

Happy Valley School

A California Distinguished School Small School, Big Goals, Amazing Results 3125 Branciforte Drive Santa Cruz, CA 95065 (831)429-1456



August, 2025

Dear Happy Valley Families,

Welcome to the new school year! I have loved seeing the smiling faces of all our students, from our youngest TKers to our 6th graders. These students really are a family and it is wonderful to see how quickly they have jumped into this year. Our teachers and staff are excited and ready and we are thankful for every one of you.



Garden: Unfortunately we have not had any luck with finding a garden teacher. If you are interested in helping us keep the gardens and orchards in working order (watering, weeding, harvesting), or working on garden activities with the teachers, please let me know!

Parent Handbook: Please be sure to check out our <u>Parent Handbook</u>. New this year is a law that allows parents to opt out of stories or curriculum that strongly interfere with families' religious beliefs. Additionally, if there is anything that you feel should be included in the Handbook, please email me. I am always available to chat if you have any questions or concerns..

Lice and Germs: We already have viruses and lice going around. Please be sure to pay attention to your children's health, and let us know if they are sick. We remind them to wash hands and cover their mouths, and to not share hats. Although it is inevitable that we will get sick, it's best when we all are proactive.

Construction:The first few days were full of noise and excitement as the bathrooms were delivered. Much of the work of the contractor has been completed. We are waiting for a ramp, handrails, fire alarm, lighting, some hardware in the restrooms, and some fixes to the roof. Once everything is complete, we will submit everything to the state. Again, we thank you for your patience with this process!



Games wanted! We would love some fun games for our playground! If you would like to donate, we are always looking for new and special things. We recently purchased some bases, whiffle balls and bases, and new playground balls. Some other ideas: Giant Connect 4, skip it, ring toss, ping pong net, paddles and balls, etc. If you have extra yard games in your garage or would like to purchase something, please contact me!

Lost and Found: Our Lost and Found is already full. Please be sure to check for your child's clothing, water bottles, etc. When I was a teacher I would walk my students past the lost and found once a week and invariably I would find one of my daughter's sweatshirts, so I empathize with how easily things are forgotten!

Back to School Night: Thank you so much for attending our Back to School night last night. We value the partnership with families, and our home to school connection creates success for all of our students. If you were not able to attend, please contact your child's teacher. She will be happy to share with you the information you missed.

Redwood Gala: The tickets to the Redwood Gala, October 4, will be available soon. We hope to see you all there. It is a wonderful opportunity to come together and get to know each other, while raising money for our special school!

Have a great Labor Day weekend!

Michelle Stewart
Principal/Superintendent