

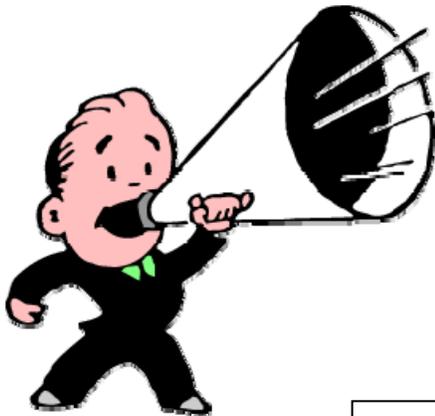
# PVFA ANNOUNCER

2012-2013

Volume 4

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**PVFA President reminds members that we need to “Speak up and advocate for ourselves.”**

## Teacher of the Year!

Bravo! We're proud of you! Best wishes to the following teachers who are being awarded the prestigious title of *Teacher of the Year!*

At the Elementary school level, we congratulate

**Sasha Ritcheske,**

*Rancho Vista*

and

**Karen Clavadetscher,**

*Dapplegray !!*

Congratulations go out at the middle school level to

**Thomas Fitch,**

*PVIS*

and at the

high school level to

**Jill Verenkoff,**

*Peninsula High.*

*Read more on page 2*

## Welcome Back PVFA Members!

I hope you all had a restful and fun-filled summer. As we all headed back to our classrooms, we noticed change was in the air, and I'm not just referring to the seasons! Aeries has proven to test our patience, and the haphazard approach to training has taken up much of our time.

More than ever, it is evident that we each need to speak up and advocate for ourselves and our colleagues. A critical component to our success is sharing concerns and frustrations with each other, so that we can bring awareness to the issue and implement change. I'm not referring to Aeries alone, but that collectively our frustrations are being heard. This is a good example of how working together can help make some improvement. The importance of speaking up applies to technology programs and also to general issues at our individual sites.

So many times teachers say to me, "Does the district not understand these issues?" or "Does the board just not listen?!" Both of these groups are willing to listen; however, we need to start talking. Sending emails is helpful, but not enough. Verbal communication is a powerful tool. There is no one more qualified to speak knowledgeably about the issues in our district than our members. Plan now to attend a school board meeting and speak directly to them.

The board meets the second and fourth Thursday of each month. The meetings begin at 6:30 P.M. and at the beginning they ask for public comment on non-agenda topics. This is when you have the opportunity to speak on any subject, and you will be heard. We teach our students to value the use of their voice to speak up on an issue; so, let's lead by example. Lastly, all too often PVFA members feel public speaking warrants a negative approach; I'm challenging PVFA to continue to find ways to bring about change in positive ways as well.

Hope to see you at the next board meeting.

*Kathy*

**2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday  
Let your voice be heard**

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# YES 30



## Bring Your Piece of the Puzzle to Committee

Calling for two to three PVFA members  
to serve on the  
**Health Committee**  
and the  
**Evaluation Committee**

Each meets three to four times a year. To  
volunteer--Send your name, grade taught and site  
to [pvfa.sbut@gmail.com](mailto:pvfa.sbut@gmail.com)

## Are you calling?

By Bonnie Mae Barnard

It's so easy! Each Monday through Thursday between 5:00 PM and 8:00 PM your friends and colleagues are spending time making calls to other teachers. WHY? Because they realize that the defeat of Proposition 32 and the passage of Proposition 30 are vital to educators, counselors, school nurses, and actually any one who works in public education. Let's face it. What happens to educators, affects para educators, janitors, ground crews, office staff—everyone at public schools. Calling members of California Teachers Association (CTA) makes calling Monday through Thursday an easy feat, but only if YOU ARE THERE. In order to assure that Proposition 30 succeeds and Proposition 32 is defeated, it takes many of us calling and reminding other educators of the need to vote YES on 30 and NO on 32. Pick your day; enjoy the free food and beverages; and help yourself and the future of educators in California.

Make those calls!

**NO  
ON 32**

*Teacher of the Year*



TEACHER CONT FROM P. 1

Honorees **Sasha Ritcheske** and **Karen Clavadetscher** set an important foundation at the elementary level, while honoree **Thomas Fitch** teaches math during those middle years, preparing students for high school. Honoree **Jill Verenkoff** prepares the students in her English class for college and beyond.

