



# THE PALO VERDE VOICE

PTA NEWSLETTER PAUSD  
PALO VERDE ELEMENTARY

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[www.palo-verde.pausd.org](http://www.palo-verde.pausd.org)

CALENDAR			
Friday, November 10	Veteran's Day - NO SCHOOL		
Monday, November 13	Noon Art		
Thursday, November 16	PTA Board Meeting	8:20am	
Monday, November 20 - Friday, November 24	Thanksgiving Break - NO SCHOOL		
Thursday, November 30	Assembly		
Friday, December 1	Movie Night		
Monday, December 4	Noon Art		

## FROM THE DESK OF HILLARY MILLER...

Dear Palo Verde Community,

I was recently sharing with a group of students that we are 1/3 of the way through the 2017-18 school year! They agreed that it seems like we just started school; and at the same time, their classroom communities make it feel like they have been together for a long time. That is exactly what we strive to do at Palo Verde. Building a culture deeply rooted in the community is key to supporting our children as they grow and develop. Thank you to everyone who supports all of us to be the strongest community we can be!

November is a busy month at school. In addition to International Fair kicking off the month, we also have a school holiday, Veteran's Day, on November 10. This year, for the first time that I can remember, school will be closed the entire week of Thanksgiving, November 20-24. I hope that each of you enjoy this time with family and friends; and I look forward to seeing all students back on Monday, November 27.

With all the upcoming winter holidays and changes in weather causing some sickness, I wanted to share this note from another California school district ([BCSD](#)) regarding school attendance:

It is important to remember that regular attendance in school, at all ages, directly affects student progress and may be the biggest factor influencing their academic success. According to a recent study, students who are chronically absent during kindergarten perform lower academically in first grade, “regardless of gender, ethnicity or socioeconomic status.” It is critical that parents make sure their children are in school all day, every day.

One of the most important things a child can do to achieve academic success is also one of the most basic: attend school every day. By attending class regularly, a child is more likely to keep up with the daily lessons and assignments. There are other benefits as well:

- Regular school attendance helps students who are learning English by giving them the chance to master the skills they need more quickly and accurately — even in other subjects!
- Students who attend school regularly are more likely to pass/excel in reading and math assessments than students who don’t attend school regularly.
- By being present at school, a child is learning how to be a good citizen by participating in the school community, learning valuable social skills, and developing a broader world view.

Parents’ commitment to school attendance sends a message to their child that education is a priority for the family. Here are some ways parents can help their children be in school every day:

- Take the lead, insist on daily attendance.
- Teach your child how to set and use an alarm clock (so that students are in class at or before 8:15 each morning).
- Keep electronic devices out of bedrooms and turned off in the morning.
- Follow [Palo Alto Unified School District’s guidelines and attendance policy](#), and report absences to the office immediately.
- Limit absences due to medical appointments or vacations. Avoid scheduling doctor’s appointments during the school day (if possible).

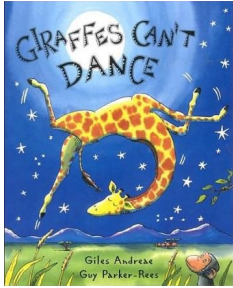
Thanks to each of you for your support in this wonderful community. Happy November!

Sincerely,

Hillary Miller, Principal  
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himiller@pausd.org

<b>THE PALO VERDE VOICE</b>	
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Next issue:	December 8, 2017

# CORNERSTONE CORNER



Video read aloud: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kVzblgpqQnk>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=86LIN8vRsTg> (animated)

This month's ABC book: "Giraffes Can't Dance" by Giles Andreae tells the story of Gerald the giraffe who is able to dance to his own tune when he gets some encouraging words from an unlikely friend.

Goals of lesson:

- Students learn about personal power and practice using their positive personal power to benefit both themselves and others.
- Students learn that making other people feel good is a great way to fill their own buckets, too!

To reinforce this lesson at home:

- Create opportunities to encourage your child to try new things.
- Offer praise for their willingness to try and practice.
- Whenever they're in a negative situation, help your child "switch the channel" to reframe their inner dialogue to create an "I can do it!" attitude.
- Remind your child: Don't focus on the black dot. Focus on the white page.
- Involve children of all ages in family decision making.

\* Quick Tip: Teach your child practical skills such as how to change a tire, cook a couple of meals, or sew on a button. Well-prepared young people are more likely to feel a sense of personal power.

Phrase of the Month: I can do it!

When you "catch" kids modeling positive behaviors... Notice, Name it, and Celebrate it!

The Kindergarten book for this month is "Join in and Play" by Cheri J. Meiners. This book teaches children skills in getting along with each other, making friends, and playing together. We will also discuss how to be a good sport, follow the rules, and cooperate with others.

## GOOD DEEDS

Palo Verde is proud to host the Family Giving Tree Holiday Wishes Drive. The Family Giving Tree partners with Bay Area social service agencies to collect specific gift wishes from children with whom they work year-round. Stop by the office starting on Wed, November 15 to pick up a gift card wish to fulfill and return your new, unwrapped toys to the office by Friday, December 8.

You can also donate online using our virtual tree:

<https://vgt.familygivingtree.org/paloverdeelementaryschool/>

**\*\*This year Palo Verde is helping sort gifts at the warehouse! Please join us on Monday, December 11 from 3-5pm at the Giving Tree warehouse — a great way to volunteer with your kids! Please contact Yael Valek (yaelcow at yahoo dot com) to sign up.**

Together we can help make holiday wishes come true for many of our local children in need!

## FUNDRAISING

The holiday season is coming up fast! Beat the rush and don't miss out on this holiday card promotion.

Once again Palo Verde is partnering with Shutterfly to help raise money for our school. With one simple program, we gain access to 4 great brands; Shutterfly, tinyprints, Wedding Paper Divas and Borrowlenses.

13% of all sales of photo cards, calendars, photobooks etc will automatically be donated back to Palo Verde from every purchase made using our school's dedicated Shutterfly page. All you need to do is click on the personalized Palo Verde tracking link before placing your orders, the rest is the same. See our link below:

<http://paloverde.shutterflystorefront.com/>

Please refer family and friends to make their purchases by sharing our school's personalized link. It's that easy.

Thank you for helping us earn money for Palo Verde PTA by shopping with Shutterfly.

Questions: please contact Iva Reid at [izreid@gmail.com](mailto:izreid@gmail.com)

## WITH THANKS...

An infinite thank you to Malati Raghunath and Denise White for bringing the Julia Robinson Math Festival to Palo Verde! On 10/21, many Palo Verde families enjoyed a Saturday morning playing fun games and solving perplexing puzzles. Thanks to the volunteers who made it possible: Rajesh Srinivasaraghavan, Tzuhua Lin, Pavan Desikan, Susan Kulawik, Alan Kulawik, Vanessa Shone, Jo Han Soo, Amy White and Sandy Chan.