gubner	Over \$250
Tracy & Todd Inlander	Over \$250
Cristina & Shepard Bentley	Over \$250

Homework Club and Math Support Classes

Homework Club

8:00 – 8:30 AM Mrs. Anderson	M/Tu/W/F	Library
3:30– 4:00 PM Mrs. Overman	M/Th	Library

Math Support

6th Grade

8:00 – 8:30 AM Mr. Hackstadt	M/Tu/W	Rm 605
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7th Grade

8:00 – 8:30 AM Mrs. Haehn	M/Tu/W	Rm 708
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8th Grade

8:00 – 8:30 AM Mrs. Royal	M/Tu/W	Rm 606
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All classes are drop in classes.

Students should sign in when they arrive.

Student Safety

The drop off procedure is set up so students should never cross the street or walk into the parking lot. If you are parking instead of picking up you may park in the center area. Thank you for your support in making our drop-off and pick-up as safe and timely as possible.

Fall into Reading

It's back to school and a wonderful time to Fall into Reading! Your library has many new titles that were ordered over the summer and are ready to be checked-out!

Here are a few of the new titles that have been generously donated by the PTA and Book Fair.

Kingdom Keepers Series

Infinity Ring Series

The Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel Series

I.Q. Series

The Missing Series

Vietnam Series

Brotherhood Chronicles

Island of Thieves

Who Done It?

Cosmic

The Rise of Nine

Reached

Paranormalcy

The Book of Elsewhere

False Prince

The Fall of the Templar

Lincoln's Grave Robbers

The Apothecary

A Million Shades of Gray

Daniel X

One Crazy Summer

Wonder Struck

Developing Study Skills

Listed below are several ways to help students become active learners and make test taking easier:

- **Study new material each night:** Make sure that you understand your notes while it is fresh in your mind.
- **Make flash cards:** Carry flash cards with you so when you are on your way to and from sports, lessons, and other activities you can quiz yourself on material.
- **Rewrite your notes:** Rewrite your notes from that day's material.



- **Read the material again:** Read the material given to you again. Then reread the material and highlight key points.
- **Use post-its:** Use post-it notes to mark important pages or sections that you are having trouble with.
- **USE YOUR AGENDA:** Your agenda will help you organize your time and if your time is organized you will be better equipped to handle tests.

AVMS Guidance Staff



LEGISLATIVE REPORT

LOCAL UPDATE

Common Core Implementation Plan: at the Sept 11, 2013 school board meeting the district presented a plan to spend the money allocated by the state to be used only to implement the Common Core Standards. CUSD is projecting \$9.5-\$10M to be spent between 2013 and 2015. The plan presented includes \$5M for Professional Development for teachers, administrators, and paraprofessionals educators or classified employees, \$0.5M-1M for Instructional Materials aligned to the academic content standards adopted, and \$4M for technology to integrate throughout instruction for purposes of improving academic performance of pupils, including expenditures to support the administration of computer-based assessments and provide high-speed, high bandwidth internet connectivity for the purpose of administration of computer-based assessments.

Budget Update: On June 27, the state adopted the Local Control Funding formula to fund public schools, which is substantially different than the funding model it is replacing. This new funding model will be phased in over the next 8 years. More detailed information about the LCFF is contained within the "state" portion of this report. The district is reporting that, the state will not have new funding formulas available until 2014/2015. In the meantime increased revenues at the state level have contributed to slightly more revenue for CUSD; yet, not enough to restore all (or even most of) the cuts endured over the past 5 years. In addition, the state allocated monies restricted for use to help the district implement the common core standards. Over the summer, CUSD conducted negotiations with employee groups to bridge the funding gap that the district has estimated at \$16.8M for the 2013/2014 school year. The gap does not represent less funding from last year; it is because employee contracts are for 1 year and concessions must be

renegotiated each year.

API Scores released for CUSD and Capistrano Unified Schools: In August, the state released API scores for districts and schools throughout the state. Capistrano Unified School District reported an API of 874 down from the 883 reported in 2012. Six subgroups within CUSD reported lower scores than the year before. Four subgroups reported higher scores than the year before. CUSD remains the highest scoring large school district in the state. More information and API data is available by state, by district, and/or by school at: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/ar/>

STATE UPDATE

A LOOK BACK OVER THE SUMMER...

