



## West Valley Chinese Language School Newsletter

Established Since 1963 School Year 2008-2009 Issue #3

May 1, 2009

P. O. Box 2383, Sunnyvale, CA 94087 ■ (408) 839-7001 ■ [ww.wvcls.org](http://ww.wvcls.org)

*The best way to help your teacher is to help your kid(s) practice Chinese at home*

### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

It is hard to believe that we are already coming to the end of the 2008-2009 school year!

Over the last few weeks, we have had a flurry of activities that signify the end of the school year is near. The annual ritual of class picture-taking took place over two Friday evenings this year to accommodate the various lesson schedules and plans of our teachers. I want to take this opportunity to thank our super volunteer photographer, Mr. Thomas Lee, for his help with many of the school photography and video-taking opportunities over the years. Mr. Lee has left us with a treasure cove of wonderful West Valley memories.

The ANCCS academic contest, hosted by Berryessa Chinese School, was held on Sunday, April 5. Twenty West Valley students participated in the contest. They competed in several categories including Cantonese speech, read-aloud, word search in the dictionary, reading comprehension, pencil penmanship, western-style painting and Chinese brush painting. I thank those students for their enthusiasm to represent West Valley and for honoring us with seven awards!

In the upcoming weeks, students and their teachers will be busy preparing for the year-end examinations. I have no doubt that you, as parents, will be closely involved with your children's lesson review in support of their readiness for the examinations. On the school board side, we are putting the final touches on the May 15 General Meeting and the May 29 Promotion ceremony. I hope that you have put those two events on your calendar and that you are planning to attend them.

As many of you know, the General Meeting is a time when the board celebrates the outcome of the year and shares plans for the next year with you, our dedicated volunteers. At that meeting, you will have the opportunity to cast your vote for the 2009-2010 board members. Please join us on May 15.

At the May 29 Promotion ceremony, report cards and various honors will be awarded to the students. Additionally, students of C3 classes and below will receive graduation certificates. If you are not planning to attend the Promotion ceremony, please arrange for someone to pick up your child's report cards, awards, and/or certificates. Note that any unclaimed items cannot be retrieved until the beginning of the 2009-2010 school year.

The 2008-2009 academic year has been an eventful one filled with gratifying moments. We held many notable activities including a most remarkable 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. I am deeply indebted to you for your service and support throughout the year. On behalf of the board, I wish you all a very happy summer. See you back at school in September.

Principal,  
Kammy Hsiao

### SPRING PARENT OUTREACH

On April 24, B108 was filled with West Valley parents listening to Patrick Lui's talk on 'Energy and Climate Change.' Patrick works at SLAC and teaches a seminar on climate change and energy issues at Hong Kong University of Science and Technology during the summer. During this informative session, we learned about the interplays between atmospheric carbon dioxide and global climate, how studying the climate history of the Earth that goes back hundreds of thousands of years through drilling of ice core in Antarctica has helped us understand whether climate change is a real problem or not, and how the industrialization of the last 150 years as well as the primary energy production in the U.S. and China have contributed to the problems we are seeing today. Special thanks to Patrick for sharing his insight and research into this subject. Everyone has responsibility to do our part to keep the earth livable and beautiful.

## URGENT CALL TO PARENTS: JOIN THE 2009 -2010 SCHOOL BOARD!

As a nonprofit educational organization governed and administered by a volunteer board, the continued success of West Valley is critically dependent on the succession of board membership. As we enter the final two months of the school year, recruitment for members to fill positions on the 2009-10 School Board is underway. Serving on the School Board is a rewarding experience:

- By being involved with the governance of West Valley, you play a significant role in ensuring that **your child's school** continues to provide the quality of Chinese language and culture learning programs you desire for him/her.
- You will be part of the decision making body responsible for all major procedural, financial, operational and mission-related goals of the school.

Parents often indicate that they are reluctant to join the board because they do not have the knowledge, skills, or time. There are no prerequisites to become a board member. No matter what your interests or availability, there are board positions that will fit you. All that is required is your belief in the school's mission, and your desire to contribute to the Chinese language-learning experiences for your child and the generations beyond. If you wish West Valley to be there for your child tomorrow, it is important that you be involved today.

The board meets at school, once a month, currently the first Friday, from 7:15 – 9:00. Each board term is two years. Many board members stay on after their first term for years (and beyond) because it is rewarding on both a personal and professional level. As a working board, there are additional time requirements of all board members for other projects and meetings. The board understands that, with our already busy lives, it's hard to fit anything extra in. However, if you ask any one of board members, each will attest to the value gained of new friendships, knowledge about administering an educational nonprofit, and connections with the many activities at their child's place of learning. Serving on the WV board is work, but to many currently on the board, it is time and effort worth spending.

**We have several key board posts open for the next school year and urgently need your participation, leadership and support to help the board remain a positive, creative group.** Please consider contacting a board member soon to discuss your interest in joining the board team.

## RECOGNITION

The school board takes great pleasure in recognizing those who have made donations in support of WVCLS. The following is a partial list of donors:

Adelaide Wong and Hewlett-Packard  
 Amy Lo and National Semiconductor  
 Billy Chow and Applied Materials  
 Chong Chee Yee  
 Ken Ng and Intel Corporation  
 Paul Wong and Kaiser Permanente  
 Shirley Pak

Through the generous support of our community and friends, West Valley can continue to provide high quality education in Cantonese and organize activities related to Chinese culture. We would also like to thank those parents who volunteered many hours to school during the year.

### UPCOMING EVENT

5/15 Mandarin Final Exam  
 5/22 Final Exam  
 5/29 Promotion Ceremony  
 (Last day of School)

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS - FRIDAY, MAY 29, 2009**

Event: 2008-2009 Promotion Ceremony  
 Location: Cafeteria  
 Time: 7 pm – 9 pm  
 (Subject to change)



Please plan to attend this time-honored year-end ceremony to help recognize and applaud our students and teachers for their achievements and efforts during the year.

**REGISTRATION**

Just a friendly reminder that registration for the 2009-2010 school year has started. If you have not turned in your child(ren)'s registration, please either:

- 1) Drop it off at the school office from now through to May 29 (our last day of school); or
- 2) Mail to:

West Valley Chinese Language School  
 P.O. Box 2383  
 Sunnyvale, CA 94087

You can pick up the blank registration packet from the office or download it from our website at [www.wvcls.org](http://www.wvcls.org). Please remember to complete all the information requested, especially the Emergency Contact Form, the Mandatory Parent Participation section of the Registration Form, the ANCCS Waiver Form and the General Service Activities Sign-up Form. Packets with incomplete information will not be processed.

Please note that cost for the 2009-2010 school year is \$350 per student, which includes tuition and fees for textbooks and most classroom materials cost.

**ADULT CLASSES REGISTRATION**

In addition to the programs West Valley Chinese Language School offers to our children, we have been offering enrichment classes to adults as well. By enrolling in one of these classes, you are truly sending the important message to our next generation that learning never stops. In the upcoming school year, we will be offering 3 classes: 2 different levels of Putonghua classes and 1 Tai Chi class.

Registration for these classes has begun. Forms are available for pick up at the Gym Foyer, aka WVCLS Office.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Sandy Leung by email [sandy@3lee.com](mailto:sandy@3lee.com). Please let your friends know about these programs as well. We would accept students not affiliated with WVCLS. However, registrants affiliated with WVCLS would command a higher priority. Class size is limited. Please enroll early.

**PLEASE NOTE:**

**You will be advised by letters in August regarding the First Day of School.**