

PACIFIC VALLEY SCHOOL

Big Sur Unified School District

2016/2017

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MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

2016

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Bob Redman, otherwise known as Captain Bob, is an aerospace education specialist. Bob "brings the high-tech world of space exploration down to earth."



Bob encourages students to learn science and math and uses exciting demonstrations to excite and inspire children.

**STEM
SCIENCE
ASSEMBLY**

Recently, Pacific Valley School had the pleasure of a presentation from Bob Redman. Redman was inspired by his father, whose career included 30 years at NASA's Armstrong Flight Research Center. Bob's youth was a time of historic breakthroughs in modern aviation. Bob's ingrained passion for space combined with his experience as a tour guide for the Smithsonian Institution motivated Bob toward the possibilities of teaching young people about the history of aerospace.

The STEM program (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) is a nationwide curriculum "that integrates the four subjects into a cohesive learning paradigm based on real world applications." Bob's presentations combine the STEM concepts with fun and exciting stories about landing on the Moon, life in space with zero gravity, Mars exploration and the International Space Station, for example. He has made a vast array of miniature rocket and robot models that duplicate the originals and he uses them during his presentations.

Bob explains how human beings have always been fascinated with outer space. First we invent telescopes to look into space. Then we sent rockets into space. Soon, we put astronauts in those rockets. Then, we sent astronauts to land and walk on the Moon (the footprints are still there). Later, we begin exploring Mars and actually have robots that have been there for years, like the rover Curiosity. Curiosity's mission is "to see if Mars ever could have supported small life forms called microbes...and if humans could survive their someday."

Bob reminds us that the universe is fascinating and full of mystery. The solar system and beyond contains planets, moons, dwarf planets, the sun, stars, galaxies, black holes, dark energy and dark matter billions of light years away. All of these spark intrigue and curiosity in the hearts and minds of people everywhere. Bob has created a way for young people to begin to think about how they can help solve some of these most profound mysteries. For more information and fun projects go to Bob's website www.rockets-and-robots.com.

PROPOSITIONS PASS TO BENEFIT EDUCATION IN CALIFORNIA

According to the official results of the November 8 ballots, California voters approved two important initiatives that support education funding and school facilities. Propositions 51 and 58 both promise to boost K-12 public schools, charter schools and community colleges by bringing stability in funding over the next 12 years.

Proposition 51 will provide about \$7 billion for K-12 school construction and \$2 billion for community colleges. Of the \$7 billion, \$3 billion is earmarked for new construction, \$3 billion will pay for modernization, \$500 million will be spent on charter schools and \$500 million will fund career technical education facilities. Proposition 55 will extend the state income tax on high income earners that raises billions of dollars a year for K-12 schools and community colleges.

Chris Unger, the California School Boards Association Presidents states, "Proposition 55 ensures that as much as \$4 billion per year stays in our classrooms and allows us to avoid program cuts and staff layoffs, while Proposition 51 provides the funding necessary to modernize our state's most outdated classrooms and to address the urgent needs in many communities for new school facilities. Matching funds from the state are critical to the construction and renovation of safe school buildings that promote 21st Century learning and support the physical, social and emotional health of our students"

How can Pacific Valley School benefit from these initiatives? Considering that new construction and modernization projects will require a 40%-50% local contribution match, it won't be easy. However, schools districts that demonstrate a lack of local contribution can apply for 100% grant funding. Currently, the school has applied for funds for a new fire alarm system. Many of our buildings are over 25 years old and in great need of replacement and/or upgrades. Unfortunately, another requirement of obtaining funding is demonstrating the "need" for new buildings based on student population. That makes it hard for our small school with a student body of 14 to compete with larger and wealthier school districts. Hopefully, PV School will benefit from these initiatives.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

ALL MONTH

Secret Pals Gift Exchange

TUESDAY 12/13

Birthday Celebrations 3:30 pm

Dajhaly & Samantha

BSUSD Board Meeting 5:30 pm

WEDNESDAY 12/14

Community Dinner 4:30 pm

Winter Show 6:00 pm

PTO Bake Sale 7:00 pm

THURSDAY 12/15

Half Day 10 am - 2 pm

Light breakfast available at 10am

Secret Pals Final Gift Exchange

FRIDAY 12/16 -

MONDAY 1/2 (18 DAYS)

NO SCHOOL-WINTER BREAK

Happy Holidays!

TUESDAY 1/3/2017

School Resumes. Welcome Back!

Get Ready for the New Year!

GREAT DREAM

Ten keys to happier living

- GIVING** Do things for others
- RELATING** Connect with people
- EXERCISING** Take care of your body
- AWARENESS** Live life mindfully
- TRYING OUT** Keep learning new things
- DIRECTION** Have goals to look forward to
- RESILIENCE** Find ways to bounce back
- EMOTIONS** Look for what's good
- ACCEPTANCE** Be comfortable with who you are
- MEANING** Be part of something bigger

ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

www.actionforhappiness.org

PACIFIC VALLEY SCHOOL
Proudly Presents

The
Annual
Winter Show

WEDNESDAY
DECEMBER 14TH, 2016
6:00 PM

Community Dinner

4:30 PM TO 5:45 PM

MENU

Fall Harvest Meatball Soup

(Vegetarian option available)

Garlic Bread

Winter Kale Salad

Sponsored by the Nutrition Program. Donations welcome.

PTO Bake Sale & Fundraiser

**Enjoy delicious goodies like cookies and cake, coffee, tea
and hot chocolate during intermission and after the show.**

Proceeds help support student education!

Warm your hearts and bellies this holiday season. Friends, family and community members are invited to come together to enjoy an evening of laughter, delicious food and creative performances. The teachers and Jaime Arze of Stagekids! will be helping direct Pacific Valley School students through their own unique version of A Christmas Carol, songs and short skits. Performances are sure to delight and entertain. In keeping with tradition, a special appearance is expected by Santa Claus himself! Don't be naughty, be nice, and come join the festivities. Your presence is our present!