Governor Brown signed the budget — created Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF)

Gov. Jerry Brown signed a state spending plan for the coming fiscal year that adopts a new funding formula for public schools that will send more money to districts with disadvantaged students, called the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF).

School districts will decide how to use the funds, but under the new system they must get input from their local communities. They also have to tie their budgets to improvement goals by creating a Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP).

A brief explanation of these new requirements and what local PTA leaders can do to begin making their voice heard in this new process is at: <http://www.capta.org/sections/programs/e-school-finance.cfm>

To learn more about the LCFF, please see the website of the California Department of Education, <http://www.cde.ca.gov>.

USEFUL LINKS ON SCHOOL FINANCE

- Local Control Funding Formula - <http://www.cde.ca.gov/fg/aa/lc/>
- Projected LCFF funding by School District <https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/711904-lcff-compromise-bydistrict060813.html>
- EdSource- <http://www.edsource.org/school-finance.html>
- Ed-Data Partnership - <http://www.ed-data.k12.ca.us/Pages/Home.aspx>
- Legislative Analyst's Office - <http://www.lao.ca.gov/laoapp/main.aspx>
- California Department of Education (CDE) <http://www.cde.ca.gov/>

CCSS Resources for Parents and Guardians

These resources have been compiled for parents and guardians interested in learning more about the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and how to support their child's attainment of these standards.

- What are the Common Core Standards? <http://www.cde.ca.gov/re/cc/tl/whatareccss.asp>
- K-8 California's Common Core Standards Parent Handbook: www.ccsesa.org/index/sp_CommonCoreStandards.cfm
- Parents' Guide to Student Success: <http://pta.org/parents/content.cfm?ItemNumber=2583> A guide, available in English and Spanish, for the CCSS in grades K-8 and two for grades 9-12 (one for English language arts/literacy and one for mathematics) created by the National PTA. The guide includes key items that children should be learning in each grade and activities parents can do at

STAY INFORMED

Visit the following websites for updates.

CUSD Budget Updates:

www.capousd.org (click on "Budget News" on left side of home screen)

State Budget Updates:

Department of Finance www.dof.ca.gov
Legislative Analyst's Office www.lao.ca.gov
Governor's Office www.gov.ca.gov

PTA Websites

Capistrano Unified Council PTSA
www.cucptsa.com
California State PTA
www.capta.org

- home to support their child's learning.
- Council of Great City Schools Parent Roadmaps : <http://www.cgcs.org/Domain/36>
 - California Department of Education CCSS Resources Web page: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/re/cc/>
 - If you would like further information regarding the CCSS, please contact the Common Core Systems Implementation Office by phone at 916-319-0490 or by e-mail at commoncoreteam@cde.ca.gov.

7th and 8th Grade Robotics and Engineering Elective

Business leaders throughout the country stress that the college graduates of tomorrow will need to work effectively in groups to creatively solve problems. Thirty four 7th and 8th grade students at Aliso Viejo Middle School will get that opportunity this year as part of the Robotics and Engineering elective. Students will be introduced to the Engineering Design process and basic engineering principles. They will then break into small teams to design structures and devices to achieve specific goals utilizing VEX IQ robotics kits (www.vexrobotics.com) to build a variety of structures and robots. Some of the robots will be remote controlled and students will attempt to most efficiently complete the assigned task. Other robots might utilize one or more of the sensors in the VEX IQ kit to autonomously complete their task. In all cases, students groups will independently design a device to accomplish the tasks assigned and then analyze their results in their engineering notebooks.

Mark Groothius

AVMS PTSA Reflections Program "Believe, Dream, Inspire"

All you artists out there, start dreaming!
The 2013-2014 theme for the National PTA Reflections Program is "Believe, Dream, Inspire."



Students can interpret the theme in any creative way they would like as they compose original art in six categories: dance choreography, film production, literature, music composition, photography and visual arts.

Copies of rules and category entry forms are available in the front office with entries due no later than 3:30 p.m. on Fri., Oct. 18th. Local judges will choose several levels of winners from among AVMS' participants in each category, and first place entries will go on to judging at the district level.

