



AVMS View

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

WINTER 2014 | Volume 21 Issue 2
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Dear Falcon Families

The 4 C's of Common Core

In the last newsletter I shared how AVMS teachers are incorporating the 4C's of Common Core: Critical Thinking, Collaboration, Communication, and Creativity. Our teachers have been working hard to collaborate with one another and to develop lessons that embody the 4C's. Feedback from the students is interesting ... many students report that assignments can be more challenging than in the past, however many of the same students expressed how much they enjoy that challenge and appreciate the creative lessons and activities they are experiencing in their classrooms.

Critical Thinking Questioning

Along with the 4C's, teachers across the Nation are beginning to incorporate more and more critical thinking questions into their lessons. We want students to be skilled at answering all levels of questions, especially those at the higher end that involve evaluation, application, and real-life problem solving. At a recent staff meeting, our staff reviewed the four levels of questions (known as Webb's Depth of Knowledge or DOK Levels). Below is a brief overview of the Depths of Knowledge (DOK) Levels and an example of a social science topic that works its way through the four levels.

DOK 1 Recall and Reproduction	DOK 2 Basic Application of Skills and Concepts	DOK 3 Strategic Thinking	DOK 4 Extended Thinking
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foundational Knowledge • Functional Skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Problem Solving • Task Completion • Conceptual Understanding • Procedural Understanding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critical Thinking • Communication • Analysis • Evaluation • Deeper Examination & Exploration • Planning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creativity & Innovation • Designing • Research & Investigation • Collaboration • Connection • Relevance
Social Science Example ... Explain what the Executive Branch of the United States Government is.	Social Science Example ... Explain the development and function of the executive branch, including the Presidency, Cabinet and federal bureaucracy.	Social Science Example ... Explain the electoral process (e.g. primary and secondary elections, general elections, electoral college).	Social Science Example ... Explain how a candidate can be elected President without receiving a majority of the popular vote (e.g. Adams-Jackson, Hayes-Tilden, Bush-Gore).

Thank You

As we are nearing the halfway point of the school year, I wanted to thank all of the thoughtful parent volunteers who have helped make first semester so successful. It is wonderful for our students to see parents helping on campus and I am proud to say (as well as VERY appreciative) that we have parents here helping every day! Your positive impact is felt by students and staff.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Smalley

Jennifer Smalley
Principal

Aliso Viego Middle School

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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.

Dear Falcons Families

This fall has been rushing by quickly! As we celebrate holidays, I'd like to take a moment to pause and acknowledge the friends and families of Falcons community who add so much to the lives of our students. The season of joy and celebration is the season of gratitude. Let us be thankful for everyone who have made Fall 2013 fantastic and fun, and remember how privileged we are to be part of a community dedicated to providing our kids the opportunity to fulfill their potential.

Reflecting upon what we have achieved so far, we are proud to say that our fund raising efforts and finance are solid, education programs are diversified, and volunteering participation is active. We have record number of students participating in the National PTA Reflections Program this year thanks to students, parents, and the leadership of the program chair Angela Geiser. We will have a special ceremony to recognize the winners of the Reflections Program at our January PTSA meeting. Furthermore, faculty and staff membership in the AVMS PTSA has reached new high. The AVMS PTSA volunteers have done an outstanding job during the past few months. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents, staff, faculty, and students who have contributed so much of their talent and time to the Falcons community.

As we begin a new year and new term, I encourage you to be involved in the AVMS PTSA by becoming a member and by volunteering with the PTSA to make positive changes.

Our next PTSA meeting is on Thursday, March 20, 2014 at 6:00 PM at AVMS Library. We look forward to seeing you there.

On behalf of the AVMS PTSA, we wish you happiness and peace throughout the New Year!

Sincerely,

Sam King

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

2013-2014 PTSA Meetings

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Thursday, January 16, 2014	10:00 AM	Library
Thursday, Mar. 20, 2014 *	6:00 PM	Library
Thursday, May 15, 2014	10:00 AM	Library

*Election of 2014-2015 Officers

2013-2014 PTSA Officers

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 Programs

AVMS PTSA provides a variety of programs for the AVMS students and families. Two very important activities include Legislation Advocacy and Parent Education. In addition, AVMS PTSA collaborates with other levels of the PTA organization to provide the following:

Friends of the Library

National PTA Reflections Program

P.E. Clothes

Recycling Program

PTSA Volunteers

Special Education

Hello Falcon Families

I wanted to congratulate all of our students for making positive decisions every day here at AVMS. I always love seeing all of the falcon pride tickets being turned in for a spin at the prize wheel, the Falcon Store and for our random drawings. Every day at break and lunch I am reminded what amazing students we have and am thankful for the community and staff which support them. Keep using those tickets. We will have another drawing towards the end of the quarter for several kinds of gift cards. Our prize wheel and store are also out every week so keep up the good work and enjoy the rewards of making good decisions here at school. There is not a turn in or large end of the year drawing so take advantage of the things that come up during the year in order to use those falcon pride tickets. Keep up the good work.

