PV Families,

**Accountability Meeting 1/13**
We will have an in-person Accountability meeting this Thursday at 3:00 in the library. We will discuss budget priorities for next school year. This is an important meeting that helps me understand what our community values in terms of how we spend our money and staffing.

**School Carnival Moved to September**
We are creating a new tradition by having our annual carnival in the fall, as a start of the school year celebration, rather than having it in February. That means we will not have a carnival this year. We are scheduled to do it on September 30th.

PTA is working with me to organize a school dance for later this spring, likely in May, and hopefully outdoors. We can use this event as a way to do something special for our 5th graders who won’t be with us for our carnival in September.

**Spring Fling**
We are re-thinking our Spring Fling for this year, much of it due to COVID, but some of it due to us wanting to re-imagine this longtime tradition. Our Spring Fling has usually consisted of:
- Art show
- Community dinner
- Cake auction (to support our art program.
- Primary grades’ musical performance.

Mrs. Hammer will organize an online art show this spring, just like she did last year. Mrs. Jerman will do online music performances for our primary grades. We are considering moving our cake auction to the fall carnival.

Events like the spring fling and carnival are important and exciting things for PV. I need us to continue our traditions while also making sure that they are relevant and fun, while adding new traditions. Our PTA is an important venue to discuss our activities, events, and traditions. So please consider joining us for our monthly meetings where many of these topics are discussed.

**Extra-Curricular Clubs**
Please use PTA and Accountability as a way to connect with PV about opportunities for after-school clubs and activities. Cara Jakab heads up our after-school programs. Both she and I love to get advice from our families, PTA, and Accountability as to what types of programs our students would like to have. Whenever space and schedule works, we love to bring in as many clubs as our community would like. But we first need to know what ideas and needs you have, so please let us know!

Please have a wonderful week!
Library News: Amy O’Neill

Students in grades 1 and 2 received new Lenovo 300e chromebooks last week from the FCC's Emergency Connectivity Fund, established by the American Rescue Plan of 2021. As the one-time funds are used, Jeffco is working on a sustainable plan to expand TechforEd at the 1st - 4th grade levels.

Parents, please work with your students to find any lost or overdue books and turn them into the library. Thanks for your help.

Amy O'Neill
Digital Teacher Librarian
Prospect Valley Elementary
303.982.7535

Social Emotional Learning Team:

Students will begin Second Step Unit 3: Empathy & Kindness:

In Kindergarten and Grade 1, Unit 3 lessons are designed to teach students how to recognize kindness and enable students to explore the impact of kind acts on emotions and friendships. Kind acts are connected to empathy in Grade 2, where students learn the definition of empathy and explore how they can have empathy for others. Grade 3 lessons focus on teaching students how having empathy and engaging in kind acts can help them build and strengthen relationships.

Expanding on kindness, empathy, and relationships, Grade 4 lessons introduce ways students can understand someone else’s point of view. In Grade 5, students apply their relationship, perspective-taking, and empathy skills to define and help solve a community problem while considering everyone’s wants and needs.
PTA News: Laura Clase & Katie Critchfield, Co-Presidents:

Skate City
Save the date for a school-wide event at Skate City on March 16th, 5-7pm.

Thank you
Thank you for coming to last week’s PTA meeting. Leslie Weinstein, thank you for being our tech expert so that people can join us from home.

A giant THANK YOU to everyone that dropped off donations for the victims of the Boulder fires. In less than 24 hours we received enough donations to make two trips with my minivan completely packed with supplies! Thank you for the Target runs, gift cards, and gently used donations. Prospect Valley community, your generosity never ceases to amaze me.
I know many of you would like to contribute but didn't have time on such short notice. Please see below from Robyn Odendahl:

If you are looking for additional ways to support families impacted by the Marshall Fire, there are two opportunities. Harbor Church has heard from Avista Hospital that they could use help in two ways described below. If you would like to participate in either way, please drop off your cards and/ morale boosters at the PV office by Monday, January 17th.

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Avista was in the heart of the fire and had to evacuate all the patients and staff. 20 Avista employees lost their homes due to the fire and 100 live in the direct burn areas. This has left the staff physically, emotionally, and spiritually spent. They have already felt a huge outpouring from the community to help find housing and with initial donations of goods but they are asking that we do two things:

Gift Cards
Most families won't know all their needs for a while and we want to help set them up for the long haul. So, Avista is collecting Visa, King Soopers, Walmart, and Target gift cards to have on hand as needs arise for their employees over the next year as they rebuild their lives. Please bring gift cards of $15-$100 value to the PV office by Monday, January 17th.

Morale Boost
We want to provide them with a sunny, bright, joy-filled reopening when they reopen in two weeks. We would love for you and your families to make cards, posters, paper chains, etc. that we can use to decorate the inside of the building and the main drive into the hospital.

CARNIVAL:

After brainstorming different ways to keep our community safe with COVID restrictions around mask wearing, exposure time and the fun of the snacks of the carnival, Mr. Schrant and I made the difficult decision to postpone our carnival for the year. We will have it in the fall on Friday September 30th, so we can make use of the outdoors and decrease exposure. Thank you for your understanding.

Becca Higgins - Carnival Chair
Art Room News: Aimee Hammer

Art Room Volunteer needed! If you could help a few hours a week with hanging art in the hallways and prepping materials, please email Aimee Hammer- Aimee.Hammer@jeffco.k12.co.us
Thank you!

Aimee Hammer
Art Teacher
Prospect Valley Elementary School
Aimee.Burke@jeffco.k12.co.us