Participants will have a chance to see their art in a gallery at Aliso Viejo City Hall this winter. They'll also be invited to a ceremony here at AVMS in January for awards and participant packets and will be acknowledged in the winter issue of The View.

For 44 years, the National PTA has offered student artists the chance to express themselves through the Reflections art program. Don't miss this opportunity to share your talents with others!

Angela Geiser
PTSA Reflections Chairperson

MORE RECYCLING PARENT COORDINATORS NEEDED

Please email Mrs. Thomas at jthomas@capousd.org or Recycling Chair Amanda Thomas at Amanda@atmerit.com if you are interested in coordinating the Thursday Recycling program.

TURN IT IN THURSDAYS STARTED – SEPTEMBER 19

Please save all those water bottles and cans you collected this summer for our weekly collection. Volunteers will be setup at the entrance of the parking lot (just like last year). Just drive up and we will help you unload. Students receive front of the line passes and other prizes for making any size donation and the top recyclers win awards at the end of the semester.

2013-2014 SCHOOL CALENDAR

INDEPENDENCE DAY HOLIDAY (Legal Holiday)	Thursday, July 4, 2013
Adult Transition Program-Teacher Furlough Day	Friday, Aug. 9, 2013
Adult Transition Program -Teacher Pre-Service Days	Monday-Tuesday Aug. 12-13, 2013

Adult Transition Program (ATP) OPENING DAY OF SCHOOL
Wednesday, Aug. 14, 2013

LABOR DAY (Legal Holiday)	Monday, Sept. 2, 2013
Teacher Furlough Day (Except ATP)	Tuesday, Sept. 3, 2013
New Teacher - Pre-service Day	Thursday, Sept. 5, 2013
All Teachers - Pre-service Day	Friday, Sept. 6, 2013

OPENING DAY OF SCHOOL **Monday, Sept. 9, 2013**
 (Opening Day is Minimum Day Elementary)

Back-to-School Week, Middle School (Minimum day per individual school site calendar)	Tues.-Thurs., Sept. 17-19, 2013
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Back-to-School Week, High School (Minimum day per individual school site calendar)	Mon.-Thurs., Sept. 23-26, 2013
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Back-to-School Week, Elementary (Minimum day per individual school site calendar)	Tuesday-Thursday, Oct. 1-3, 2013
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Instructional Furlough Day/Common Core State Standards Training
Friday, Oct. 4, 2013

End of First Progress Reporting Period (High School)	Friday, Oct. 18, 2013
End of First Reporting Period - Elementary	Thursday, Oct. 31, 2013

Parent Conferences, Elementary (Minimum Days)
Tues.-Wed., Oct. 29-30, 2013

Parent Conferences, Elementary (Pupil Free Day-Elementary)
Thurs.-Fri., Oct. 31 – Nov. 1, 2013

PUPIL FREE DAY (No school for all students)	Friday, Nov. 1, 2013
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Non-Work Day for Secondary Teachers	Friday, Nov. 1, 2013
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End of First Quarter - Middle School	Friday, Nov. 8, 2013
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VETERANS DAY (Legal Holiday)	Monday, Nov. 11, 2013
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THANKSGIVING RECESS (Recess for Students and Teachers)	Mon.-Wed., Nov. 25-27, 2013
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THANKSGIVING HOLIDAYS (Legal and Local Holiday)	Thursday-Friday, Nov. 28-29, 2013
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SCHOOL RESUMES **Monday, Dec. 2, 2013**

End of Second Progress Reporting Period (High School)	Friday, Dec. 6, 2013
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WINTER RECESS (Recess for Students and Teachers)	Mon.-Fri., Dec. 23, 2013 – Jan. 3, 2014
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CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS (Local and Legal Holiday)	Tuesday-Wednesday, Dec. 24-25, 2013
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HOLIDAY TO REPLACE ADMISSION DAY (Local Holiday)	Tuesday, Dec. 31, 2013
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NEW YEAR'S DAY (Legal Holiday)	Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2014
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Instructional Furlough Day/Common Core State Standards Training
Monday, Jan. 6, 2014

SCHOOL RESUMES **Tuesday, Jan. 7, 2014**

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY (Legal Holiday)	Monday, Jan. 20, 2014
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Final Exam Days, High School (Minimum Days, High School)
Tues.-Thurs., Feb 4-6, 2014

