

December 2008

Dear RBV Families,

It is truly amazing to realize that in one short month the first semester of the 2008/2009 school year will be over. Students and teachers at RBV are hard at work to ensure instruction and learning take place daily in preparation for final exams that are scheduled for the week of January 19.

During the months that passed since the start of the school year, several very exciting developments have occurred at RBV. With the launching of the Parent Portal capabilities throughout the Vista Unified School District, parents or guardians who have established a Parent Portal account are able to view their student's attendance and academic records in real time. This has increased our ability to provide families information concerning their students' performance at school. Parents who have yet to open the Parent Portal account can do so any school day by stopping at the RBV data processing office, across from the attendance office, to receive their password and instructions. A video that depicts the steps one should follow to open the account is also available on the RBV web site. We urge RBV families and guardians to make use of this very convenient tool, which provides ongoing information flow from the school to the home.

An additional new service at RBV is the very rich array of after-school programs available for our students through a recently awarded grant—the 21 Century Grant. The programs are both recreational and academic. Students make use of various tutoring opportunities in math, science, writing, and reading comprehension. Scores of them visit our open library till 5:30 PM to work on homework projects, to play chess, and to read. We also offer a cooking class, theater group, ball room dancing, tap dancing, and self defense, to name but a few of our enrichment activities. You can access information about the RBV after-school programs on our web site as well.

Finally, about a month ago, a committee comprised of parents, students, teachers and administrators began a series of meetings to articulate RBV's Mission, Vision, and Values statements. We have begun this dialogue over a year ago, when we sought input from our teachers, parents and students via a staff development day and various surveys. I am happy to report to the RBV community that we now have a published Mission statement. By the end of March we plan to reach the final composition of our Vision and Values statements. Our Mission statement will be posted on our web site in the very near future.

As we approach the new 2009 calendar year, I want to take this opportunity to wish each and every member of your family a joyous holiday season as well as a year of peace, prosperity, and health. I know the entire RBV staff is joining me in this.

Take care,

Varda Levy
Principal