

Los Primeros School of Sciences and Arts

Ryan Creadick, Principal

Aug. 8, 2018

Welcome Back Panthers!

I hope you have enjoyed a wonderful summer break and are excited for a new school year filled with learning, adventure, and positive energy. The panther staff is excited to get underway as they are rested, inspired and prepared to embark on another amazing year at LPSSA. Our goal is to continue to provide your children with a 21st century learning experience that will prepare them for success in a global society.

Principal's message

I am honored to serve as Principal of Los Primeros School of Science and Art. Being a part of the Panther Family for the past three years as an administrator and a parent has meant the world to me. My goal is to create an engaging academic and social experience for your child(ren), leaving them smiling and eager for more. I believe in maximizing effort and enthusiasm in all that I do, as these are two choices no one else can make for me. Los Primeros is an amazing educational institution that provides incredible opportunities for the families it serves. We have dedicated staff who spend each and every day looking for great ways to engage your children in academic enrichment and social development activities. It is my plan to move our art and science programs forward within every classroom this year. We have invigorated our art program in order to expose our students to art techniques and concepts in all content areas in the kindergarten thru eighth grades. Similar steps have been taken to bolster our science programs with a focus on hands on learning opportunities, the scientific process and the five "E's" (Engage, Explore, Explain, Elaborate, Evaluate). It's going to be a great year!

New faces

Many staffing changes occurred over the summer for the Panther family. The kindergarten team is welcoming Ashley Saltee to the highly collaborative team. Ashley is a product of the Pleasant Valley School District and brings 7 years of teaching experience to our awesome team. She strives to make a positive impact on her students' lives. Our second grade team welcomes a familiar face, Stephanie Aquino. Mrs. Aquino is a very passionate educator and is very excited to get started on the 2nd grade curriculum. Our fifth grade team has also experienced exciting changes. New to the 5th grade team, Hannah Davidson made her way to LPSSA from University Charter Preparatory School. She is passionate about science and providing meaningful experiences for her students. She looks forward to creating collaborative learning opportunities for her students through technology.



Los Primeros School of Science and Arts

1555 Kendall Avenue • Camarillo, CA 93010 • (805) 484-2811 (Office) • www.pleasantvalleysd.org
PVSD prepares 21st century learners who are responsible members of our global society.

The middle school team is eager to start the year as well. They are welcoming two new members to the already phenomenal group. The history department is welcoming back a familiar face to the LPSSA family. Kayce Betzel, brings 13 years of experience to our team! She wants to be the spark for her students' lives to bring their knowledge to action. We are also excited to welcome Helen Yap, our new science team addition, to the middle school team. Mrs. Yap is a passionate learner who feels science is best learned through hands-on inquiry. She is excited to provide many collaborative and fun opportunities for our students as they dive into our Next Generation Science Standards.

I am fortunate to be a part of this dynamic staff. Our new faces are eager to start collaborating with our returning staff members as they strive to provide the best experiences for your child(ren).

6th Grade Orientation

We are hosting a 6th grade orientation for students (and parents) on Thursday, August 23rd from 8:30-11:30. break-out sessions that cover a variety of topics that will help set your child(ren) up for success during his/her first year of middle school. District technology personnel will assist in the Chromebook insurance option paperwork/payments and the district Chromebook Acceptable Use Policy. A signature from both Parent/Guardian and student is required for your child(ren) to receive a Chromebook on September 7th, LPSSA's planned distribution day.

Other items to be covered during orientation include:

- Textbook check-out
- Introduction to Google Keep (Middle school organization tool)
- Cyber safety and etiquette
- Sports, clubs, and activities
- Recommended school supplies
- PE clothes and lock distribution
- Meeting the middle school team

7th and 8th Grade Textbook Checkout/Chromebook Paperwork

Seventh grade textbook, Chromebook and PE clothes distribution will be in the STEAM Lab from 12:30 - 1:30

Eight grade textbook, Chromebook and PE clothes distribution will be in the STEAM Lab from 1:30 - 2:30

Parking lot Expectations

Drivers are expected to practice safe driving while in the LPSSA parking lot. For the safety of all students, staff, and campus visitors please put cell phones down and exercise caution while driving. **Drivers are expected to model courtesy and politeness for our students.** Students are **NOT** to walk unescorted in the parking lot and must follow the direction of the staff member working the lot.

