

PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

We at Linda Vista believe in the Power of PAWS. What is that power? It is the Potential, Aspirations, Wisdom and Spirit of each student. In this “Land of Leopards” know as Linda Vista, students have proven they are learning and achieving, not only by the work they do in class, but on the State assessments given each school year. During the 2018/19 school year according to the California School Dashboard, Linda Vista students performed in the GREEN for both Language Arts and Math. The GREEN indicator means they performed above standard. Great News for the Leopards.

Linda Vista also learned that absenteeism is an area in which we can improve. Though there are many reasons for being absent, Leopards are encouraged to use their wisdom when determining the need to stay home from school. We encourage all students to attend school daily, only staying home if they are truly ill.

If you would like to know more information about Linda Vista’s performance on the California School Dashboard please go to <https://www.caschooldashboard.org>.

Again, this year our Leopards will be participating in the California State Assessments, commonly referred to as SBAC. We know that the Power of **PAWS** will help us demonstrate our achievement in 2019/20 and show it on next year’s dashboard.

We are Leopards, We Have **PAWS!**

Potential, Aspirations, Wisdom, and Spirit

Attendance/Health News

March is national nutritional month. That being said; mornings tend to be a busy time of day and breakfast is the most important fuel for our students growing brain. Please make sure that this important meal is not skipped. It does not have to be a traditional breakfast, as long as it is a nutritional one. Let’s start getting into a great breakfast routine so your children’s brain will be fueled for state testing in May.



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CELL PHONE AND ELECTRONICS POLICY

Bringing a cell phone to school is not encouraged at Linda Vista. If the student has an emergency, he/she should notify the teacher or main office for assistance. If a cell phone is brought to school, it must be turned **OFF AT ALL TIMES** unless specifically directed by a teacher. Cell phones are not to be used at any time during school hours. Smart watches must **ONLY** be used as a watch during school hours (ie: no

texting, calling, internet, recording, etc.) **Cell phones/smart watches will be confiscated if in use during school hours.** They will only be returned to parents. iPods, portable game systems, and other electronic devices are not allowed at school. Please keep these items at home. The school is **NOT** responsible for any electronic device that is damaged, lost or stolen at school.

5TH GRADE NEWS

It has been a busy and exciting start to 2020! Our 5th graders in the VAPA Wheel are into their second rotation of either theater or choir, and are enjoying putting their new musical talents to use. Along with Coach Joel, we are beginning to prepare students for the 5th grade CA State Physical Fitness Test coming up in March. Students will be tested on upper body strength and endurance, concluding with a timed mile run. In both January and February, students have enjoyed learning about Money and Picasso with our fabulous Art Master's program. Thank you PTA!



In social studies, we're currently exploring and settling the colonies. We will begin preparations for our Walk Through the Revolution program on March 19th. Math has us evaluating expressions using the Order of Operations. Next, we will be putting steps together to understand and evaluate fractions. In science, we've had fun studying the planets and stars and will be integrating Amplify, our new science curriculum. In language arts, we wrapped up our third novel study. Students have discussed plot, character changes, problem and solution, and theme.

Our 5th graders are continuing to practice necessary skills and strategies that will help them to be successful when taking the SBAC test in May. Some of these strategies are listening for a purpose and citing & explaining with evidence from multiple sources. We have also incorporated daily practice of multiple math skills using the online program, iReady.

4TH GRADE NEWS

The 4th grade teachers would like to thank you for funding our amazing Art Masters, Music and P.E. programs that we have experienced this year. Your PTA donation goes a long way for your child. The students always love these special events.

This past month in 4th grade the students were busy dissecting all kinds of nonfiction reading. Their reading focused their attention on how to make new friends, how to make a difference in your community, and how words can lead to change, to name a few. These topics brought out great discussions inside our classroom walls. Our focus was on the author's viewpoint, note taking, and the importance of re-reading information to make sure it is understood. In writing, students worked on expository writing to explain and elaborate on the things and the people they learned about.

In math we took a big leap into long division and working with remainders. Students will be exposed to more complex problems in the months ahead to further expand their knowledge and understanding.

In social studies, we began our study of the mission system. Students were assigned a mission to research and are due to present their findings to the class toward the end of February. This has been an exciting unit to teach and discuss with the students. So many questions, and so many interesting facts learned and discussed. Next, we will be discussing how Spain lost control of California to Mexico and how the California Rancho was born.

In science, students will become engineers as they begin investigating the reasons why a town is experiencing frequent blackouts. Students will explore ways to convert energy from one form to another. They will also learn that electric energy can be converted to heat, light, and motion.



FREE EDUCATION

Section 5 of Article IX of the State of California Constitution guarantees students a "free public education."

The State Supreme Court concluded in the 1984 case of *Hartzell v. Connell*, "that all educational activities carried on by public school districts, extracurricular as well as curricular, must be without cost to the students who participate in such activities." This same ruling found that "mandatory fees for participating in such extra-curricular activities as drama, music, and athletic competition were illegal under the State Constitution." Furthermore, they also rejected the argument that "fees could be charged so long as the district waived fees for students who were financially unable to pay." Recent proposed legislation includes reimbursement with interest for any illegally collected fees as well as a district sanction. "Donations are accepted at a classroom, school site, and district level."

6TH GRADE NEWS

In February, Santiago Middle School visited Linda Vista to introduce the students to all of the wonderful electives they have to offer. Students were given a green form to fill out and return to school. Please return the green form by March 3rd. At that time, Santiago will be picking up the forms.

As we head into March, we are preparing ourselves

for Outdoor Science



School. If you would like more information, please go to Camp Marston's website.

Reminder, everything is due by March 9th.