On behalf of all of your colleagues, the **Palos Verdes Faculty Association** congratulates you!

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California Teachers' Association (CTA) Endorsed

**Open enrollment – Ends October 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Get “The Standard” disability and/or Life insurance with no health questions and no concern over preexisting—Even if you are currently pregnant—you can be covered for maternity**

**BUT ONLY IF 54 PVFA MEMBERS ENROLL BY OCTOBER 15<sup>TH</sup>  
If you haven't enrolled, better stop right now and do it.**

The CTA Customer Service Department can be reached at 800.522.0406 from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday – Friday, or at [ctaservice@standard.com](mailto:ctaservice@standard.com), or at [www.cta.org/thestandard](http://www.cta.org/thestandard) for more information.

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**Editor's note:** I purchased Sun Life and tried to use it; it requires that I be off of work 30 days BEFORE it would pay; the Standard paid after just 7 days.

CTA Group Voluntary Disability Insurance Plan Features and Benefits Include:

For Educators:

- \$25 per work day during sick leave benefit
  
  - Up to 75% of regular daily contract salary if you become disabled, (benefits reduced by deductible income)
  
  - Up to 75% of extra duty pay lost due to disability (such as summer school, coaching, other forms of stipends)
  - Additional \$35 per calendar day if you are hospitalized (no waiting period, 60 day maximum)
- 

## **Overhauling Education: Common Core**

**Published in *The Daily Breeze* in response to article *Common Core*—**

Thank you for your article on the Common Core Standards published Sunday, August 5th. Although I enjoyed reading the article, I do not understand how it is possible to write an article on the Common Core Standards without a mention of what a financial boon this is for the textbook publishing and standardized testing industry. Since the advent of the California Content Standards and STAR testing some 12 years ago, these two industries have enjoyed great financial gains on the backs of our students. And now, we have given them yet another opportunity in the Common Core Standards. Additionally, the article failed to mention that every state in the Nation will have a say in what their version of the Common Core Standards will look like. So in reality, these are not true national standards but rather a guarantee that the publishers and test makers will have 50 versions of their goods to market. These are the real winners in overhauling education. *Jason Calizar*

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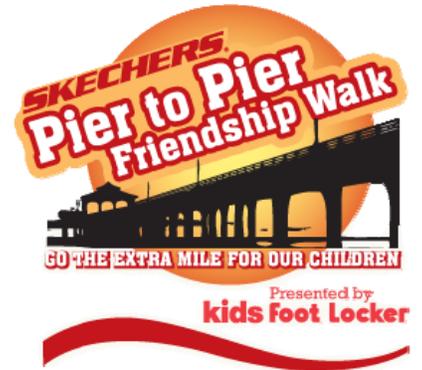
## Support your school – PV Ed Foundation

**What:** easy beach walk from the Manhattan Beach pier to the Hermosa Beach pier and back.

**When:** October 28, 2012 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

**Why:** Entire registration fee returns to PV Ed. Foundation

**How:** <http://www.skechersfriendshipwalk.com/>



November 7, 2012

### Dinner Awards Program

Social Hour: 5:45 p.m.  
Dinner Served: 6:15 p.m.

Palos Verdes Golf Club  
3301 Via Campesina  
Palos Verdes Estates

**To Reserve Attendance**  
\$50 per person



## Vista Grande's Garden

by Abby Meader

What was once a tumble of ice plant and weeds has become a place for Vista Grande Elementary School's kindergarteners to explore nature and learn from their environment.

Through the volunteer work of one Vista Grande parent, Tom Maeder, also a teacher's spouse and retired PVPHS teacher, the kindergarten play area underwent a multi-year transformation. The yard now boasts a vegetable garden, shrub maze, and numerous pathways blanketed with the tiny handprints of each new kindergarten class. Kindergarteners are an active part of keeping up the garden. They plant seeds each year, pull weeds, pick up clippings, and sample the fruits of their labor. Students often choose to spend their recesses collecting leaves and insects from the garden and frequently "help" Mr. Maeder with his work in the yard. The classroom moves outdoors when Vista Grande kindergarten teachers, Mrs. Low, Mrs. Bellucci, and Mrs. Morin bring their classes out for tours of the garden and to plant seeds each year. The garden makes manifest the collaboration of parents, teachers, and students that creates a powerful learning community. -----