Drop-Off Procedures

We strongly encourage parents to drop off their students to LPSSA after 7:45AM as there will not be designated supervision until that time. Students must be dropped off at the front of the school as close to the Multi-Purpose Room as possible. **The front gates near the office will no longer be open during the morning drop off time.** The gate near the MPR will be the only entrance point open as this will encourage drivers to pull as far forward as possible and ultimately assist in maintaining a safe and secure parking lot environment. Additionally, coordination for a crosswalk to be installed into the parking lot is underway.

Upon a student's arrival at LPSSA, K-5 students must line up on the blacktop with their classmates. Please do not proceed through the classroom hallways to the blacktop, rather follow the panther paws through the A and B wing corridor. Students will be escorted into their classrooms by their teachers. **(On the first day of school, please walk directly to your student's classroom upon arrival.)** MS students are to place their belongings into lockers and remain in the lunch area prior to the 7:55 bell. At this point they may proceed to their designated line-up area in front of their homeroom class. A warning bell will ring at 8:05AM. The school day will begin at 8:10AM.

Pick-Up Procedures

All students will be escorted to the front of the school by their classroom teacher. Parents are to wait outside the gate to pick up their child(ren). Students are NOT to be picked up in the office. For safety reasons, students will be in lines on the front grass until their parent or guardian's vehicle is present. **Students are NOT to walk unescorted through the parking lot and must follow the direction of the staff member working the parking lot.** It is understood that this practice may be inconvenient for parents, yet it is designed for the safety of students.

Daily Start and Dismissal times

The School day begins promptly at 8:10 am for ALL K - 8th grade students.

Kindergarten:

- During the first week of the school year, the school day begins at 8:10 am and dismissal will be at 11:57.
- Until September 21st, ALL students start time is promptly 8:10 am; Dismissal is 12:57 pm Monday - Friday.
- Once "early bird" and "late bird" designations have been made, drop off and pick up times will change as follows:
 - Early bird:** Drop off time is 8:05 am; dismissal time is at 12:57 pm Monday - Friday.
 - Late bird:** Drop off time is 9:05 am; dismissal time is at 1:57 pm Monday - Friday.
 - Dismissal for 1st- 3rd grade students is 1:57 pm Monday -Friday
 - Dismissal for 4th-8th grade students is 2:57 pm Monday -Wednesday and 1:57 on Thursday.
 - Dismissal for 4th & 5th grades is 1:57 pm on Friday.
 - Dismissal for 6th - 8th grades is 2:57 pm on Friday

7th Grade Tdap Immunization Requirement

All students entering, advancing or transferring into 7th grade MUST have proof of an adolescent whooping cough booster immunization for fall enrollment. Students WILL NOT be allowed to attend school without the immunization. For more information please refer to the PVSD website at <https://www.pleasantvalleysd.org/Page/7259>

Posting of Class rosters

This year Pleasant Valley School District Schools will not be publicly posting class "lists". In addition there will not be public postings of school maps labeling the classrooms with the teacher names. This is to increase the privacy and safety of our students and staff. Your child's teacher and classroom and/or schedule will be available in Parent Connect at 4:00pm on August 24th. If you have not logged into your account, you can come into the school office to get your account information starting August 6th. Middle school students will be issued their schedule of classes during the middle school orientation on August 23rd. In addition, we will have people available on campus the first day with lists that can tell you which classroom and teacher your child is assigned to. They will also help direct you to where the classrooms are.

Communication Changes

In order to improve communication and minimize overexposure to information, the **Sunday Message** will be different this year. A monthly message will be sent out from Mr. Creadick on the last Sunday of the month to encapsulate the achievements of the past month as well as frontload the programs LPSSA students will engage in for the following calendar month. This message will be in the form of a phone call message accompanied by an email with any pertinent attachments. These communications will focus on educational highlights from the Curriculum Showcase and major LPSSA events taking place for that month in the school year. The Curriculum Showcase will be a digital newsletter highlighting exciting concepts, projects, activities or performances our students engage in that month.

