

Villa De Paz' mission is to ensure high levels of learning and growth for all students, so that they gain the academic and social skills essential for college and career readiness.

The Dust Devil Digest



March 2019

Important Dates:

March 5-VDP Computer Science S.T.E.A.M Showcase @ 5:00-6:00 pm

March 5- Special Board Meeting @ VDP 6:00-6:30 pm

March 5-Governing Board Meeting @ 6:00-8:00 pm

March 7- 5th Grade Ballroom Dance Competition @ 6:00-8:00 pm

March 11- March 15 Spring Break-No School

March 18 – Students Return from Spring Break

March 19 – Spring Picture Day

March 20- VDP Preschool Science of Wheels @ 8:30-9:30 am

March 21-PTA Meeting in the library @ 5:00-6:00 pm

March 22 – March Student of the Month Assembly in the cafeteria @ 8:30 am

March 28- Spring Play @ 6:00 – 7:00 pm

Principal Message:

Welcome Villa de Paz Families,

Together We Make A Difference!

Dear Villa de Paz Elementary Families,

Spring is in the air and the month of March brings a lot of fun activities to the elementary school. Our kids are gearing up for testing, and our teachers are working hard to ensure they are ready for the spring assessments. We are excited about the progress our students are making in the classrooms and are certain that we will achieve all of our goals during testing. In our April newsletter we will include some suggestions on how to assist your son/daughter before and during testing, so that they can do their personal best on the AzMerit.

This will be the last newsletter before students go on Spring Break and the end of the third 9 weeks grading period. I wish you all a restful enjoyable break and come back refreshed and ready for the final quarter of this school year.

Respectfully,

Belinda Quezada
Principal

ATTENDANCE MATTERS:

To help your child achieve the most from school, he or she must maintain high attendance.

Here are a few helpful tips for parents:

1. Ensure that your child arrives to school on time and avoids leaving early.
 - Both may disrupt the teaching and learning process.
 - Today's lessons depend on understanding yesterday's instructions.
2. Schedule doctor and dentist appointments in the beginning/end of the day or on a day when students are out of school early (like early release Wednesdays).
3. Children will get coughs and colds. Unless it is serious, it does not mean that they need to miss school.

**March 29-3rd Quarter
Honors Assembly K-5th
Grade @ 8:30 am**

• Collaborate with the school if your child needs medication or anything else to be comfortable the during the day.

**March 29-3rd Quarter
Honors Assembly 6th-8th
Grades in the cafeteria
@ 1:30 pm**

4. Monitor your child's attendance.

5. There are 180 school days. Families are encouraged to take vacation during the holidays, winter and/or spring breaks.

Counseling Corner:

Mr. Akinniyi – Villa de Paz
Counselor – Phone 623-772-
2490, or email at:

[**aakinniyi@pesd92.org**](mailto:aakinniyi@pesd92.org)

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: Here are some facts about kids and drug use: Cell

Phone Misuse Tip: As a parent, you'll be able to tell if your teen is overusing his/her cell phone by the amount of time they are spending text messaging their friends. Do they run to answer the phone/text, then hide out to respond to it? Do you catch them talking or texting late at night or at times when they said they would be doing something else? What can you do? Check your phone bill. Most companies can provide an itemized list of incoming and outgoing calls and text messages on your monthly statements. Make sure you recognize the numbers on your statement, and if you don't, ask your teen to identify them. Talk to your child NOW about cell phone misuse.

Thank you for helping us with our school attendance. As always, if you have any questions regarding attendance, please feel free to contact myself or Mr. Gonzales.

How to Help My Child With Homework

1. Monitor homework assignment planners and teacher websites.
2. Provide a quiet study place with adequate lighting.
3. Schedule a specific time each day for homework.
4. Check to see if homework assignments are complete.
5. Contact the classroom teacher if your child is having difficulties with specific homework assignments.

STUDENT SAFETY Student safety must be a priority. We suggest you discuss these safety precautions with your child: · **Arrive at school no earlier than 7:50am.** · **Go home immediately after school. There is no supervision on the playground after school.** · **Discuss and practice a safe route to and from school.**

VILLA DE PAZ GYM-The Gym will be open every morning from 7:30 am until the start of school. We have student supervision that will be provided until the start of the school day. School hours are from 7:50-3:10 pm. **Before school supervision is provided from 7:30-7:50 am in the GYM.** Students arriving after 8:10 am **MUST** check in to the office before going to class. School begins at 8:10 am. Please be aware that the office staff is not available to supervise children after 4:00 pm. Please contact the office to inform us of what your estimated time of arrival will be.

PARKING LOT/TRAFFIC CONGESTION

DROP OFF ZONE The strip in front of the school office is for drop off or pick up of people waiting* in front of the school. *Waiting means that the driver remains in the driver's seat the whole time*

WEDNESDAY EARLY DISMISSAL Please remember that EVERY Wednesday students are dismissed at 12:40. There is no one available to supervise children after this time. Wednesdays are professional development days for our entire school staff. Please make note of this regular early dismissal to avoid a missed pick up of your child.

BE KIND TO OUR NEIGHBORS Please be respectful of the people who live near the school and park. Please observe all traffic signs, especially the no parking, no u-turn, and right turn only signs.



Assistant Principal's Corner

Hello VDP Families,

This month I wanted to talk about AZMerit testing. AzMerit is a computer-based test, which provides engaging questions and measures critical thinking skill for college and career readiness. The test is aligned to Arizona's state learning standards, which detail what students should be able to do at each grade level.

The AzMerit tests students in the areas of reading, writing, and math. The writing portion will require students to read a few passages and then write about them. The reading portion is administered in two parts. This will ensure students have ample time to read and answer questions. The math portion is administered in two parts. The test will ask questions that check a student's conceptual understanding of math as well as their procedural skills.

We will be sending a formal letter to all parents, indicating the exact dates in April of all the tests. We are looking for 100% participation this year. Please make sure your child is here and on time on testing days.

Thank you, for your support.

Mr. Abraham Gonzalez
Assistant Principal
Villa de Paz Elementary



March is National Kidney Month

The Kidneys are two bean-shaped organs in the renal system. They help the body pass waste as urine. They also help filter blood before sending it back to the heart.

The Kidneys perform many crucial functions including:

- Maintaining overall fluid balance.
- Regulating and filtering minerals from blood.
- Filtering waste materials from food, medications, and toxic substances.
- Creating hormones that help produce red blood cells promote bone health, and regulate blood pressure.

Here's what else you can do this month to protect your kidneys:

1. **Control your blood pressure** (and diabetes if you have it.) These are the two leading causes of kidney disease and kidney failure.
2. **Exercise often.** Regular exercise keeps your kidneys healthy by keeping things moving and controlling blood pressure.
3. **Cut out processed foods.** They tend to be big sources of sodium, nitrates, and phosphates, and they've been linked to kidney disease.
4. Try to **reduce over the counter pain medicines.** They may help with aches and pains, but they can greatly damage your kidneys.