

January Bulletin 2011

Dear parents,

Welcome back to school and to the New Year. January is a busy month here at Mira Vista. With the holidays over, we will focus strongly, on our academic programs. We will complete the district Benchmark assessments this month- English Language Arts, and Math). In addition, we will do a school wide Reading fluency check at the end of the month- (Dibels). Dr. Driggs, the RSP teacher will complete this. The results of this test will enable us to measure growth in Reading fluency since August. Second Quarter Report Cards will be sent home with the 7th grade students on Friday, January 21st. Please contact the 7th grade teachers if you wish to discuss these results.

Also this is Kindergarten registration month. We will begin accepting applications for students who want to attend. There will be two K orientation sessions, one on January 18th at 8:45 and also one in early February.

Several of you had expressed concerns about safety at school. Although Mira Vista is a large and open campus, we have taken all reasonable precautions to make sure our students are safe. These include Fire/Disaster/Shelter in Place drills, walking students to and from the yard at recess and lunch, sending students to the restroom with a partner, stressing safety practices at assemblies, and making sure there are sufficient adults supervising the students and the campus during recesses, lunch, and after school. Please reinforce the practice that, if your son or daughter sees a stranger on campus, or has a problem, that they should immediately tell an adult (teacher, supervisor, office staff or me) to get some help. Following the surveys we sent home, the School Site Council reviewed the issue of whether to lock the upper gates during the day. After much discussion it was decided that this would not be a practical solution to improve safety, since there are many points of access which wouldn't deter an intruder (the low fence on one of the upper parking lots, the need to keep the front circle open and the lower parking lot open etc.) This, coupled with the need for teachers on the upper level to have keys in case we needed to evacuate the campus that way, (instead of through the lower parking lot), make it unfeasible at this time to lock these gates. Thanks for your survey responses and your continued support for our school.

Other events this month include:-

- Student of the month and Martin Luther King Jr. Assembly- Jan. 14th
- School Wide Spelling Bee – Jan. 21st
- New K Parents' Orientation – Jan. 18th
- The Book Fair Jan. 31st.

As usual, if you have questions or concerns, please call.

..J. Szot, Principal.