End of First Semester **Friday, February 7, 2014**

First Semester Wrap-up Activities, Middle & High School
Friday, February 7, 2014

Middle and High School Pupil Free Day
Friday, February 7, 2014

SECOND SEMESTER BEGINS **Monday, Feb. 10, 2014**

LINCOLN DAY (Legal Holiday)	Friday, Feb. 14, 2014
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WASHINGTON DAY (Legal Holiday)	Monday, Feb. 17, 2014
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End of First Progress Reporting Period (High School)	Friday, Mar. 14, 2014
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End of Second Reporting Period - Elementary	Friday, Mar. 14, 2014
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Parent Conferences, Elementary (Minimum Days, Elementary Schools)	Monday-Friday, Mar. 24-28, 2014
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SPRING HOLIDAY (Local Holiday)	Monday, Apr. 7, 2014
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SPRING RECESS (Recess for Students and Teachers)	Tuesday-Friday, Apr. 8-11, 2014
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SCHOOL RESUMES **Monday, Apr. 14, 2014**

End of Third Quarter - Middle School **Friday, Apr. 18, 2014**

Instructional Furlough Day/Common Core State Standards Training	Monday, Apr. 21, 2014
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End of Second Progress Reporting Period (High School)	Friday, May 2, 2014
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MEMORIAL DAY (Legal Holiday)	Monday, May 26, 2014
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ATP Students/Staff - Last Day of School (Minimum Day for ATP students only)	Friday, May 30, 2014
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ATP Teacher Furlough Day **Monday, June 2, 2014**

Final Exam Days, High School (Minimum Days, High Schools)
Fri.-Tues., June 20-24, 2014

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR ALL STUDENTS **Tuesday, June 24, 2014**
(Minimum Day for All Students/Graduation Ceremonies)
Tuesday, June 24, 2014

(End of Second Semester- Secondary)
(End of Third Progress Reporting Period- Elementary)

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR ELEMENTARY TEACHERS
Tuesday, June 24, 2014

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR ALL SECONDARY TEACHERS
Wednesday, June 25, 2014

Teacher Furlough Day **Thursday, June 26, 2014**

Instructional Furlough Day for Common Core State Standards Training –
 Students do not attend school these days. Teachers attend training.
 Friday, October 4, 2013
 Monday, January 6, 2014
 Monday, April 21, 2014

Pupil Free Days – Students do not attend school these days.
Elementary:

Thursday, October 31, 2013 and
 Friday, November 1, 2013—Elementary Parent Conferences
Middle and High School:
 Friday, November 1, 2013
 Friday, February 7, 2014—End of Semester Wrap Up

REVISED AND BOARD APPROVED: August 14, 2013

What is Falcon Focus?



Falcon Focus is a 20 minute time block to provide students time to start on or complete homework, projects and read. This year Falcon Focus is again scheduled at the beginning of 5th period and is held on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Students will not receive a grade for this class but attendance is required as a part of their scheduled classes for the year.

Falcon Service Award

All AVMS students are eligible to participate in the Falcon Service Award Program. Applications and program information are available on the school website and packets of information are available in the office. Entries are due on April 25, 2014.

AVMS introduced the Falcon Service Award Program to AVMS students two years ago to recognize and reward students who demonstrate outstanding scholarship and citizenship and go above and beyond their through their service to AVMS and the community. This program will continue in the 2013-2014 school year. Students in ALL GRADES are eligible. Twenty hours of service are required – ten hours of school service outside of classroom activities at school and ten hours of service within the community. Students also must maintain a 2.0 GPA with no D's or F's and no N's or U's in citizenship. Information packets are available online on School Loop and in the front office. Entries are due on April 25, 2014.

Kathy Westling
AVMS Academic Advisor

Free Money for AVMS!!!

TOP FOUR ways that you can help our school at no cost to you! Please take a moment to review the list below and see how many ways you can support our students.

