

◆ Monte Vista News ◆

Kyrene Monte Vista School

"Pride In Learning"

May 2009

From the Desk of Dr. Shimkus

Dear Parents/Guardians:

It is hard to believe that another school year is coming to a close and that my time at Kyrene Monte Vista has come to an end. It has been a year of hard work and accomplishments.

Kyrene Monte Vista continued to live its mission of excellence, and we continued to take pride in our A+ School status. To earn the A+ designation, schools must excel in student focus and support, active teaching and learning, curriculum, community/parent involvement, leadership and assessment. It is quite an honor to receive this designation, and I believe that we embody this excellence.

Our school improvement plan focused on improving student achievement in reading, writing and math at all grade levels. Our main focus was problem-solving in math. Working collaboratively, school teams taught common performance objectives and used formative assessments in reading, writing and math to guide their instruction and monitor student progress. School teams met on a regular basis, assisting each other with ideas and discussing progress toward their goals. Our outstanding K-5 assistants continued to provide excellent support to our students, and our Literacy Coach and Math Coach provided support and staff development for the staff.

Our staff participated in professional development activities one Wednesday each month in math as part of their on-going professional growth. During these opportunities, staff discussed student work, shared strategies and activities, and engaged in professional dialogue about best practices in the areas of cognitively guided instruction.

District testing during the school year had Kyrene Monte Vista scoring above district averages on curriculum-based assessments (CASS, MSS, CASS writing) with many of our students scoring in the Proficient range. The Arizona Department of Education rated Monte Vista as "Excelling" for the sixth year in a row, and we met both the federal (No Child Left Behind) and state (AZ Learns) requirements for adequate yearly progress (AYP).

All Monte Vista teachers continued to integrate technology throughout the curriculum. Teachers used their wireless networked laptops, projection systems, and document cameras in their classrooms on a daily basis. Our kindergarten and first



grades also made great use of their SMART boards. We look forward to next year when all classrooms will be equipped with SMART boards. Teachers received training and support throughout the year from our site mentors and the education technology mentor. Both students and teachers benefited from the learning. Technology continues to be a strong learning tool at Kyrene Monte Vista.

Students continued to be recognized for their efforts in academics and the application of the LIFESKILLS. Each student had the opportunity to receive a Proud Principal award and an opportunity to be recognized at a Proud Principal lunch on the stage. We also continued to recognize students for using LIFESKILLS on a daily basis with Mountain Lion Pride awards.

Our students continued to make us proud. One of our kindergarten students won the district poetry contest. We also sent one of our fifth grade students to the district Spelling Bee. Many of our students had their art work displayed in the district art show.

Our students showed their compassion for others by donating food to help our Kyrene Resource Center food pantry. Our students also worked to make Monte Vista a little "greener" with the help of our Student Council. We participated in the Walmart plastic bag recycling program as well as the paper recycling program.

Parent involvement continued to be a source of pride at Kyrene Monte Vista this year. Throughout the year we had great community events such as our Read-a thon, Pumpkin Walk, Turkey Trot, Spring Carnival, Book Fair, Magic Night, Field day, Skateland as well as the many family dinner nights. All of these events were successful due to the efforts of PTO, parent volunteers, staff, and community participation. Our classrooms and workroom were supported by parent volunteers. The support of the wonderful parents and families who give their time, energy, talents, and financial support help make Kyrene Monte Vista a special place for children to grow and learn.

With the help of Susan Norton, Monte Vista parent, the beautiful Monte Vista Heritage Garden

was maintained. Our school celebrated Earth Day with an Earth Day fair in the Heritage Garden. The garden was also featured in an article in the Ahwatukee Foothills News in April.

This year we put our tax credit donations to work! Thanks to your generosity we were able to have all classes attend an educational study field trip. We also had two authors visit and several presentations. Once again this year we were able to offer enrichment classes designed exclusively for our Monte Vista students: Lego Creations, Lion's Roar chorus, and Running Club were some of the classes offered. We also subsidized classes offered by outside vendors to reduce the cost to families. Tax credit donations also funded the fifth grade's trip to Junior Achievement's Biz Town. Tax credit donations provided funds for our fifth grade PROJECT Alert drug prevention program and prevention services for all grade levels through a contract with Jewish Family and Children Services (JFCS). This year, tax credit donations were used for a before-school tutoring (math club) for 3-5 grade students staffed by our teachers. Tax credit donations also funded supplies for our Art Masterpiece program.

Additions to our playground were beautiful maps of the USA and the world. The USA map was an Eagle Scout project and our PTO provided the wonderful world map in honor of my retirement. Both maps will be enjoyed by the students, staff, and families.

To me, the best part of this year was spending another year with the wonderful children and families that make Kyrene Monte Vista so special. Kyrene Monte Vista will always hold a special place in my heart. It has been my privilege and proud honor to be the principal of such an outstanding school. I know you will continue the tradition of "Pride in Learning" and excellence.