Greg Hauser

Greg Hauser
Assistant Principal

School Staff

Jennifer Smalley	Principal
Greg Hauser	Vice Principal
Janice Thomas	Office Manager
Sally Graves	Academic Advisor
Kathy Westling	Academic Advisor
Mary Schnitzer	Guidance Secretary
Chrissy Rogers	Attendance
Pam Rinehart	School Clerk II
Kyne Thompson	Health Office
Jinkee McFadden	Library
Sandy Evans	Community Liaison
Amelia Koskella	Psychologist
Maureen Byrne	Counselor
Jen Jacobson	ELD Coordinator
Alison Nero	ASB Adviso
Vic Mosconi	PAL Coordinator
Megan Persinger	Yearbook



TISSUE AND HAND SANITIZER DRIVE A HUGE SUCCESS

Thank you to all the families that made generous donations towards our annual Help AVMS Prevent Cold and Flu Season Tissue and Hand Sanitizer Drive. Enough donations were collected to provide every classroom, library, and front office with three boxes of tissue and two bottles of hand sanitizer. These donations greatly offset the cost the school would spend on these supplies and frees up our limited monies to purchase technology and instructional supplies for the classrooms. In addition and most importantly, having tissues and hand sanitizer readily available for student use keeps all of the children healthier.

Be on the lookout for announcements regarding our Show Your Love for AVMS Copy Paper Drive coming in February!



TOP TEN WAYS TO SUPPORT AVMS

TOP TEN 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:

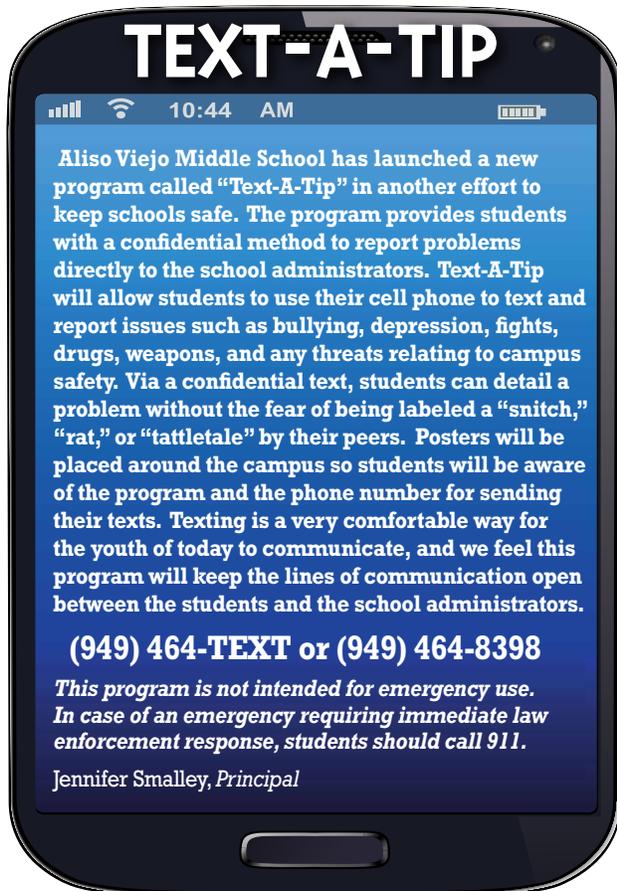
Ralphs http://www.ralphs.com/community/Pages/community_contribution.aspx

Our Ralphs NPO number is 90727. The 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!

5 RECYCLE YOUR CANS AND PLASTIC BOTTLES AT AVMS Each Thursday morning we have Turn-It in Thursdays and we collect your recyclables.

6 SPREEBIRD.COM Register to get deals from www.spreebird.com and designate Aliso Viejo Middle School. 10% of each deal purchase goes to AVMS. Have family and friends join too!

7 TARGET CREDIT AND DEBIT CARDS Did you know that Target gives back to local schools? If you have a Target Red Card designate Aliso Viejo Middle School as your school and Target will donate 1% of your purchase to AVMS through its "Take Charge of Education" Program. Visit www.Target.com/tcoe or call 1-800-316-6142 to designate our school and then use your REDcard whenever you shop. Have family and friends join too!

