



Isla Vista Seahawks

NEWSLETTER

October 2014

www.islavista.goleta.k12.ca.us



Mrs. Kahn's Column

Dear Parents,

We are excited to have made a wonderful start to the school year!

We are now in full swing and have all of our programs and specialist classes have started.

Ms. Olivia Giorgi (art) and **Ms. Blair Looker** (music) are working together this year to deliver a terrific art and music program for our children. Students will have one teacher in the fall and the other in the spring. **Ms. Kathy Grace-Velazquez** is our new computer specialist. Students attend computer class once per week to work on computer skills, and the yearbook club will be starting soon. **Ms. Amy Rosen** is our new PE Teacher. She is currently seeing each class one-one, but as we hire a replacement for **Ms. Krista Lucchi** (who is now our new 5th grade teacher!), our full program will resume.

Parking Lot and Street-Crossing Safety

Please remember to drive slowly and carefully in the parking lot at drop off and pick-up times.

If your child needs to wait for you after school, they must wait by the main parking lot, as there is no supervision in the back parking lot. We request that you teach your children to use the nearest sidewalks rather than crossing the parking lot. Please also be extra careful in the intersections and entrances to our school when driving. Our

crossing guards do an amazing job, but we wish to have everyone be safe! We have requested the local police to help patrol El Colegio and these intersections in the morning as they can, also.

Visitors Welcome, Check in the Office First

We encourage parents to come and volunteer in the classroom! Please know that as part of our campus safety procedures, all visitors are required to sign into the office and receive a visitor's sticker before going to classrooms-- even if you are just dropping something off for a moment. We appreciate your support!

Reminder: Early Dismissal Day, October 16th-- Mark your Calendars

This October 16th is our first minimum day.

All students will be dismissed at 12:00pm.

The purpose of this early dismissal is a district-wide professional development afternoon for teachers. Hot lunch will be served during the morning recess for those who request it. All other students will not have lunchtime that day. This same routine will happen for conference days in November.

Disaster Drill: October 16th

October is Earthquake awareness month in California. On October 16th we will be participating in "The Great Shakeout" along with much of California for earthquake preparedness. This will also be our school's major disaster drill practice, where our staff and students practice search and rescue and first aide strategies.

 **Library**

The library is open every day for families to check out books, use the iPads, and for students to take Reading Counts quizzes.

All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Open days/hours are as follows:

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday: 2:50 – 3:10pm

Thursday: 1:55 – 3:10pm

Friday: 7:30 – 8:30am

Congratulations to students who took part in the Goleta Public Library's summer reading program. IV had its biggest turnout ever – almost 100 students participated!

 **Computer Lab**

-Lunch Bunch:

It is a lunchtime program for 4th - 6th graders. It is from 12:30-1:10 on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. The schedule is: Mondays - Open Lab/Reading Counts!; Wednesdays - Yearbook; and Thursdays - short term, special projects/classes. (The first class will be learning and working with iMovie.) All classes will begin next week (10/6). The teachers will have a sign up sheet and lunchtime "computer passes" for their students.

-Lab Highlights:

Kindergarten - 6th grade come into the lab once a week. All is going well and the children are loving it! 3rd - 6th are learning to maneuver through Word, using fonts, cutting & pasting, inserting, to name a few, as well as "fine tuning" their keyboarding skills. 4th - 6th grade have Google Drive accounts and are/will be learning to work and collaborate on Google Drive. We will be going on "virtual field trips" and working in groups to create presentations about the field trips.

 **Art & Music**

We are off to a creative start in the art and music classrooms! This year, the program is divided between two teachers, Mrs. Looker and Miss Giorgi. Students will spend half of the year focusing primarily on art and the other half on music. In art, students will begin exploring line, shape, and color. In music, students are singing, dancing, listening, and using instruments. We are excited to see how our artists grow this year!

 **P.E. & Noon League**

P.E. started on September 22, 2014! Right now, grades are taking turns with their P.E. timeslot, with a lottery deciding which class per grade takes the 45-minute period for P.E. each week. As soon as we hire another teacher, we will commence our regularly scheduled P.E. routine of every class per grade level participating in P.E. together! The current skills and focuses of our classes have been on teamwork and the idea of setting personal goals.

