



# THE COYOTE CONNECTION

PTA NEWSLETTER VOL X, ISSUE 1    SEPTEMBER 2008  
 CHULA VISTA COUNCIL    PTA NINTH DISTRICT, INC. CCPTS

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

Dear Families,

I am so happy and excited to announce that Arroyo Vista has a new Associate Principal, Anateresa Wood! She introduced herself to you at the recent Parent Evening and did an excellent job introducing the common calendar. She comes to us from National School District with an in-depth knowledge of literacy and expertise in working collaboratively with staff and parents. Please introduce yourself to her if you haven't as yet done so because she is very excited to meet each and every one of you.

If you haven't been near our garden recently, please take a moment to drop by and take a look. Students have already harvested cucumbers, which were delicious, and more harvesting of delectable vegetables is expected within the next few weeks. Laura Gonzalez, one of our parents, our Roots and Shoots Club and individual classrooms have all been part of making the garden a great success. Students are learning about how planting and caring for healthy crops help our environment and produce tasty snacks and salads. Our beautiful garden is a reflection of our TEAM emphasis. Unfortunately, in recent weeks one of the boards that form the garden bed has been stolen. It has been brought to our attention that it most likely is being used for a skateboard ramp. If you have any information that may help us work with the CVPD to stop the thieves from ruining our garden, please contact the school office.

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Both our PTA Back to School Picnic and our Parent Curriculum



### IMPORTANT DATES

- *Parent-Teacher Conferences (1:45 PM dismissal) September 10—19*
- *Fall Break, September 22—October 13*
- *School Resumes, October 14*
- *Red Ribbon Week, October 20-24*
- *Walkathon, 7:30-10:30AM, October 25*
- *E-scrip Contest Ends, November 1*
- *Book Fair, November 17—21*

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR AVCPTA PRESIDENT

### Welcome Back Students, Parents and Staff!

The school year is in full swing with just a couple more weeks to go until Fall Break. The Arroyo Vista Charter Parent Teacher Association (AVCPTA) began planning a few months ago for many of this year's events and activities, starting with the "Welcome Back to School - Meet the PTA" reception. We enjoyed meeting all of the parents that attended and we hope you enjoyed the opportunity to get to know other Arroyo Vista Charter families. On August 7, the AVCPTA sponsored the "Red, White and Blue" patriotic themed Back to School Picnic. KFC provided meals, a patriotic sing-a-long filled the air, and a clown entertained children. Many thanks to Karen Plasencia and the incredible team of volunteers for creating a fun filled and memorable evening for Arroyo Vista Charter School families. The PTA's first Box Top Store for the school year was open for business on August 15. The children exchanged their clipped box tops for prizes. We collected \$287.20 worth of box tops. Keep clipping, the next Box Top Store will be open soon!

(Continued on Page 3)

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

None were great successes thanks to our terrific PTA, exceptional staff and each of you. Your participation in these events cements our partnership with you in your children's education because your support at home is equally important to each child's academic success as is each teacher's expertise and diligence.

All of our students, including kindergartners and first graders, have participated in taking the Measure of Academic Performance (MAP). The first session of MAP ends September 10<sup>th</sup>. Amazingly, our youngest students have adapted well to using computers for this assessment. They are very excited about putting on their headphones and using the mouse to select their answers. Parents will receive their child's scores from these assessments during conferences.

Our Student Council officers were recently elected and are the following:

Historian: Maya Gonzalez; Treasurer: Edward Westney; Secretary: Emma Johnson; Vice President: Jessica Most; and, President: Kaitlin Washburn.

These students did an outstanding job on their speeches and were truly worthy of being elected. All the candidates did an excellent job on their speeches and are to be complimented for being risk takers and for being willing to serve our school.

On Friday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00 to 10:00

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

A.M. you are invited to our first Leadership Coffee of the year, which will be held in the staff lounge. Our parent leaders including TEAM Council chairperson, PTA President, our English Language Acquisition Council (ELAC) chairperson, the Associate Principal and Principal will be available to chat with all parents who attend. Treats and coffee will be available and there will be an open agenda. There will also be an opportunity for parents to walk through classrooms at the end of the meeting. I hope to see many of you there.

