LABOR DAY PICNIC & RAFFLE—BIG THANKS TO ALL!

Sylvia Lakeman

I am very happy to report that, once again, our raffle and sale table were a big success, and that we made over $500 dollars for the medians and CERT programs.

My sincere thanks to The Santa Venetia Market, Rocky’s Quality Meats, Mary’s Futons, Marin Ace Hardware, Silvermann’s Ice Cream, Chalet Basque, Bogie’s Cafe and Kurt Huget (Moonlight Rodeo) for their very generous donations of gift certificates and CDs. A huge thank you also to Jorge (Worldwise, Inc.) for the dog and cat beds, supplies and toys, which delighted not only the pets but also their owners. I also wish to thank Alison Fuller, Nanni Wurl, Shirley Fisher, Jackie White, Mel Park, Art Reichert, Lalonee Carmichael, Our Own Vintner Bruno, Mary Lou King and the numerous other neighbors whose donations greatly added to our success. We couldn’t have done it without you!

Last, but not least, a very special thank you to Shelley Cooper for helping with the raffle, and to Jennifer and Jasmine Inouye and Jackie White for running the sale table.

Tad Inouye

The weather was beautiful for the 14th Annual Labor Day Picnic at Rosal Park. This year, over 150 SVNA members, guests and children attended and were greeted at the gate by Rich McGrath, Bonnie Monte, Norma Novy, and Anna Maria Pierini. Many thanks to the Korean Presbyterian Church for allowing us to use their facilities and especially for their scrumptious food they always bring to our Labor Day Picnic. It was great to see many local kids come up and want to participate in our event. They were pleasantly surprised to find free food, games and entertainment. We must have had over 50 children and high school students at the picnic. Wayne Lechner set up three huge rope swings, a swinging hammock made from an old mattress, and set up tents and other fun stuff. Wayne shows how you can have fun with very little.

Fall 2013 SV Events Calendar

Nicole Cibellis-Andrews, nicolecibellis_andrews@yahoo.com

In an effort to build our community and get to know our neighbors, we are happy to announce the following activities and events for Fall 2013.

SEPTEMBER

Fall Picnic in Pueblo Park - Sun., Sept. 29, 3-6pm

This is a great chance to take the night off from cooking and spend time with friends. It’s been a while since we met up in Pueblo Park for pizza. Building on the success of our Friday nights at Pueblo Park, we want to change things up a bit. This
Schools Rule as School Starts
Grace Dearborn, VVSLT President, gracedearborn@gmail.com

Another school year has begun and things are off to a terrific start at Venetia Valley K-8. For the first time in much too long, we started this year with the same principal as last year. And we are looking forward to another terrific year under the administrative leadership of award-winning principal, Juan Rodriguez.

KINDERGARTEN SOFT OPEN
We had our second annual kindergarten "soft-open" on August 21st. This was an optional half-day for incoming kindergarten families. It allowed parents to meet and talk with their child's teacher, visit their child's classroom, and help ease their child into their first day of school. It was a huge success in part due to the wonderful parent volunteers from the PTA who provided smiles, treats, and guidance for new families.

NEW BI-LITERACY PROGRAM
In other kindergarten news, we are rolling out the new bi-literacy program in two of our kindergarten classes. Bi-lingual teachers will be teaching these classes in 80% Spanish and 20% English. We expect this program to flourish and ultimately become the school’s “crown jewel” as it spreads into 1st and 2nd grades over the next two years. We are the only public school in the county offering bi-lingual education.

NEW SCHOOL START TIME
You may have already noticed that the school has a new start time of 8:15am. This is 5 minutes later than last year’s start time. Our neighboring school across the way at the JCC is starting their program 5 minutes earlier this year. We hope that this extra 10 minutes between our respective school start times will ease some of the traffic congestion on North San Pedro Road in the mornings.

NEW SCHOOL UNIFORMS
The students are looking sharp this year in their new uniforms. Every child was wearing blue and white on the first day of school. What a difference a dress code makes! The kids looked truly professional and ready to learn. The uniform is just one of many efforts being made at the school to increase the feeling of community among all students and to put a greater emphasis on learning and achievement.

FALL PARENT MEETINGS
All are welcome at our monthly parent/teacher meetings. Each meeting starts with a brief "state-of-the-union" from Principal Rodriguez followed by some Q and A. This year that will be followed by grade level presentations by teachers. Dates for 2013:

8/8 4th grade teacher presentations
10/2 Middle School 6th-8th grade teacher presentations
11/6 Kindergarten and 1st grade teacher presentations

FALL CARNIVAL COMING OCTOBER 12, 2013
The Venetia Valley Fall Carnival has been an enormous success the past five years. Attendees enjoy a wide variety of delicious food; games and kids’ activities including jumpy houses; free, live entertainment with a spotlight on student talent; face painting, balloon animals and a cake walk; and much more! Admission and entertainment is free. Food, games and jumpy tickets will be sold on-site at family-friendly pricing. This is a "not-to-be-missed" sensational event that is fun for the whole community—kids, adults, neighbors...everyone! Hope to see you there, Saturday, October 12th from 11am to 3pm on the Venetia Valley School campus at 177 North San Pedro Road.

This year, we are also inviting local businesses to sponsor a booth at the Fall Carnival. Sponsor an existing booth, such as a food or beverage booth, or staff your own booth and display, sell, or market your merchandise or services. Sponsors receive valuable benefits including website links, company logo and recognition on our marketing materials, and the opportunity to be introduced to hundreds of Fall Carnival attendees you may soon call customers! For sponsorship pricing and details, please contact Kari Francisco, kari@litras.org

DONATIONS NEEDED AND APPRECIATED
Many of the wonderful things that make Venetia Valley special are funded by money donated to the PTA by parents, community partners, and neighbors. Our Garden Teacher, K-3 Music Teacher, and Playworks Coaches are just a few of the people whose salaries are paid for exclusively by donated and fundraised money. Our Playworks Coaches teach kids appropriate and cooperative play at recess and lunch. This program significantly reduced both physical and emotional injuries on the playground last year. Our bi-lingual Garden Teacher teaches kids about composting, recycling, the water cycle, and sustainability, in addition to planting, nurturing and harvesting healthy foods. Our K-3 Music Teacher teaches singing, rhythm, and stage performance.

As a school community we are giving what we can, but we simply need more. If you have wanted to donate to a good cause, please consider making Venetia Valley that cause this year. Don’t have money to spare? No problem. Volunteer your time to help with a school fundraiser like the Fall Carnival, or volunteer one hour a week in a classroom, or lend your particular talents to promoting the school in some other way. We’d love to hear your ideas and we will gratefully accept your support in any way you can provide it. Contact your neighbors, PTA President Renee O’Hare, president@venetialavalleypta.org (Birch Way) or SLT President Grace Dearborn, gracedearborn@gmail.com (Estancia Way) to volunteer or donate.