8 INK AND TONER RECYCLING Please bring in your empty ink and toner cartridges from home and work and place in the box in the front office lobby.

9 AVMS FAMILY DINE OUT NIGHTS Throughout the year we have Family Dine Out Nights at a local restaurant. A percentage of sales are donated to the school. Check the weekly List Serve to see the date of the next night. A great way to meet other AVMS families! Invite family and friends too!

10 PLACE YOUR OLD CLOTHES/ SHOES IN THE BIN OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL Just like donating to Goodwill, but AVMS receives 5 cents for every pound of clothing/shoes. Time to clean out those closets! We'll happily take clothes/shoes from friends and families too!

Reflections Entries Impress and Inspire

AVMS announces its winners in four artistic fields

Twenty-five inspiring works of art by AVMS students are displayed in the media center through January, all focused on the theme "Dream, Believe, Inspire."

The students created the pieces for this year's National PTA Reflections contest, a program that has encouraged students nationwide to express themselves through artistic media and has recognized their finest work for 45 years.

Twenty-one AVMS students participated in Reflections this year, producing works in film production, literature, photography and visual arts. Their creative entries range from a photo of a child flying through the sky, drawings and photos of athletes in action and claymation film of a baby bird learning to fly.

Local experts in the four artistic categories served as judges, naming our award winners and sending the top entries on to compete against winners from the other Capistrano

Unified School District middle schools in November.

No AVMS students submitted works in the dance choreography or music production



categories this year. Photography was our most competitive category, with 13 entries.

Our visual arts winner, eighth-grader Kristine Kim, also received award of excellence at the district level after her entry competed against winners from 11 other middle schools. Her colored pencil drawing of an athlete with prosthetic limbs winning an Olympic track race will now compete at the regional level. Congratulations to Kristine for her inspirational piece!

All participants in our AVMS contest were invited to our school award ceremony and art gallery grand opening at the PTSA meeting on Jan. 16. The participants received packets of school passes and store coupons and enjoyed refreshments while admiring each other's art. Be sure to check out their work in the media center through January!

*Angela Geiser
2013 Reflections Chair*

This year's AVMS winners are as follows:

Film Production

Tor Thompson
Award of Excellence
Amani Taraman
Award of Merit

Literature

Ajay Arangan
Award of Excellence
Skyler Olis
Award of Merit

Photography

Noah Greco
Award of Excellence
Sabrina Horn
Award of Merit

Isabelle Pense
Third Place

Rebecca Garrod,
Honorable Mention
Emma Hembrough,
Honorable Mention

Visual Arts

Kristine Kim
Award of Excellence
Ryann Beveridge
Award of Merit
Jiin Kim
Third Place
Joanne Hong
Honorable Mention

What will your child be doing in 2 – 4 years?

When your child is in middle school it is hard to imagine that he or she will be driving a car in a few short years. But make no mistake – the kids are already scoping out cars and looking forward to that true "coming of age" – their drivers license.

The biggest handicaps that new drivers have are immaturity and inexperience. Studies have shown that our brain is not fully developed until about 25 years of age and until that time, risk taking and bad judgments factor into most of the accidents that teens have. What can you do NOW to help them become responsible and safe drivers?

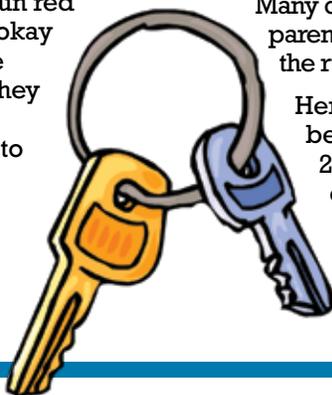
- **Model good driving skills** – Parents that run red lights or speed are telling their child that's okay to do. It isn't. If they watch you try to juggle food or use your cell phone while driving, they will most likely do that too. These types of distractions can easily cause a new driver to have an accident.
- **Learn about the current laws regarding teen drivers** – This information is available at the DMV website (www.dmv.ca.gov) and also through your insurance provider.

Knowing what to expect will help make this a smoother process.

- **Wear your seatbelt** – One of the simplest injury prevention tactics we can utilize is the use of our seatbelts. Our children have been required to buckle up when riding in a car since they were born. Be sure they understand that this does not change when they are driving on their own – it could save their life.
- **Research** – Find out what your insurance company requires when student receive their learners permit and when they receive their provisional license at 16.

