

"A View from the Valley" – *kind of has a ring to it, right?*

Palm Valley Academy: Week of 9/17 – 9/24

Dear Families,

I hope everyone had a wonderful weekend with lots of wins and feelings of joy! It was a hot one, but a great one for our family nonetheless. Just a few things as we begin ramping up instruction and digging into the curriculum, please pay extra close attention to the **Upcoming PTO Happenings** and **Important Dates of Note** sections to stay on top of all the activities and upcoming events as we also approach a highly anticipated and very busy holiday season as well. One I look forward to very much!!!

Take care and Go BOBCATS!

Zach Strom

INFO FOR ALL (K-8)

Additional Mid-Week Communication Coming

- Too often, important announcements or situations pop-up that really should be sent to you all prior to the weekend (along with news-worthy items I accidentally omit in the Sunday Post). In an effort to fix this, starting this week I'll be sending out a brief, mid-week communication as well. I'm hoping it cuts down on the overall length of my messages, as well as, keeps everyone in the know, but I will need to lean on you all for that. As we move forward, please know that any feedback you may have, questions or thoughts you'd like clarifications for, or ideas that you'd like to pass my way are certainly welcome, even if they may not be the easiest of conversations. If its potentially for the better good of our Bobcats, then it's worth reaching out. Together, we'll figure it out!

Arrival Reminders/Updates

- THANK YOU for your ongoing diligence in getting your kiddos to school on time. This has been a concern over the years, but you all are doing great utilizing the entire drop-off window and at the same time adhering to our policies/procedures in the morning. Your efforts are very much appreciated. One reminder, please note the carline shuts down at 8:35am each morning and kids arriving after are considered tardy and must be walked in if no staff is on duty.

Local Tragedy in Our Community

- It is with great sorrow that I'm communicating the loss of a former Bobcat and most recently 5th grader at PVPV, Mr. Evan Policastro. While I won't go into details, I will say the Policastro family was always very active in our building, serving on SAC year after year and supporting our shared vision and local community in anyway they could. They were a integral part of our immediate successes when opening up PVA. If you are willing and able to support this family through this unimaginable tragedy, I've attached the communication

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PVPV Principal - Dr. Jesse Gates recently sent to his community explaining how to do so. Thank you for your consideration. Please keep the family in your thoughts and close to your hearts.

Cell Phones/Smart Watches

- This continues to be an issue for some. Parents- if you need to reach your children please call the front office. If a student is on their phone taking a call at any point during the school day, the phone will be confiscated. We really have ZERO wiggle room with this. Please see the below for State Mandates and SJCSD Policy:

It is a state mandate and SJCSD Policy that all cellphones and smartwatches are off and away during instructional blocks during the school day. Students may have phones/watches out upon arrival and dismissal, but they must be turned off and put away at all other times. The only exception to this is the middle school policy, which allows phones/watches to be on during transitions.

- *Elementary (K-5): ALL Phones and Smart Watches are off and in their backpacks at all time.*
- *Middle School (6-8): Students will turn-off phones/watches and place in the teachers provided pocket chart, where they will stay until students are dismissed. Additionally, ONE EAR BUD may be used during arrival and dismissal, but off and away at any other point of the day.*

We kindly ask that parents continue to assist us in discussing appropriate cell phones use regarding restrooms, pictures/videos, and social media. We appreciate your support and understanding.

At PVA, the **progressive discipline for unauthorized phone use** is as follows:

1. First violation is immediate confiscation of the phone or electronic device, which can be picked up at the front desk during dismissal.
2. Second violation is immediate confiscation of the phone or electronic device, which must then be picked up at the front desk by a authorized parent or guardian at the end of the day.
3. A third violation is immediate confiscation and a one week "ban" where the phone or electronic device should be left at home, or checked into the front desk of the office upon arrival. If checked, the device will remain off and away until retrieved by the student at the end of the day.

As a reminder, there should not be ANY phone calls or communication with outside individuals during the instructional hours of 8:40-3:00pm. If you need to reach your child, please call the front desk... if outside communication is witnessed and/or confirmed to have happened, the above steps are skipped will be followed. THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP WITH THIS. I'm really trying not to ban them from school all together.

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GRADE SPECIFIC INFO (K-8)

RRRRrr Ya Ready for KINDERGARTEN'S TALK LIKE A PIRATE DAY!? (K-5)

Who is ready to swab the deck and hoist the mainstay and all those other pirate-y things? KINDERGARTEN IS! Let the joy and fun be infectious this September 20th because its NATIONAL TALK LIKE A PIRATE DAY!

