



DiabloValleyMontessoriSchool

February 17, 2022

Headlines

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Message from Jayne

Hello DVMS Families,

I hope everyone has fun plans for this long 4-day weekend. Remember, DVMS is closed tomorrow and Monday.

Good news (finally), about COVID! We are so thankful that our community has been healthy this month. With cases declining overall, we are now able to have the children unmasked outdoors while playing. During times of close contact, such as carpool and end-of-day pick-up, it is still recommended that the children wear a mask. Teachers will continue to wear a mask when outdoors with the children. We expect that parents do the same.

Wednesday, February 23 is the re-enrollment deadline for current DVMS students and siblings. Make sure to complete the form in your parent portal for all children this weekend. We have a very deep wait pool and cannot guarantee enrollment if your form is not submitted on time. If your child is not returning to DVMS, please complete the form; we appreciate the confirmation.

As always, please reach out if you have any questions, concerns, or comments.

Have a wonderful weekend,
Jayne

DVMS Board of Directors – “State of the School”

I think it goes without saying that this past year continues to be one of the more challenging years at DVMS. We started the school year with high hopes that COVID was behind us and while there definitely are positive trends now, we are still in limbo with how this pandemic is going to play out, managed long term, and how it will impact our school community in the future.

We also had a new HOS start this year which is exiting for our campus to have a new vision and perspective of leadership and also a challenge for someone new in this role where COVID has consumed so much of her time and energy. We all recognize that teachers and parents have had to deal with a lot over these past two years, and also care for a population of students that primarily cannot be vaccinated, which places even more stringent health and county pandemic guidelines for everyone to manage. COVID has once again hindered our abilities to physically come together as a community, but even with all of these challenges we face....

Our school stayed open, not to say we definitely had our share of exposures and closures, but I believe they were mitigated due to the policies and procedures put in place. This streamlining of the COVID/Health policy and constant updating by Jayne and Dan Ruby continues to be a big undertaking.

Our financial situation has greatly improved, especially with the confirmation of loan forgiveness from our PPP loans. Our reserves are where they need to be in order to start tackling some major capital improvements that Anthony Davies and the Long- Range Planning team have been pressing this year to complete. The persistence and determination from Deb, Jayne, Roger and the Finance committee to ensure we have sound books does not go unnoticed.

Our teachers mean the world to us and we know these past two years have been especially hard on them. We will continue to look at ways to increase compensation, which was the main driver for the recently approved 22/23 tuition increases. We made a point to dedicate more funds for professional development this year. A big shout out to Alissa Campbell and the fundraising team for having a very successful inaugural annual appeal campaign that raised over 20K for staff professional development purposes.

Our reputation as a top tier pre-school in the area continues to be strong as evident by our very healthy wait list.

While we have not had many opportunities (OK maybe none) to have in-person events to date, we still have a remarkable and very active Parent’s Club, that has conducted virtual events ranging in all types. Thanks in part to strong leadership of Caitlin Preenja and Alissa Campbell, the other Parent’s Club exec team, and all of the room parents to ensure we have ways to engage with the community even when we cannot physically meet.

All of us are looking forward to the Auction in March as we start the transition back to in-person events – we know the auction is a lot of work and are very appreciative of the people power the auction committee puts into this event for the community.

Onboarding a new HOS, especially from one with such a long tenure is no easy feat. One of the main goals for me this year was to ensure Jayne had the support and tools in order to be a successful HOS. This also includes making sure the vast majority of staff feel supported in Jayne's leadership and new ideas for DVMS. I know that both Ale and I are very encouraged by Jayne and look forward to seeing her vision realized around the campus. We had a great response with our mid-year HOS staff/BOD eval and are already discussing ways to build upon successes and adjust where needed. I look forward to the next round of feedback we will solicit at the close of the school year.

There are definitely things we need to monitor:
Staff - This has been a hard year for DVMS staff. The added stress COVID has caused along with the countless disruptions to the way teachers have had to adapt their Montessori training and deal with the required health guidelines has not been easy. We need to ensure we are keeping a temp check on the staff morale.

Hiring & recruiting needs to be an all-hands effort and anything we all can do to help retain top talent should be #1 priority.

Infrastructure / Capital improvements – This has been a real challenge – not only finding qualified contractors but adjusting to the sticker shock of what the going rates are these days. That being said, we have plans in place once the contracts are inked to tackle some of the back log of work – auction fund-a-need work and major capital projects around the campus – Windows and decking to name a few.

In terms of Board operations – I am happy to be passing the torch at the end of this year to such a great team we currently have in place, and also with a very low number of replacements needed it will serve the school well with consistent leadership.

In closing, there is a lot to be proud of at DVMS, all of us have been up against a lot, and yet we still remained active and volunteered our time where we could. I look forward to seeing how the school evolves and continues on for another 60+ years!

Brian Caughell, DVMS Board President

Back to the 80s Auction



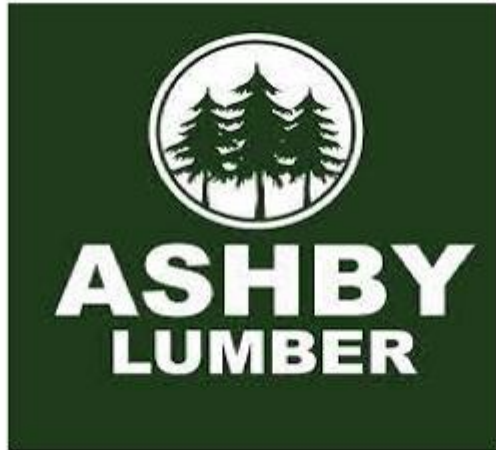
Mark your calendars for Saturday, March 26 at St. Perpetua in Lafayette. Our Back to the 80s Auction is going to be awesome! This is an opportunity to gather as a community, (adults only), and celebrate our school in a COVID-safe way. Attendees must be fully vaccinated and present their digital record for entry to the event.

Get your ticket today! The Early Bird rate of \$125 per person ends on February 20.

[Click here to purchase now](#)

Your children and teachers are busy creating beautiful, one-of-a kind items for you to bid on and purchase, with all proceeds benefitting DVMS! Stay tuned for more information from your classroom about all of the ways you can contribute and participate.

A big "Thank you" to our first event sponsors: Ashby Lumber and Downtown Walnut Creek ACE. If your business or family is interested in becoming a sponsor, just e-mail auction@dvms.org and we will be pleased to recognize your contribution!



Important Dates!



February 18-21: Presidents' Day Holiday - **DVMS Closed**

February 23: Last day for current DVMS students and siblings for 2022-2023 enrollment

February 28: Extended Care sign-up forms available for Parent-Teacher Conference week.

March 2: Parents' Club Book Club 7pm

March 7: Preschool Full-day Extended Care sign-up forms available for Spring Break.

March 15: DVMS Board of Director's Meeting - 7:30pm

March 26: DVMS Back to the 80s Auction

March 28: Teacher In-Service Day - **No classes**

March 29-April 1: Parent-Teacher Conferences. Early dismissal for all children. Extended care available on a limited basis.

April 4-8: Spring Break for Buttercup and Preschool classes. Preschool extended care available on a limited basis.

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