Many companies have excellent information for parents and teens about driver's education and the rules of the road. Take advantage of it!

Here's the scary part – the risk of a teen being in a car crash during the first 12 to 24 months of driving is higher than any other point in their lives. Please start talking to your child now about safe driving habits. **Believe it or not, they are listening and watching!**



AVMS PTSA Volunteers

On August 6-8, 2013 we had the AVMS Packet Pick up where volunteers Dianne Burkhard, Evelyn Riyhani, Timea Agnew, Mike Pouraryan, and D'Andre Schwab were on hand to deliver registration packets to parents.

During our AVMS Registration held in the MPR on September 3-4, 2013 we had Vanessa Leite, Mindy Frosto-Swank, Christine Ames, Arlen James, Cici Jafari, Wendy Allen, Jacqueline Martinsen, Karrie Nelsen, Ronna Zolinski, Michelle Curameng, Stacy Hoehner, Shar Suyama, Debbie Goldberg, Cheryl Anderson, Sandra Spino, Ellen M. White, Kimari Phillips, Shannon Burn light, Mike Pouraryan, Jan Mortenson, Evelyn Riyhani, Maica Belknap, Cynthia Cavale, Shana Ballmer, Lily Cifuentes, Holly Vuong, Tamara Ferrell, Zohreh Roozbeh, Catherine Patience, Sam King, Barbara Doran, Christina Wanamaker, Diana Scherer, Sharon Ibarra, Alea Scott, Chris Hosmer, Jacqueline Khatib, Bea Reiter, Claire Winograd, and Iris Arabshahi.

Volunteers helped staff the AVMS library during the book fair on Sept. 16-20, 2013; thank you to Kathy Gange, Zeinebou Ba, Mindy Frosto-Swank, Maryam Fooladi, Roberta Gergerman, Danielle Russell, Tobey Furlong, Taghreed Gohar, Ronna Zolinski, Marla Shulman, Cristina Bentley, and Chris Hosmer.

AVMS had help for the Magazine/Cookie order turn in on three separate days; for the first turn in on Sept. 27, 2013; we had volunteers Debby Couper, Mindy Frosto-Swank, Zeinebou Ba, Mike Pouraryan, Jennifer Kilger and Pamela Hayes on hand to receive the orders. On October 3-4, 2013 we had Chris Hosmer, Debby Couper, Roberta Greggerman, Jennifer Kilger, Mindy Frosto-Swank, Mike Pouraryan, and Cindy Snelling working to collect the orders.

Parents helped out on October 22-23, 2013 to transform the AVMS MRP into a Halloween dance venue; helping to decorate were: Mindy Frosto-Swank, Nicole Volpe (Pense) and Ruth Garrod. We had AVMS volunteers to help us at the Halloween Dance on Oct. 26, 2013; thank you Jacqueline

Khatib, Mindy Frosto-Swank, Evelyn Riyhani, Chris Hosmer, Norma Abzakh, Deborah Kipers and Mike Pouraryan for your help!

AVMS Parents did a fantastic job over a two week period (Oct. 21-30, 2013) to make over 2000 response cards to be used by AVMS teachers as a classroom aid. Helping to cut, glue, laminate and assemble the cards were: Dierdre Leisner, Lauren McDaniel, Esther Hovington, Zeinebou Ba, Claire Winograd, Debby Couper, Margo Ludwig, Pamela Hayes, Alessandra Alves, Kathy Brevoort, Nedie Ayers, Norma Abzakh, Timea Agnew and Mindy Frosto-Swank.

We had many helping hands on Nov. 5, 2013 when the cookie dough delivery and prizes were handed out to the AVMS students.

Helping out at the task were: Stephanie Oelrich, Ruth Garrod, Norma Abzakh, Mindy Frosto-Swank, Timea Agnew, Suzanne Horn, Mike Pouraryan, Linda Kuljam, Jacqueline Martinsen, Ellen M. White, Debbie Goldberg, Cristina Bentley, and Cindy Snelling.

We will have a need for more volunteers for upcoming events

such as the Talent Show in January 2014 and other activities happening at AVMS. We will notify you of these events thru AVMS list-serve, the AVMS PTSA website and our very own Facebook Group: Aliso Viejo Middle School PTSA! We use the website volunteerspot.com to organize our events so you will also receive emails from this site.

Thank you so much to the dedicated parent volunteers who give of their time and energy to the students and staff at AVMS!

If you would like to help at upcoming events at AVMS please contact me!

