

PACIFIC VALLEY SCHOOL

Big Sur Unified School District

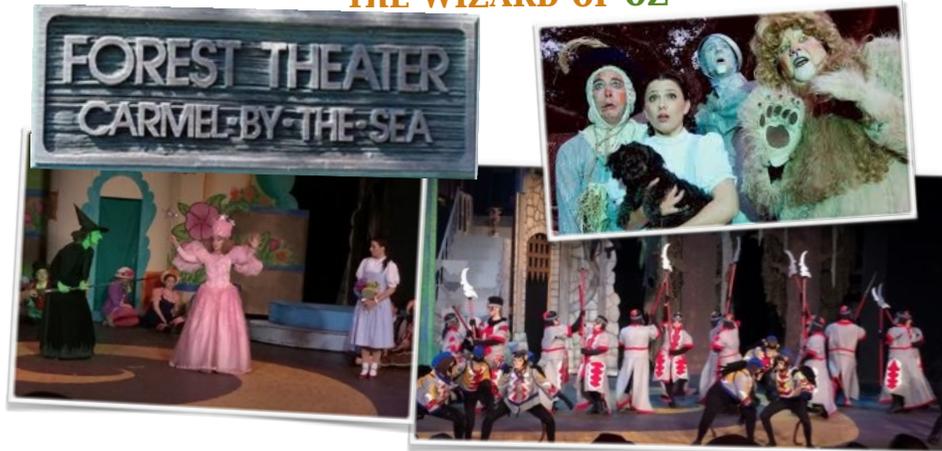
2016/2017

Issue 39 , 2 pages

OCTOBER MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Written by, Tafay Wilson

FIRST FIELD TRIP OF THE SCHOOL YEAR THE WIZARD OF OZ



The Forest Theatre, founded in 1910, is an enchanting outdoor amphitheater hidden in the pine trees in Carmel. The Pacific Repertory Theatre Company carries on a one-hundred-year-old tradition by offering professional productions every fall. The Wizard of Oz is a fabulous play and was a perfect choice for Pacific Valley School's first field-trip of the year.

Students, staff, friends and family members gathered on a moon-lit Friday night to enjoy the unique version of "Oz" under the stars. They brought blankets, pillows and picnic baskets to the family oriented venue. Wood burning fires were crackling on either side of the stage (believe it or not, they have a permit). Originally, there was no electricity to the theatre and fires were one way to provide light on stage during evening performances.

The Wizard of Oz cast, costumes and stage settings were all impressive and amazing. The Winkies (the marching monkeys), the Wicked Witch of the West and even Glenda the Good Witch literally "flew" on and off stage with the help of wires. Other characters, like the Cowardly Lion and the apple trees, made their first appearances in the oak trees surrounding the audience. Even Toto, played by a real and very cute dog, never missed a cue.

Back at school students were given writing assignments about the play. One 4th grade student wrote, "The Scarecrow didn't need a brain. He was already smart because he came up with the plan to help Dorothy." Others talked about who their favorite characters were and why. We highly recommend The Wizard of Oz at Carmel's outdoor Forest Theatre.

THANK YOU FIRE FIGHTERS



Art teacher Dave Allan worked with students on a hand painted banner to "Give thanks and appreciation to all of the firefighters and public safety officers who work so hard to protect our community in Big Sur." Dave is a master at creating banners with the students. Each student is given one or more spaces to paint their own inspired artwork. When the mural is complete, it is like a home-made quilt on paper, with soulful and heartfelt efforts all stitched together. Since last month, the Chimney fire has been put out, however, the Soberanes Fire continues to burn into the record books, becoming the 19th largest fire in California History. With recent high winds and record breaking heat temperatures lately, the fire's containment date has been postponed. Public information officer John Amador has stated "...We appreciate the support that we have been receiving from the residents in the area." Many signs can be seen along roadways and posted on buildings throughout Monterey County, offering a local gesture of support and gratitude.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

TUESDAY 10/4

PTO Meeting 4:30 pm

OCTOBER 10/7-10/9

Jade Festival - POSTPONED

Due to the Soberanes Fire and subsequent closure of the Los Padres National Forest, the SCCLT can not obtain a Special Use Permit by the USFS. May 5th -7th, 2017 are being considered as alternate dates.

MONDAY 10/10

Yes, School - Columbus Day

THURSDAY

10/13 OR 10/27

Field Trip - 6th grade

Rosicrucian Egyptian Museum

TUESDAY 10/18

Birthday Celebrations 3:30 pm

Athena, Emma, Jesus, Reuben, Sekoya, and Stella

THURSDAY 10/20

Great California Shakeout

10:16 am Earthquake Drills

MONDAY 10/24

BSUSD Board Meeting 6:30 pm

MONDAY 10/31

Halloween Celebrations!

Pumpkin carving, cupcake decorating, Halloween food-art and costume parade.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

Courage! What makes a king out of a slave? Courage! What makes the flag on the mast to wave? Courage! What makes the elephant charge his tusk in the misty mist, or the dusky dusk? What makes the muskrat guard his musk? Courage! What makes the sphinx the seventh wonder? Courage! What makes the dawn come up like thunder? Courage! What makes the Hottentot so hot? What puts the "ape" in apricot? What have they got that I ain't got? Courage! ~Cowardly Lion



AROUND CAMPUS!



NEW WOOD CHIPS FOR THE PLAYGROUND

Wood chips were delivered to the playground prior to school starting and were spread around the play structures. Now there is plenty of padding for student landings. The wood chips are a natural choice and specially designed for safety with no chemicals or splinters .



COASTAL CLEAN-UP

Efforts by students turned up trash at Mill Creek (top), Sanddollar (right), and Willow Creek beaches and parking lots. Students came across illegal camp sites with old camp fires and lots of garbage. Good job, because no-one likes to clean up someone else's mess!



SEPTEMBER'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

The celebration featured Bunny's famous home-made carrot cake. After the group sang Happy Birthday, Bunny served the dense and rich cake to patiently waiting students, staff and family members.



IT'S MONARCH HEAVEN AT PV

Butterflies abound during these warm autumn months. Monarch butterflies love Pacific Valley School. Milkweed, purchased with proceeds from PV's butterfly booth, was planted in the school's courtyard and has been a voracious feeding ground recently for the hungry striped caterpillars. This is a great time for the butterflies to lay eggs before the winter season. Many caterpillars have begun to form their chrysalis already. In three to four weeks, if conditions are right, they too will become butterflies. Many scientists agree that the decline in Monarch butterflies is due to global warming, the wide-use of pesticides and the long standing drought which is contributing to a decline in milkweed habitats. Planting region-specific milkweed recommended by places like the Xerces Society and Monarch Watch, like Pacific Valley School is doing, will help the Monarch make a come back. Schools can be a perfect environment for projects like these which help the species thrive and also provides numerous educational opportunities for everyone.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

P.E. is off to a running start. Gordon, our superintendent and principal, directs students to race each other to the cypress trees and back after warming up on the play gym/obstacle course. Students at PV are allowed to ride bicycles, rollerblade and skateboard. It's a small compensation for the fact that there aren't enough students to offer formalized "team" sports.