

Rail Ranch Elementary



Tammy Wethers, Principal Luis Ortiz, Assistant Principal
January, 2013

January 14		Students Return-NO EARLY RELEASE
January 16,17,18		Hand Tiles Sales-PTA
January 21		HOLIDAY - NO SCHOOL
January 24	8:45a	2 nd Gr. Student of Month Awards-MPR
January 25	6:00p	PTA Family Movie Night
January 28	10:45a	Kindergarten Student of Month Awards
January 29	2:15p	1 st Grade Student of Month Awards
	6:00p	Math Night- All are invited to the MPR
January 30	6:00p	District Spelling Bee- Thompson MS

Health and Safety Tip of the Month

Ensure that an adult is home or at the bus stop each day to greet your child. This builds positive assets in your children and helps them be accountable.



Congratulations to our Spelling Bee winners:

Jaden Ann Estelle- 4th grade

Jackie Soltys- 5th grade

Layla Bardales-5th grade, Alternate

Our students will compete in the District Spelling Bee at Thompson Middle School in the Multipurpose Room on January 30th. Please come out and cheer on our representatives.

Note From Our Superintendent

Tragedy in Connecticut brings heightened vigilance to schools across the nation

Following the tragedy that occurred at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, understandably parents across the country are worried about the safety of their own children. I want to assure you that Murrieta Valley Unified places the safety of our students and staff as our highest priority and as a district we have been very proactive about school safety.

Whether it involves a natural disaster or something human-initiated, we fully understand that the protection of children is our most important role, and that learning is difficult in an environment in which children do not feel safe. As we continue to reflect on the senseless and tragic incident that took place in Connecticut this morning, I would like to provide you with some information about some of the things we do to promote safe campuses. At the same time, I want to make available to you some resources that can help provide comfort to children both at home and at school during times like these.

It is important to understand that school shootings are extremely rare and that high profile incidents like Newtown and Columbine tend to overshadow the fact that violent crime has been steadily decreasing in schools since the early 1990s. With that said, we also realize that no community is immune to such incidents, and that we must do everything possible (and within reason) to ensure the safety of our students.

We continue to work very closely with the Murrieta Police Department and Murrieta Fire Department to ensure safe campuses at all of our schools. These efforts include both prevention and response strategies, with a high priority on effective communication during an emergency. There are 7 police officers assigned to our schools on a full time basis including one sergeant and one

corporal. Murrieta Police officers are highly trained to respond to any crisis and they have assured us they will increase patrols at our schools in the coming days.

We have performed comprehensive school safety audits at each of our schools that identify entry and exit points and any vulnerable aspects of a school's physical layout. Fire protection and law enforcement are intimately familiar with the layouts of our schools and they are qualified to deal with this type of event and respond appropriately.

Each school has its own emergency plan that acts as a guide before, during and after an emergency situation. Our schools routinely conduct safety drills for a variety of situations like earthquakes, fires and "intruder on campus" scenarios. This includes audible alarm systems and training for staff and students.

The best prevention strategies, however, involve the awareness and alertness of students, staff members and parents. I wish to re-emphasize the importance of notifying the school, district or the police if you see or hear of a student or other individual who may have the intent or potential to harm themselves or others. Students are encouraged to talk to an adult on campus if they are concerned about school safety. Students and parents can help by being our eyes and ears on campus and reporting any suspicious behaviors or issues of potential concern to the school offices, Murrieta Police Department's 24-hour dispatch line at (951) 696-3615 or anonymous calls may also be made to We Tip 800 1-800-78-CRIME -or- 1-800-782-7463.

With all of the disturbing television and newspaper images coming from this most recent tragedy, it is in the best interest of your children to avoid having them watch the news, especially younger children. These are issues that they cannot understand and which may cause anxiety. Please limit what they see and hear. It is normal for children to experience a wide range of emotions including shock, confusion, anger, hostility and denial or inability to acknowledge the situation has occurred. Most children are able to deal with

their emotions with adequate support from family, friends, and school personnel. At home, parents are encouraged to reduce the radio and television exposure to this event and talk to their children about what they have seen or heard in the media.