Mindy Frosto-Swank
PTSA Volunteer Coordinator
mindyfs@hotmail.com
949.683.3398

"Like" us on Facebook!

www.facebook.com/AVMSPTSA



AVMS PTSA
volunteers have been
Actively helping out
the staff and students
in a variety of exciting
events at school.

How AVMS Strives to be Bully Free

Preventing bullying / cyber bullying by educating students about what it is and how to prevent it.

- Create a positive school culture through our school wide implementation of PBIS which includes a unit on bullying.
- Beginning of the year assembly by assistant principal which addresses bullying and its consequences.
- Additional assembly later in the year by our counselor exclusively on the topic of bullying.
- Blue Ribbon Week

Definition of Bullying from Board Policy – BP 5141(d)

Bullying shall mean unwelcome, pervasive, and/or severe verbal, written, or physical conduct directed at a student or staff member by a student or staff member that has the effect of any or all of the following:

1. Creating an intimidating and/or hostile environment that substantially interferes with a student's educational opportunities or the ability of a staff member to perform his or her duties;
2. Damaging, extorting, or taking a student or a staff member's personal property;
3. Placing a student or staff member in reasonable fear of physical, emotional, or mental harm;
4. Placing a student or staff member in reasonable fear of damage to, or loss of, personal property.

How to Report Bullying.

- Bully box
- Online Bully Reporting Form
- Incident Report Form in the office
- Conversation or email to staff
- Referral from staff member who witnessed event

Assistant Principal and/or Counselor investigate incident.

- Ensure all parties are familiar with board policy 5141(d) as it relates to bullying
- Follow up with concerned party and discuss results of investigation

Assign appropriate consequences which may include but not limited to:

- Situation logged in discipline file
- Bully complaint report completed
- Situation logged in Bully Log filed both at school and at the District Office
- Counseling
- Conflict Mediation
- Detention, Suspension, Involuntary Transfer, Expulsion
- Behavior Contract
- Notify School Resource Officer

Paint A Pumpkin Contest

The library sponsored our first ever paint a pumpkin contest. Students were asked to paint or decorate a pumpkin as their favorite book or book character. The students who submitted a pumpkin where eligible for a random drawing to win one of three \$20 Barnes and Noble gift cards. The AVMS Library would like to thank the PTA for its continuous support.

Here are some of the pumpkin entries.





Legislative Report

LOCAL UPDATE

Mission Hospital has assigned a 70+-person task force to assist CUSD in fighting childhood obesity.

Budget: Teamster's tentative agreement approved at board meeting on October 23. It represented the portion of targeted reductions needed to meet this year's budget.

Budget shortfall for next year (yes, we are already talking about next year's funding) is estimated between \$2 Mil by State Dept. of Finance to \$15 Mil by School Services. Clark Hampton, CUSD Deputy Superintendent, Business and Support Services advised State's estimate VERY hopeful. December will bring a better estimate.

Local Control and Accountability Plan

(LCAP): Clark Hampton of the School District has outlined the LCAP as required by the State. Ed. Code 52060-52077 outlines entire LCFF goals and accountability for districts and county. CUSD must adopt a plan prior to July 2014. Two points of interest are 52060: Step 3 and 7(g) outlines mandated parent involvement in devising plan for their respective districts. Ed. Code section 52062 outlines that prior to adoption by a district, the plan must be presented to various groups, including a parent advisory committee. As PTSA members, we will advocate to have a voice in the planning stages.

The November 6 CUSD Board meeting presented information about the district's timeline and process in developing and implementing the Local Control and Accountability Plan.

STATE UPDATE

Local Control Funding Formula and Local Control and Accountability Plan: One of the new priorities of the Local Control Funding Formula is parent involvement, and implementation of the law begins with the requirement that districts engage parents in crafting budgets.

The cornerstone of the law is a spending roadmap, known as a Local Control and Accountability Plan, that school districts must draw up to outline how their budgets align with state and local education priorities. To involve parents in preparing the budget, the law requires districts to hold a public meeting, make a presentation to

a district-level parent advisory committee and, if applicable, make a presentation to an

English Learner parent advisory committee. Districts must also prepare a written response to any comments submitted by the committees and approve the plan at a second public hearing.

Before the district budget can be authorized, the district superintendent or the county office of education must approve the local accountability plan, including the district's parent involvement efforts.

As the process of creating local budgets inches forward, parents and advocates are hopeful that the new law will give them a stronger voice, but concerned that the requirements for parent engagement don't go far enough.

Read more at edsources.com

State testing stopped as California shifts to Common Core Standards: What state tests will be suspended in the 2013-14 school year?