Thank you for your years of support and for sharing your children with me and with the staff of Kyrene Monte Vista. Have a safe and relaxing summer!

Sincerely,
Georgia Shimkus
Principal



Reminders

Are You Planning a Move?

If you are planning a move (out of state, within Arizona or even within our district), please let the office know. You will need to sign a withdrawal form which you will take with you to your new school. If you have any questions, please call the school office.

Attention 5th Grade Parents

The feeder school for our 5th grade students is Altadena Middle School. If your 5th grader will not be attending Altadena next year, please let the office know immediately.



Lost and Found

Please make sure to check our LOST AND FOUND for any items your child might be missing (lunchbox, sweater, jacket, etc.) The Lost and Found is located in the hallway next to the office. **Any items left after May 21 will be donated to charity.**



Also, please make sure to **write your child's name on all outer clothing.** That way, any items found can be easily returned to the owner.

**Pride In Learning
Celebration**

**Thursday, May 7
5:00—7:00 p.m.**

**Musical Performances
Multi-Purpose Room**

Thank You!

The Monte Vista Staff would like to thank all of our Monte Vista community for their support this year. We appreciate the time you have spent this year helping at school as well as the time you spent at home supporting your child's education. Have a wonderful summer!



A "World" of Thanks!

Words cannot express my gratitude for the beautiful world map that was painted on the playground through the generosity of our PTO. The dedication of this map to me is very touching. I cannot think of a better way to leave a "mark" on this campus. I hope that I have also left a legacy of Pride. Over my eight years as principal, I strived to support our students, families, and staff in living our vision and mission of excellence. My own personal mission was to be an instructional and inspirational leader who promoted the physical, social, emotional, and cognitive development of children, as well as the emotional and professional development of the staff of Kyrene Monte Vista School. To this end, I helped to create an environment that facilitated the provision of high quality education for all children while maintaining positive community relations, fiscal stability, and attention to the needs and working conditions of all staff members. It was my mission to make each day of a child's life a step leading toward the growth and development of a healthy, intelligent, contributing member of society. I feel such pride in Kyrene Monte Vista.

Once again, thank you to all the wonderful families that supported Kyrene Monte Vista over the past eight years of my administration. I appreciate the opportunity to work with you and your children. The world map on the playground is greatly appreciated. I know the students, families, and staff will enjoy it for years to come! Again, I owe everyone a world of thanks!

Upcoming Events



May

- 7** Pride In Learning Celebration, 5-7pm
- 13** Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast, 7:30-8:10am
- 20** **No** Early Release
- 21** Last Day for students (early release)



Summer and Fall Registration for Kyrene Community Education Programs

REGISTRATION has begun for:

- ☼ Summer Academy
- ☼ Summer Kids Club
- ☼ Fall 2009-10 Kids Club
- ☼ Fall 2009-10 Montessori

2009 Summer Academy Locations:
Monte Vista, Mariposa and
Pueblo Middle School
June 1 – 25, 2009

2009 Summer Kids Club Locations:
Monte Vista, Lomas, Brisas and
Sureño
May 27 – July 31, 2009

Online registration at:
www.kyrene.org/eservices



Site Council Notes

Kyrene Monte Vista's Site Council met on Monday, April 27. Items discussed were:



- Staffing & Projected Class Sizes
- Update on New Principal & Administration Model
- Tax Credit Budget/Proposals
- Update on Site Council Nominations
- Review Parent Satisfaction Survey Results
- Update on Authors for '09/'10

Detailed minutes will be posted on the bulletin board and also on the Monte Vista web site at:

www.kyrene.org

Site Council members for this year are:
Teachers/Staff—Kathy Anderson, Carla Fisher, Debbie Menendez, Sue Race, Sally Rath, Kelley Schneider, Georgia Shimkus

Parents—Lori Davis, Janet DeCero, Lori Rodriguez, Marni Wallace

Welcome new parent member: Terri Preston replacing Marni Wallace; new staff: Kathy Anderson, teacher; Elaine Villarreal, support

You may communicate with any site council member through the email links located on the school website under site council.



LIFESKILLS & Lifelong Guidelines

Our May LIFESKILLS are:

Curiosity: "Always seek to understand"



Pride: "Celebrate your personal best"

We also use the Lifelong Guidelines to set expectations for everyday interactions. Just a reminder that the five Lifelong Guidelines are:

- **TRUSTWORTHINESS:** "Others have confidence in me"
- **TRUTHFULNESS:** "Friends expect the truth"
- **ACTIVE LISTENING:** "Listen with your head and heart, then talk"
- **NO PUT-DOWNS:** "Care about others"
- **PERSONAL BEST:** "Do your best"

Be sure to take a look at our LIFESKILLS wall in the hallway next to the office. Each month we will add the LIFESKILLS posters of our monthly focus.