School personnel are trained to notice children who may be struggling emotionally and provide them with the support they need. Please feel free to contact your child's teacher if you have concerns about your child. Our school counselors are trained to provide emotional support and to help with any concerns students or parents may have in light of this incident. We rely heavily on the efforts of parents and guardians to provide emotional support for children at home, and to reinforce the fact that schools are safe places for children to be.

For more information on how to help your child, or other school mental health resources, the following may be helpful:

PTA [Talking about School Violence](#)

PBS – [Talking to Kids About the News](#)

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA for Kids); [General guidelines about helping children in a disaster](#),

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your child's principal or our Director of Safe Schools, Wayne Sakamoto at 696-1600.

Sincerely,

Pat Kelley

District Superintendent

Rail Ranch Elementary School School Site Council Minutes

Dec. 4, 2012

Attendance: Tammy Hunter-Wethers, Kam Uli, Judy Money, Kari Getchel, Gretchen Sedlacek, Pam Roden, Tammy Williams, Monique Combs

I. Regular Business:

A. Call Meeting To Order: The meeting was called to order at 3:19pm.

B. Approval of Minutes and Agenda: A motion to approve the minutes from the Oct. 2, 2012 meeting and the agenda for the Dec. 4th, 2012 meeting was made by Gretchen Sedlacek and seconded by Kam Uli. The agenda was approved.

II. New Business

A. Stacy Coleman, Assistant Superintendent, Business

Stacy explained that it is necessary for MVUSD to submit new Class Size Waiver Requests for Kindergarten thru 3rd grade to the State of California. MVUSD exceeded the waiver that was approved last Spring. A waiver needs to be approved in order to avoid financial penalties. Every student above the Ed Code number will not be funded which is revenue not coming into the district from the State of California.

The district is seeking to submit a waiver to California Department of Education, requesting to increase the district-wide average number of pupils per full time equivalent (FTE) teacher in kindergarten from the current 31/FTE (EC 41378) to 33/FTE with no class larger than 35, and in grades 1st through 3rd from the current 30/FTE (EC 41376) to 33/FTE with no class larger than 35.

Prop 30 does not impact MVUSD this school year. The ways in which Prop 30 will help districts in California will play out in January once the governor releases the State budget.

School Site Council was asked by Stacy to vote for the waiver as an action item.

A motion to vote for, against, or neutral for the waiver was made by Kari Getchel and seconded by Gretchen Sedlacek. School Site Council voted 4 at neutral and 4 at support. After further discussion Council revoted and voted 6 to 2 in favor (support) of the waiver with a special note made -"If funds become available for 2013-14, class size reduction would be reinstated by MVUSD".

B. School Safety Plan:

Signatures from School Site Council were obtained in order to certify the new school safety plan.

C. School Level Parent Involvement Policy - A motion to approve the School Level Parent Involvement Policy was made by Judy Money and seconded by Kari Getchel. Kari Getchel signed to adopt the Parental Involvement Policy.

C. EIA/LEP Budget 2012/13

Mrs. Wethers gave an update of the preliminary allocations. She reminded Council that the funds are used for EL and at risk students.

Mrs. Wethers shared with council the positive response from teachers who attended the DuFour conference at the end of November.

D. 2011 – 12 Accountability Progress Reporting (APR)

Mrs. Wethers reviewed 2010 – 2011 data in regards to program improvement. She also reviewed 2011- 2012 data in regards to program improvement

This information will be shared with the Parent community at a Dec. 11th meeting.

E. Single Plan of Student Achievement (SPSA)

Mrs. Wethers shared ELA and Math goals from the SPSA. She discussed how the budget supports these goals.

At the next School Site Council meeting Mrs. Wethers will share each grade levels Smart Goals as they relate to the overall ELA and Math goals.

Mrs. Wethers encouraged members of Council to read over the SPSA for the next meeting.

IV. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 4:35

Next meeting Feb. 5, 2012



**On behalf of the entire staff of Rail Ranch Elementary,
we wish you a wonderful winter break with family and
friends. We'll see you all on Monday, January 14, 2013!**