- California Standards Tests (CSTs) in English language arts and math in all grades (grade 11 would be voluntary for college placement purposes), including end-of-course tests in middle and high schools in algebra I, algebra II, geometry, general math and integrated math.
- All history tests (8th grade, U.S. history and world history).
- End-of-course high school science tests in biology, chemistry, physics and integrated science.
- CSTs in Spanish given to English learners, although districts can offer the tests at their own expense.
- Starting next year, standardized math or English language arts tests won't be offered for 2nd graders, though districts can choose to continue to offer them, at state expense.

What tests will be given in spring 2014?

- All districts will give every student the field test for the new Common Core standards in either math or English language arts. The results won't be reported to parents or schools.
- Districts without the technology to give the field test will not test students in language arts or math.

- Students will continue to take state science tests in grades 5, 8 and 10, as required by federal law.
- The high school exit exam will be given.
- Alternative tests for disabled students will be given in some grades.

What will be given in spring 2015?

- The official Common Core tests in English language arts and math in grades 3 through 8 and 11. Schools and parents will get the results of those tests.
- Districts have the option of giving Common Core tests with paper and pencil for the first three years.
- Science tests in grades 5, 8 and 10 will be given, as will the high school exit exam.

Feds withholding \$ for suspending testing

The Assistant Secretary of Education Delisle said California would face substantial sanctions if it follows a new state law and fails to test every student in reading and math in grades 3 through 8 and grade 11 next year. She said the state Department of Education stands to lose federal money used to administer Title I funding for disadvantaged students and to administer federally required tests. That's estimated to be about \$45 million, though the state Department of Education would not confirm that amount. And Delisle also suggested that some of the \$3.5 billion that districts receive in Title I money for services for low-income and disabled students could be in jeopardy as well.

Despite a threatening letter last week from an assistant secretary of the federal Department of Education, the executive director of the State Board of Education is expressing confidence that the state will reach an agreement over standardized testing next spring to avoid tens of millions of dollars in federal penalties.

The U.S. Dept. of Education has offered 2 options that CDE has rejected. Using the old tests to keep Title I money or obtain a waiver and have the option of using the "field" or practice Common Core tests that 2 consortiums of states are preparing - out of recognition that the consortiums need results from the field test - essentially a test of the test - in order to create valid Common Core assessments for states to introduce in the spring of 2015.

Secretary Duncan has not granted any waivers for the field test and California will not be going that route. CDE is considering options that offer a compromise.

FEDERAL UPDATE

FY2014 Budget—Groundhog Day: On October 16, President Obama signed a measure (HR 2775) to reopen the government and lift the debt ceiling. The measure funds the government through January 15 at the FY2013 post-sequestration spending level, suspends the debt limit until February 7, provides back pay for furloughed workers, and requires income verification for people seeking premium subsidies to help buy health insurance. Both chambers also must reconcile their budget resolutions for FY2014 by December 13.

House Republican leadership appointed Rep. Paul Ryan (R-WI), Tom Cole (R-OK), Tom Price (R-GA), and Diane Black (R-TN) to serve on the conference committee. House Democrats named Rep. James Clyburn (D-SC), Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), and Nita Lowey (D-NY) to serve. All members of the Senate Budget Committee will also participate in the budget conference. A list of Senate budget committee members can be found here: <http://www.budget.senate.gov/democratic/>

Education advocates are watching these negotiations closely because there is hope that through these negotiations some of the impacts of the sequestration may be blunted, and there will be clues to which programs will be favored in future budget negotiations. Many feel that the sequestration cuts will be permanent.

Key Dates:

December 13, 2013—The budget panel's proposals are slated to be released.

January 15, 2014—A bill extending funding for most federal programs at last year's levels expires.

February 7, 2014—Projected date by which Congress must raise the federal debt ceiling to avoid default.

For more: <http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2013/11/06/11budget.h33.html?qs=congressional+budget+panel>

2013 National Assessment of Educational Progress Results: (Excerpted from

Edweek): The reading and mathematics achievement of the country's 8th grade students improved in the last two years, but the performance of 4th graders remains stubbornly mixed, with progress in math, but not in reading, according to national test data released Thursday.

The results of the 2013 National Assessment of Educational Progress, known as "the nation's report card," show that 8th graders' average score in math rose 1 point since 2011, the last time the test was given, and 3 points in reading on NAEP's 500-point scale. Fourth graders gained 1 point in math; there was no statistically significant gain in reading.

