



Superintendent/Principal
Michelle Stewart
mstewart@hvesd.com

Happy Valley School

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



Administrative Assistant
Paige Lynd
plynd@hvesd.com

August 5, 2024

Dear Happy Valley Community!

Welcome to another school year! The staff and I are so looking forward to seeing each one of you next week! There is so much to update you on!

If you have come by the school at all, you know that construction is continuing on campus. We will be open for school on Wednesday, August 14. However, staff will not return to campus until next week, and we will still be closed to the public due to construction until this Friday, August 9th. Additionally, you will notice that the back of the school will be fenced off through September as construction is completed.

Right now it looks like the school office will be in the back of the school, in the "Computer Lab". You can find us by going between Room 1 and Room 6. We will notify you if that changes.

Don't forget that the students will begin the year with portapotties. They will be cleaned nightly and pumped several times a week. There will be a "step stool" in one of them for our littlest students. We will be sure that there is good supervision and appreciate everyone's patience.

Class lists will be sent out next Monday, August 12. If you are new to the school you will receive a separate invitation to meet the teacher. We welcome everyone else back on campus the first day of school. On the first day of school many parents choose to walk their children to class. Please use designated parking spaces if available, and do not block the drop off/pick up line. As a reminder, school begins at 8:20 and there is supervision beginning at 8:00. Please do not drop off students early, as we want to ensure that everyone is safe.

We are fortunate to have Ohlsen foods providing lunches for us again this year. This year the lunches will be sack lunches and will be available every day starting the first day of school. In order for students to receive lunch, they need to order ahead of time. A new menu will go out monthly and we will send out the menu for August soon, which will also be on our website. If your child is out for any reason or on a field trip, please be sure to contact Ohlsen Foods to cancel lunch **the day before**. Even if you order lunch, please send a snack with your child. Although the State of California mandates that we offer free lunch, because of our size and our Basic Aid status, the cost of the program outweighs any state reimbursements we can receive. If you are able and willing, we encourage parents to donate toward the lunches (\$6.00 per day) if your child participates. However, we do want you to know that *lunches are provided free to every student*, and we don't keep track of who is paying and who is not.

Lots of you have been emailing about after school programs. We were blessed with one time monies over the past several years, as well as the Run Club that Carly Trotter and Katy Lauzier volunteered for. At this time, we do not have the funds to offer after school classes, but will let you know if additional funds become available. We are lucky to have Sprouts Aftercare every day supporting our students starting the first day of school! There is also after school care for Kindergarten. If you need financial support, please contact me. Even though lunch is provided free of charge to families, we use the free and reduced lunch application to determine funding for families that qualify for additional assistance. You can enroll by emailing or calling/texting Shannon & Jordan.

sproutscruz@gmail.com

Shannon 415-722-6339

Jordan 805-415-2433

Sproutsaftercare.com

Watch for an email from Donna Walker regarding on line registration through SchoolWise. (New families have already completed this paperwork.)

Every Friday we send a newsletter, and there are often important updates from Parent Club. If you are not currently on the mailing list, please email them at hvsparentclub@gmail.com. **Our Parent Club would like to invite you to the stage after drop off on Wednesday, August 14. They will have coffee and goodies and let you know all they have to offer and how you can be involved.**

We would like to welcome our new staff members. If you see them please introduce yourself!

- Kei Radford is joining us as an Instructional Assistant in Room 1.
- Kara Willett is joining us as the 4/5 teacher in Room 2.

- Becca Sandberg will be a 50% Long Term Sub. Our wonderful Ms. Keenan is taking a medical leave while in treatment for curable colorectal cancer. The family is requesting privacy at this time and we send her our healing thoughts and look forward to her returning to Happy Valley when she is well.

If you need to get in touch with us, the best way to reach us before school starts is via email.

Michelle Stewart, Principal/Superintendent mstewart@hvesd.com

Paige Lynd, Administrative Assistant plynd@hvesd.com

Donna Walker, Administrative Assistant dwalker@hvesd.com

Please remember my door is always open. (Well, once I have one!) We are here to support you and your child, and look forward to a fantastic year ahead.

Michelle Stewart

Superintendent/Principal