Staffing Update '09-'10

Our preliminary staffing for the '09-'10 school year is as follows:

Kindergarten: Ms. Anderson, Ms. Jackson, Mrs. Randall

First: Mrs. Fisher, Mrs. Jeske, Mrs. Zastrow

Second: Mrs. Brazelton, Mrs. Hoover, Mrs. Whigham

Third: Mrs. Schneider, Ms. Starr, Ms. Pomeranke

Fourth: Ms. Gilmore, Ms. Pearson, Mrs. Smith

Fifth: Ms. Barnett, Ms. Brennan, Mr. O'Connell, Mrs. Thornton

Gifted Resource: Ms. McLennan
Resource: Mrs. McCuen, Mrs. Reiss

Extended Resource: Ms. Kelly
PE: Mrs. Kennedy, Mrs. Martin

Art: Ms. Pinkus

Music: Ms. Powell

Please be aware that staffing can change over the summer.

OFFICE INFORMATION

2008/09 School Year



School Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday:
Grades Kdg—5 8:10 am – 3:05 pm

Wednesday:
Grades Kdg—5 8:10 am – 1:05 pm

Office Hours

Monday - Friday: 7:30 am – 4:00 pm
 (school days)



Phone Numbers

School Office (480) 783-1500
 Health Office (480) 783-1584
 FAX (480) 759-4918

Website

www.kyrene.org

Attendance Hotline (480) 783-1597

When reporting your child's absence, please use Monte Vista's 24-hour attendance hotline. Calls should be made **before 8:45 a.m.** to report an absence or to report that your child will be late due to doctor or dental appointments.



Last Day of School

Thursday, May 21
Early Release Day

Please Note

Wednesday, May 20 will NOT be an early release day. It will be a regular full day.

The school office will remain open through Friday, May 22. Office hours on May 22 will be 7:30 am to 4:00 pm

From the Health Office

The Health Office is in need of smaller size boys and girls underwear and boys shorts for all those little accidents that happen during the school day. If you have any donations, please bring them into the health office—we appreciate any donations you may have!

Scoliosis

The normal spine has a slight curve from front to back. Scoliosis means that there is an S shape or lateral curve to the spine. The chest or lower back are the areas typically affected by scoliosis and in most cases are noted between the ages of 10-14. The condition can sometimes worsen with time and may result in serious problems with pain and appearance and may even interfere with heart and lung function. Most cases have no known cause. Surgical intervention may be needed if left untreated. A simple screening test can help identify those students who may need treatment intervention. Parents may request this screening be performed at a student's well visit to their primary care provider or at their child's school. School requests should be submitted in writing. The screening would be performed by a district registered nurse. Screening is recommended to be performed twice for girls in grades 5 & 7 and for boys, once in either grade 8 or 9. Questions regarding scoliosis screening should be directed to the health office.

Registration for Next Year

We are currently accepting registration for grades K-5 for next school year. If you have a child who will be starting Monte Vista next year you may register now by picking up a registration packet in the school office. Items required for registration are:

- Child's original birth certificate
- Proof of address (utility bill, lease agreement, etc.)
- Immunization record

If you know of anyone who may have a child starting next year but does not receive this newsletter, please pass this information on to them. Thank You

**Information for
09/10 School Year**

August 6, 5:30-7 pm
Meet Your Teacher

August 10
School begins

School Hours will remain the same as this year
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
Kdg – 5th 8:10-3:05

Wednesday
Kdg—5th 8:10-1:05



School Structural Inspections Update

Kyrene continues to work with our consultants to inspect the structural integrity of our schools. In mid-April, all schools received an initial inspection. Because of these inspections, four schools were identified with areas that required preventative maintenance. The engineers and contracting company will continue to conduct further inspections. Any identified needs will be prioritized and the necessary repairs will be completed. Many of these repairs will take place during the summer when students aren't present. Kyrene will continue to keep the website updated throughout the summer for community access to information. Updates can be viewed at www.kyrene.org/inspections

Community Kiosks

Attention Parents! If you are looking for information about current program opportunities sponsored by community agencies, please be sure to visit our community kiosk in the front office. Kyrene School District policy prohibits distribution of non-Kyrene sponsored flyers through the classroom.

Next Year's Calendar

**KYRENE SCHOOL DISTRICT
2009-10 School Calendar**

August 10
School begins
September 7
Labor Day: Staff/student holiday
October 12-16
Fall Break
October 19
Staff Development Day: Schools closed
November 11
Veterans Day: Staff/student holiday
November 25
Schools closed
November 26-27
Thanksgiving Break: Staff/student holiday
December 21-January 1
Winter break: Schools closed
January 4
School resumes
January 18
Martin Luther King Day: Schools closed
February 15
Presidents Day: Schools closed
March 15-19
Spring break: Schools closed
April 2
Schools closed
May 27
Last day of school for students



The mission of Kyrene Monte Vista Elementary School is to provide its members with opportunities to achieve excellence by providing a safe, nurturing and respectful learning environment that encourages life-long learning and builds valuable citizens.

Fulfilling our mission requires a commitment from students, staff, parents and other community members working together.