Larger shares of students reached the "proficient" level in 2013 than did so in 2011, and achievement was far higher than when the tests were first given in the early 1990s. But the numbers still painted a less-than-rosy picture of American academic strength: In grade 4, only 42 percent of students are proficient in math, and 35 percent are proficient in reading. In grade 8, 36 percent are proficient in reading and math.

NAEP scores fall into three categories on a 0-500 point scale: basic, proficient, and advanced.

The article continues: <http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2013/11/07/12naep.h33.html?tkn=UTMFjaTwCU06T3nPPHRL2e6kjpahU0s%2Bv7Nr&cmp=ENL-EU-NEWS1>

For more: http://nationsreportcard.gov/reading_math_2013/#/

Global context report compares

International education systems: The National Center for Education statistics released a study linking NAEP (National Assessment of Educational Progress) and TIMSS test results in math and science at grade 8 for 52 states (includes the district of Columbia and, the Dept of Defense schools) and 47 education systems (38 countries and 9 sub national education systems. This is significant because this is the first time that the NAEP and TIMSS (Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study) tests were administered the same year to link same year results. This allowed a comparison of achievement for each state and the international community for the first time instead of comparing the United States results with individual foreign educational systems.

Most states were clustered in the intermediate category in both math and science. The study concluded that 36 individual states scored higher than 42 education systems in math. 10 scored comparably and 6 states scored lower. In science, 47 states scored higher, 2 states were comparable, and 3 states scored lower.

California scored in the intermediate category in both math and science.

For a link to more information the study and access to interactive graphics: https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/studies/naep_timss/

<http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2013/10/24/10timss.h33.html?tkn=SUXFTjyV9jMb4YLbhl2tgmBn4lBxko0fMYP&cmp=ENL-EU-NEWS1&print=1>Most States Surpass Global Average in Math, Science

US Dept of Education letter regarding testing suspension for the 2013/2014 school year:

The US Dept of Education sent a letter to the California State Superintendent Tom Torlakson, outlining some of the federal remedies for the state being out of compliance with NCLB due to the passage of AB 484, which would eliminate most STAR testing this school year. The penalties are estimated at \$15M or more. California state officials are in discussion with Federal Officials to come to a compromise.

To read a copy of the letter:

<https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/812873-nclb-sanctionslet-deslisle102913.html>

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

SCHOOL CALENDAR 2013–2014

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	Mon.-Tues. 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	Tues.-Thurs., Sept. 17-19, 2013
(Minimum day per individual school site calendar)	
Back-to-School Week, High School	Mon.-Thurs., Sept. 23-26, 2013
(Minimum day per individual school site calendar)	
Back-to-School Week, Elementary	Tues.-Thurs., Oct. 1-3, 2013
(Minimum day per individual school site calendar)	
Instructional Furlough Day/Common Core State Standards Training	Friday, Oct. 4, 2013
End of First Progress Reporting Period (High School)	Friday, Oct. 18, 2013
Parent Conferences, Elementary (Minimum Days)	Tues.-Weds., Oct. 29-30, 2013
Parent Conferences, Elementary (Pupil Free Day-Elementary)	Thurs.-Fri., Oct. 31-Nov. 1, 2013
End of First Reporting Period - Elementary	Thursday, Oct. 31, 2013
PUPIL FREE DAY (No school for all students)	Friday, Nov. 1, 2013
Non-Work Day for Secondary Teachers	Friday, Nov. 1, 2013
End of First Quarter - Middle School	Friday, Nov. 8, 2013
VETERANS DAY (Legal Holiday)	Monday, Nov. 11, 2013
THANKSGIVING RECESS	Mon.-Wed., Nov. 25-27, 2013
(Recess for Students and Teachers)	
THANKSGIVING HOLIDAYS (Legal and Local Holiday)	Thurs.-Fri., Nov. 28-29, 2013
SCHOOL RESUMES	Monday, Dec. 2, 2013
End of Second Progress Reporting Period (High School)	Friday, Dec. 6, 2013
WINTER RECESS (Recess for Students and Teachers)	Mon.-Fri., Dec. 23, 2013-Jan. 3, 2014

