"Dust Devils"
Newsletter

Principal's Message

Dear Villa de Paz Elementary Families,

’Tis the season... December is here! Cooler temperatures... disappearing daylight. The upcoming weeks can become quite overwhelming as families prepare for family gatherings, special travels, and perhaps some shopping outings in preparation for special traditions. Please make your best attempt to keep your students eating healthy foods, sleeping adequate hours, and coming to school dressed for the colder weather. As the holidays approach it is easy to get caught in the additional hustle and bustle and neglect our health. Thank you for being mindful of this and sending healthy, well rested children to school. Attendance is important during our efforts to accelerate learning. December is a month to reflect on friends and family. Hopefully you can take some time during the Winter break to connect or reconnect with people important to you, especially during the pandemic. We are all so busy just surviving, we often forget to look around and see where we might be able to improve someone else’s life, while enhancing our own. The holidays provide a great opportunity to teach our children the joy of giving to others.

Happy Holidays to all of our Villa de Paz Families! The Villa de Paz Staff hopes that you have a safe and wonderful time with your family and friends over the Winter Break. Remember that school resumes on Monday, January 3, 2022.

Respectfully,

Mr. Gonzalez
Family Engagement and Student Success

Of all the factors that determine student outcomes, family engagement is at the top of the list. Partnerships between schools and families can improve students’ grades, attendance, persistence, and motivation. Research shows that this is true regardless of a family’s race or income. Although some families proactively engage in their child’s education, research shows that teachers can initiate and encourage engagement from all families with positive results. Involving families of students who learn and think differently is especially important. Schools are required by federal law to seek input from a parent or guardian in the development of a student’s Individualized Education Program (IEP). Schools must also provide families with updates on their child’s progress toward their IEP goals.

In addition to these mandates, it has been shown that meaningful interactions between teachers and families of students who learn and think differently can build trust, inform instruction, and improve student outcomes.

Before we talk about families, let’s consider who makes up a child’s family. No two families are the same: Some have more than one primary caregiver. Some don’t. In two-adult households, sometimes the adults are married and sometimes they’re not. Other factors also influence home life, like multigenerational households and those that provide foster care.

Counselor's Corner

School Counselor’s Role

Counseling services include individual, group, and whole classroom presentations. Please contact Mr. Akinniyi if you would like more information, or to refer your child for counseling services.

Parenting Tip: There are opportunities every day to turn ordinary times like driving your child to practice or doing household chores together into teachable moments to let your child know what’s important to you. As your kids move from elementary school through middle school and on to high school, it’s important to keep talking to them about the harm that drugs, tobacco and underage drinking can do to their young lives. Just a little of your time every once in a while can make a lifetime of difference.

Mr. Akinniyi, Villa de Paz Counselor
Phone: 623-772-2490
aakinniyi@pisd92.org
COVID-19 and Children

While fewer children had been reported to have COVID-19 compared with adults in the United States, the number of children and adolescents with COVID-19 has been increasing since early in the pandemic. Children can be infected with SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, can get sick with COVID-19, and can spread the virus to others. Most infected children have mild symptoms and some have no symptoms at all. Some children can get severely ill from COVID-19, which means they might require hospitalization, intensive care, a ventilator, or might even die. Among those who do experience COVID-19 symptoms, the symptoms are typically similar in adults and children and can look like other common illnesses such as the common cold, strep throat, influenza, asthma or seasonal allergies.
**School Information**

**Mission:** Empowering students for the choices and challenges of the 21st century.

**Vision:** Developing future global leaders

**Office Hours:** 7:30-4:00 pm., Monday - Friday.

**Attendance Line:** (623) 772-2515. Use this number to report student absences.

**CLOSED CAMPUS:** Villa De Paz Elementary School is a closed campus. We appreciate your help with our school procedures to ensure safety and maximize learning time during the day.

**Mornings:** The gate facing Mariposa Street will be open 7:55-8:10 am for all students. Any student arriving at school after 8:10 am will need to enter through the school office.

**Meals:** Breakfast/Lunch is free for all students.

**Dismissal:** Kindergarten release is at 3:05 pm. All other students are released at 3:10 pm. Avoid signing students out 30 minutes prior to dismissal of school.

**Closed Campus:** Due to mitigation, visitors are not allowed on campus without district-level approval.

**Student Safety:** Student safety must be a priority. We recommend you discuss safety precautions with your child.
- Students should not be on campus before 7:50 am as we do not have teachers on duty.
- Return home immediately after school.
- There is no supervision on the playground after school.
- Discuss and practice a safe route to and from school.

**Covid-19 Mitigation Plan**
Pendergast School District regularly updates our district Covid-19 Mitigation plan to reflect CDC and WHO guidelines for a safe return to school. Please see our website www.pesd92.org for the updated plan.
Honor Roll, Bee Kind, and Citizenship