Noon League preparations have begun, with the official first practices beginning the week of October 6! Sign up lists have gone out to all of the 4th, 5th, and 6th grade classes for students who are interested. 6th grade practices will be on Tuesdays and 4th and 5th grade practices will be on Wednesdays during the lunch period. Around mid-November, 6th graders will have the opportunity to play away games and home games against other local elementary schools in our district. It is a fun way for the older students to learn teamwork, sportsmanship, and new skills.

 **PTA**

PTA Back to School Picnic
Thursday, October 23 at 5:00pm
IV School - Lunch Tables
PTA Get Together - Dessert Fundraiser



After School Programs running now through December:

Tennis- Thursdays 2:00-3:00

Chess- Fridays 3:00-4:00

ART EXPLORERS - Art Program
Kindergarten: Tuesday: 1:35-2:35,
Grades 1-6: Tuesdays: 3:00-4:00
www.ArtExplorersSantaBarbara.com

The following programs are offered through Club Scientific visit <http://www.santabarbara.clubscientific.com/> to register and for a detailed class description.

-Science Mystery Solving- Thursdays 2:00-3:00

-Introduction to Robotics (Grades 2-4) Wednesdays 3:00-4:00

-Robotics (Grades 5-6) Mondays and Tuesdays 3:00-4:00

There are flyers available in the front office for all these programs or contact Tani Jones at extension 306.

After School Open House "Lights On Afterschool" Oct. 23rd 4:45-5:45pm. Parents are welcome to join their students in their after school classrooms for fun activities and an opportunity to see what we do in after school as well to meet the after school staff.

Parents are not required to stay for the whole hour, only 15-20 minutes as they pick up their student.



Character Counts is a character education program approved by the Board of Trustees for use in Kindergarten through Grade 6. This program is part of a broader community effort to provide character education to children. Character Counts is currently implemented in 23 elementary schools in the Santa Barbara, Carpinteria, Hope, and Santa Ynez School Districts.

Research studies have shown that the program effectively increases the level of positive behaviors among elementary school students.

Character Counts teaches six core values:

Trustworthiness

Respect

Responsibility

Fairness

Caring

Citizenship

These concepts will be discussed to help students understand the relationship of good character to constructive behavior and academic achievement in school. Teachers teach these core values as they explain classroom rules and procedures at the beginning of the school year. In addition, teachers will reinforce one of the core values during each of the first sixth months of the school year. School and classroom newsletters will keep parents informed of the core value being taught each month.

Our schools implement the Character Counts program in the belief that the future well being of our nation requires involved and caring citizens. In order to achieve this goal, young people benefit from explicit instruction in core ethical values. We see our efforts as part of a shared responsibility among families, communities, and schools to give young people a common understanding of the fundamental pillars of good character development.



Multitasking

Research has shown that only 10% of the population can multitask productively. Unfortunately, that means that most of us are not very good at doing more than 2 things at once.

David Meyer, a researcher at the University of Michigan refers to the affects of multitasking as a "brownout" of the brain. The lights go dim because there is not enough juice to go around and the brain

starts to shut down, losing connections that have to be found again later.

The prefrontal cortex (PFC) spans the right and left sides of the brain. The PFC motivates us to focus attention on a task and coordinates the rest of the brain to get the job done. It is possible for the right and left sides of the PFC to work independently so when we try to do two tasks at once, each side will focus on one task. It takes longer to complete each task and there is greater chance for error. The older we get the more mistakes we make.

Small doses of ambient (background) noise can be beneficial especially when driving or doing homework. But the problem lies in the bombardment of emails, texting, instant messaging or computer games when trying to do homework. Multitasking can become addictive and you may need your daily fix as much as you need your morning coffee or evening cocktail.

www.brainfacts.org

October 2014



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2 3:30pm Healthy School Pantry	3	4
5	6	7	8 Walk & Bike to School Day	9	10	11
12	13 3:15pm School Site Council	14	15 7:00pm PTA Meeting	16 Earthquake/ Disaster Drill Student Minimum Day Dismissal 12:00	17 7:00pm Viva el Arte Concert: Contra Tiempo Latin Urban Dancing Theater	18
19	20	21	22	23 Picture Makeup Day 5:00 PTA Back to School Picnic	24 1:00 & 1:45 Student of the Month Assemblies	25
26	27	28	29	30	31 9:15am Halloween Parade	