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS (Local and Legal Holiday)	Tues.-Wed., Dec. 24-25, 2013
HOLIDAY TO REPLACE ADMISSION DAY (Local Holiday)	Tuesday, Dec. 31, 2013
NEW YEAR'S DAY (Legal Holiday)	Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2014
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
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
WASHINGTON DAY (Legal Holiday)	Monday, Feb. 17, 2014
End of First Progress Reporting Period (High School)	Friday, Mar. 14, 2014
End of Second Reporting Period - Elementary	Friday, Mar. 14, 2014
Parent Conferences, Elementary (Minimum Days, Elementary Schools)	Mon.-Fri., Mar. 24-28, 2014
End of Third Quarter - Middle School	Friday, Apr. 4, 2014
SPRING HOLIDAY (Local Holiday)	Monday, Apr. 7, 2014
SPRING RECESS (Recess for Students and Teachers)	Tues.-Fri., Apr. 8-11, 2014
SCHOOL RESUMES	Monday, Apr. 14, 2014
Instructional Furlough Day/Common Core State Standards Training	Monday, Apr. 21, 2014
End of Second Progress Reporting Period (High School)	Friday, May 2, 2014
MEMORIAL DAY (Legal Holiday)	Monday, May 26, 2014
ATP Students/Staff - Last Day of School	Friday, May 30, 2014
(Minimum Day for ATP students only)	
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

Calendar changes made in this revision are in bold.

KEY DATES

NEW YEAR'S DAY	WED., 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

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

AVMS PAL Activities & Awareness

The Peer Assistance and Leadership (PAL®) class at AVMS has been extremely busy since the beginning of the 2013-2014 school year. PAL along with ASB helped to demonstrate our Positive Behavior Intervention Systems (PBIS) to our new and returning students during the first week of school. In October, PAL students planned and organized events for Red Ribbon Week to raise awareness about the uses and abuses of drugs, tobacco and alcohol. PAL students decorated the school campus with red ribbons, posters and signs and created and led lunchtime activities. For the first time, PAL teamed up with Dr. Sae Cho, DDS



of Aliso Viejo and collected almost 300 lbs of Halloween candy from students and families to be donated to the military troops overseas through Operation Gratitude, along with donating about \$300 of toothbrushes, toothpaste, and floss! Finally, the third annual Food Drive at AVMS was a great success! Over 8 large barrels of canned and dried goods were collected and donated by AVMS families to the South County Outreach Food Bank directly assisting families in South Orange County.

Vic Mosconi
PAL Advisor, AVMS



We're using VolunteerSpot, the leading time-saving online coordination tool, to help us organize multiple PTSA activities:

- Library Volunteer • School Supply Volunteer
- Dance Chaperone • Before/After School Parking Help • Dance Decorating Volunteer
- Copy Parent • AVID Tutors • Magazine/Cookie Sales Volunteer • PE/Referee Volunteer • Science Club Events • Box Tops Volunteer • Falcon Olympics • Book Fair • Fundraising • Hospitality
- Parent Education • PE Clothing Sales • Recycling Program • Reflections • Classroom Help
- Legislative • Data Entry • Donate Food Items
- Talent Show Volunteers • Yearbook • Packet Delivery • Registration • Help Where Needed!

Sign up to be an AVMS PTSA Volunteer today!

Contact Mindy Frosto-Swank
PTSA Volunteer Coordinator
at mindyfs@hotmail.com
for more information!



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.

Yearbook News!

Good news — if you haven't bought your yearbook yet, you may still order one! Order forms are available in the front office. Yearbooks may also be ordered online with a credit card at this site: <http://www.jostensyearbooks.com>.

Did you miss the "Early Bird" price deadline for the 8th grade ad? You can still submit a dedication, but please hurry because space is limited!

The yearbook staff is looking for help from home! We need pictures of traveling Falcons! The better quality the picture, the more likely it is to get in the book. Another bonus would be multiple Falcons in the shot! We are also looking for shots of Falcons involved in their extra curricular hobbies. Please have students bring pics to room 603 on a flash drive OR email photos.

Thank you! Megan Persinger, Yearbook

Capistrano Unified Council PTSA
Aliso Viejo Middle School
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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

Homework Club and Math Support Classes

Need a Little Extra Help, Just Drop In!

Homework Club

Monday, Tuesday,
Wednesday, Friday
Mrs. Anderson – Library
8:00 – 8:30 AM
Monday, Thursday,
Mrs. Overman – Library
3:30 – 4:00 PM

Math Support

6th Grade
Monday, Tuesday,
Wednesday
Mr. Hackstadt – Room 605
8:00 – 8:30 AM
7th Grade
Monday, Tuesday,
Wednesday

Mrs. Haehn – Room 708
8:00 – 8:30 AM
8th Grade
Monday, Tuesday,
Wednesday
Mrs. Royal – Room 606
8:00 – 8:30 AM

All classes are drop in classes. Students should sign in when they arrive

Not printed at CUSD expense.

WINTER 2014

AVMSPTSA.org