1 GROCERY CLUB CARD PROGRAMS (YOU MUST RE-REGISTER EACH YEAR) Self register today and every time you shop the store will donate a percentage of your purchase to our school. Visit the following websites to register:

Ralphs www.ralphs.com/community/Pages/community_contribution.aspx
Our Ralphs NPO number is 90727. Next time you go to Ralphs the cashier can register or re-register your card for AVMS.

Vons and Pavillions www.escrip.com

Our school ID number is 149173991. You may also register your Macy's card on this site and AVMS will receive a percentage when you use your card.

2 BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION Clip box tops and turn in to your social science teacher. Every 10 box tops = 1 front of line pass! Ask family and friends to clip too!

3 LINK TO AMAZON.COM FROM AVMS WEBSITE Use the link under the tab Support AVMS each time you shop at Amazon.com and a percentage of your purchase is donated by Amazon.com to AVMS. http://avms-capousd-ca.schoolloop.com/cms/page_view?d=x&piid=&vpid=1326974725143 Have family and friends use the link too!

4 USE THE COMMUNITIES FOR CAUSE APP WHEN SHOPPING /DINING Simply download the Communities for Cause app (CFC for short) on your iPhone or Android, select our cause/school as the beneficiary, and show the app when you dine or shop at a participating merchant. The merchant will make a donation based on a percentage of sales. Please download the app for iPhone or Android. For more information, go to www.communitiesforcause.com. Have family and friends join too!

2013 AVMS Service Awards

6th grade — Lauren Battle, Ethan Chao, Grant Couper, Mari Grodahl, Yash Gursahani, Tyler Hepburn, Audrey Hoehner, Jason Johnson, Max Ludwig, Nika Mahdavi, Ronak Naik, Arshia Pouraryan, Heidi Reinke, Wyland Sund, Kyle Wanamaker, Nadav Winograd.

7th grade — Logan Bjerke, Megan Conrad, Sarah Elbalalesy, Martin Erian, Max Eunice, Kim Fraser, Rebecca Garrod, Sabrina Horn, Evan Johnston, Julia Keating, Alex Morgenstern, Annaliese Muth, Kendall Nadan, Caitlyn Oliveras, Mary Perez, Sydney Roberts, Kate Robinson, Samantha Rush, Sophie Stevens, Matthew Walenta.

8th grade — Brittany Abramowitz, Noelle Acker, Kirsten Battle, Trevor Bowen, Gabbie Brown, Arjun Chandran, Erica Chao, Mitchell Christensen, Justin Danto, Quinn Darling, Rini Desai, Harminder Dhaliwal, Gracie Doran, Sarah Euyoque, Kariem Fahmy, John Frial, Megan Groothuis, Lindsey Hanlon, Reilly Ho, Rocio Jimenez, Bryan Kim, Sarina Kotowitz, Gemma Licata, Mandy Mangels, Ramsey Mardini, Farah Mawlawi, Madison Meehan, Jack Meyers, Trishna Patel, Taylor Plett, Hannah Reid, Alexis Rock, Shelsea Sanchez, Sajal Sharma, Jacob Sprick, Shayla Stensby, Shannon Swanson, Rachel Tam, Makayla Thompson.

Kathy Westling, AVMS Academic Advisor

Capistrano Unified Council PTSA
Aliso Viejo Middle School
P. O. Box 2183
Mission Viejo, CA 92690-0183

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AVMS View

Jennifer Smalley, *Principal*
Sam King, *PTSA President*

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WWW.AVMSPTSA.ORG

2013-2014 School Year

*With the exception of the first and last day of school, there will be
No School on all dates listed here.*

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL
Monday, September 9, 2013

VETERANS DAY Monday, Nov. 11, 2013

THANKSGIVING RECESS
Monday-Wednesday, Nov. 25-27, 2013

WINTER RECESS
Monday – Friday, Dec. 23, 2013 – Jan. 3, 2014

HOLIDAY TO REPLACE ADMISSION DAY
Tuesday, Dec. 31, 2013

NEW YEAR'S DAY Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2014

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY
Monday, Jan. 20, 2014

LINCOLN DAY Friday, Feb. 14, 2014

WASHINGTON DAY Monday, Feb. 17, 2014

MEMORIAL DAY Monday, May 26, 2014

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR ALL STUDENTS
Tuesday, June 24, 2014

Not printed at CUSD expense.

FALL 2013

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