The 1st Middle School Tailgate was a GREAT SUCCESS! (6-8)

Thank you to all who helped organize, promote, decorate, set-up, facilitate, and break-down our first MS Tailgate of the year. Also, big props to all the students who attended! The crowd was LARGE AND LOUD as they cheered on our Bobcat Volleyball Teams throughout the evening vs. LPA. Be on the lookout for more "tailgates" as the year continues. These events are turning into a great tradition for PVA Middle Schoolers.

Drama Club KICKING-OFF! (6-8)

Drama Club will be having an interest meeting on Tuesday, September 19 at 3:15 on the stage! Drama club is for middle school students who share a passion for acting and the performing arts. Regular meetings will use improvisation, theater games, scene and monologue study, audition technique, and other exercises to encourage, develop, and grow each participant's abilities. PVA Drama Club welcomes every student in a safe, creative, and accepting environment. Membership is open to all middle school students, though participation in formal productions will be by audition. Please come check out Drama Club and see Mrs. Blocker for any questions!

PVA BAND BOOSTERS SPIRIT NIGHT @ THE LOOP! (6-8)

I am very happy to announce that the PVA band boosters will be hosting our first ever Spirit night at The Loop in Nocatee (101 Marketside Avenue Ponte Vedra, FL 32081). This event occurs on **September 26th and runs from 4pm to 8pm**. A percentage of The Loop's proceeds will go straight to our boosters in order to help provide new instruments and music to our students. However, for your purchase to qualify for the event you must mention the PVA band at checkout. I have attached a flyer with more information on this night!

Looking forward to seeing everyone there! -Jordan Mattheus

MS Field Trips this year (6-8)

Know that additional information is forthcoming, however, please note the following trips and proposed dates of our bigger end of the year grade level field trips. Dates and locations are subject to change, but as of now, this is what has been added to our calendars:

6th Grade - Wild Adventures April 5th

7th Grade - Sea World April 26th

8th Grade - Washington DC January 28th – February 2nd

8th Grade – Busch Gardens (Gradventure) May 10th

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PTO HAPPENINGS (ALL GRADES)

- PTO General Meeting WEDNESDAY EVENING in PVA Cafeteria @ 6:00pm
- Charleston Wrap Fundraiser is ongoing! See below.
 - Our fundraising goal is \$7,000.00. With over 2,500 gift ideas there is something for everyone on your holiday gift list which means your support can really help us reach our goal! Be sure to REGISTER online today at www.registercw.com and START SHARING our fundraiser with your family and friends! Once you register, text, email, and share our fundraiser on social media! Kiddos will win prizes for registering, sharing, items sold, and the most items sold in the school!!
- Book Fair is coming!
 - Set up in PVA's Multi-Purpose Room
 - October 4th - October 13th
 - Further details to come!

UPCOMING DATES OF NOTE:

- Tuesday, September 19th
 - ITS KINDERGARTEN TALK LIKE A PIRATE DAY! ARRRRRRRRR YOU READY!?!?
- Tuesday, September 19th
 - Volleyball HOME vs. VRA
 - Girls start @ 5:30pm. Boys to follow.
 - Buy your tickets at the door **or** [HERE USING THIS LINK!](#)
- Wednesday, September 20th
 - Middle School Math Testing (See Bell schedule below)
- Wednesday, September 20th
 - PTO GENERAL MEETING @ 6:00pm
 - WHERE: PVA CAFETERIA
 - PTO Board has a lot of important announcements and updates to share about upcoming events including Book Fair and the **BIG** OCTOBER EVENT our **Fall Festival!!**
- Thursday, September 21st
 - Volleyball AWAY @ Freedom Crossing
 - Girls start @ 5:30pm. Boys to follow.
- Sunday, September 24th
 - HONOR ROWS FIELD TRIP GAMEDAY! JAGS vs. TEXANS!
- Tuesday, September 26th
 - PVA BAND BOOSTERS SPIRIT NIGHT
 - THE LOOP (Nocatee) from 4-8pm! See you there!
- Wednesday, September 27th
 - Character Counts Pillar Celebration for **FAIRNESS!**
 - Awards Breakfast from 7:30-8:00am (paper invitation to be sent home)

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SAVE THE DATE!

Tuesday, October 3rd

School Advisory Committee (SAC TEAM) Meeting – All are welcome to attend!

October 4th – October 13th

The PVA BOOK FAIR IS BACK! Be on the lookout for additional details soon!

Sunday, October 22nd

ITS BACK!!! JOIN US FOR TONS OF AFTERNOON FUN AT PVA'S FALL FESTIVAL!

- Additional Details coming SOON!

Wednesday's MS Bell Schedule

Palm Valley Academy
September 20, 2023
FAST Bell Schedule