Weekly email reminders will also be sent home on Sunday evenings to remind parents and staff of upcoming events, middle school sports, performances after school activities or any PTO sponsored events. Coffee with Mr. Creadick is another great opportunity for parents to share ideas, insights and ask questions about school programs. A schedule of meeting times and a link to ask your questions will be available on the school website.

Field trips

Field trip procedures and protocols have been centralized for all PVSD schools for this school year. All grade levels throughout the entire Pleasant valley school district will be able to attend two standards enriching excursions per school year. Additionally, buses will be the only form of transportation to and from these field trip locations. All students must depart and return on the bus. Parents who are chaperoning the field trip will have space available on the bus. Under special circumstances parents will be allowed to drive their personal vehicle (without Children) to the fieldtrip location. All adults attending field trip to chaperone will need to have a current Volunteer form approved and on file in the school office prior to attending the field trip.

Attendance

Students arriving after 8:10AM will be marked late (unless your student is in Kindergarten and starts at 9:05AM) so please aim to arrive by 8:00AM. You **MUST** call the attendance hotline (805) 484 2811 (option 1) if your student will be absent, state the reason they are not in school, and indicate the name of the child and the name of the parent calling.

Change of Address

Whenever you move we require a residence verification form to be completed with two bills attached. Please provided this within 30 days of your move so we have your most up-to-date information on file

Independent Study

If you plan to take your child out of school for five days or more then you must complete an Independent Study contract in the school office in order for your child's absence to be excused. Your child will be given a copy of the contract and can prepare work for your child to do while they are out of school. A parent will pick up the necessary assignments in the front office on the last day they are in school on the day prior to the absence. Students must turn in all required work completed on the day they return to school in the main office. If they achieve a passing grade in all their subjects, then they will receive full academic credit and absences will be marked as excused. If they do not pass the Independent Study the absence becomes unexcused. You are allowed up to three unexcused absences in a year. Please see the district website for all the attendance guidelines under the parents tab and policies and regulations.

Teacher Assignments for 2017-2018

Kindergarten: Miller, Kays, Saltee
1st Grade: Monka, Kurtz, Winter
2nd Grade: Tanner, Fletcher, Aquino
3rd Grade: Rush, Reves, Brown
4th Grade: Ross, Doss
5th Grade: Frayer, Davidson

Middle school: Sontag, Wright, Sheaffer
Casillas, Schweers, Betzel, Otto, Yap
K-8 Counselor: Tara Matheson
School Psychologist: Nayri Shmavonian
Resource Teacher: Angela Costello
SLP: Rosa Reisner

Back to School Night

Please mark your calendars for September 12th. BTSN will take place on one night again this year with all K-8 teachers being in attendance. In years past this has been a non-student event. However, if you are unable to obtain childcare during this event, rest assured district childcare professionals will be available on site to watch your students while you attend classes to hear the important information teachers would like to share with you. We have a hybrid two session schedule in the effort to allow our families with multiple LPSSA students an opportunity to see many grade levels of teachers. This is a great opportunity for parents/guardians to meet the teachers, become acquainted with the grade level curriculum and expectations. We encourage parental involvement in the classroom and we welcome any offers of help with school activities throughout the school year.

Back to school Night Schedule

K- 5

5:00 - 5:16 Intro/Welcome (MPR)
5:18 - 5:38 Session 1
5:40 - 6:00 Session 2

Middle school

5:35 - 5:51 Intro/Welcome (MPR)
5:53 - 6:08 Period 2A
6:10 - 6:25 Period 3A
6:27 - 6:43 Period 4A
6:45 - 7:00 Period 2B
7:02 - 7:17 Period 3A
7:19 - 7:35 Period 4B

Welcome back fall Harvest Carnival!

LPSSA community is accustomed to an enjoyable carnival to welcome all students, teachers and families to join together for some fun. This year the PTO and I have decided to kick off the year with this awesome event. Please join us September 28th from 5:00 - 7:30 pm. The PTO will be selling spirit wear, providing music and each classroom will be operating a fun carnival game for your enjoyment.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions and don't forget to continue to check our website for updated information. It's going to be a great year!

We are Panthers. We are Family!

Ryan Creadick
Principal