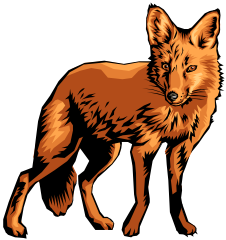
Parent/Teacher conferences begin September 10<sup>th</sup>. Students will be on minimum day schedules from the 10<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup>. During this conference time teachers will be reviewing learner qualities and baseline assessment data with you.

As always, thank you for your ongoing support and cooperation as our staff strives to provide optimal learning experiences for your children.

Fondly,

*Pat Roth*

## GET A MOVE ON....IN THE 1ST ANNUAL COYOTE WALKATHON!



Come join your Arroyo Vista Charter family and friends on October 25th from 7:30—10:30 AM for our first annual Walkathon! Start down the road to fitness and support the Curriculum Experts Program!

Meet at the school, then take a 1- or 2- mile walk around the school house block (School House Road-Silver Springs-Clubhouse Road-Hunte Parkway-School House Road). Each lap is approximately 1/2 mile.

Ask your family and friends to sponsor you in the walkathon and receive a free "Coyotes on the Move" t-shirt and refreshments! Minimum \$20 donation per participant for a free t-shirt; parent walkers may purchase a t-shirt for an additional \$6.00.

**Yip, yip, yippee!!! Get going and you could win an Ipod Nano!** Two Ipod Nano's will be awarded—one to the primary grade and one to the upper grade walkers who collect the most money! In addition, the primary and upper grade classes who register the most participants will receive a pizza lunch party!

Get a move on...and return your participation package right away! Please, no door-to-door collections from those you don't know, and make all checks payable to AVCPTA. Be sure to return the signed parental waiver before September 18th—that's before Fall Break, so you'd better get moving, Coyotes!



## AVCPTA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

The AVCPTA membership drive "Catch the Wave & Join the PTA Rave" commenced when school began and ended September 1<sup>st</sup>. Our school has consistently been a leader in the Chula Vista Elementary School District in PTA memberships. Once again, it appears Arroyo Vista will be "Catching the Wave" to the top in District PTA memberships. Thanks goes out to Gina Boccia and Denise Glover who came up with the exciting theme for this year's membership drive. Students really enjoyed watching their classroom surfboard move ahead on the waves on the auditorium wall with each PTA membership. To finish up the 2008/09 membership drive, the Lower and Upper Grade with the most memberships earned a Luau! Remember, by becoming a member of the PTA it ensures that we continue to be the "voice" for our children not only at a community level, but at a state and national level.

AVCPTA's goal is to provide programs (Curriculum Experts, Reflections Program, Book Fair, Family Night, Red Ribbon Week, Spring Festival and more) that will be meaningful and memorable for your child this school year. You can help the AVCPTA continue these wonderful programs by participating in our fundraising efforts. As a reminder, please join the PTA at the "First Annual Coyotes on the Move" Walkathon fundraiser on October 25<sup>th</sup>. This will be a great way to start the day! All parents are encouraged to walk with their children! Envelopes, signed waivers, and collected donations are due on September 18<sup>th</sup>, before we go on Fall break.

Lastly, I would like to thank the following parents and teacher representatives that committed to

volunteer their time and talent to serve on the Arroyo Vista Charter PTA Board for the 2008/2009 school year. The AVCPTA has doubled in size to serve the Arroyo Vista Charter community, they include:

*Anna Boyd, Secretary; Leticia de los Santos, Corresponding Secretary; Michelle Kotas, Treasurer; Beth Parry, Auditor; Yvette Nelson, Parliamentarian; Gina Boccia & Denise Glover, Co-VP Membership; Patti Reardon, VP Ways & Means; Malena Ritter & Arleen Moran, Co-VP Programs; Ali Scanlon & Lisa Wraith, Hospitality; Stacey Michels & Angela Peterson, Co-VP Volunteers; Carmen Romo & Yoly Wright, Room Parent Coordinators; Lynne Alexiou, Historian; Paty Arriola & Sarah Way, Book Fair; Barbara Downing, Website; Melinda Baccanari, Red Ribbon Week & Reflections Program; Noelle Villar, Reflections Program; Cheryl Mercer, Newsletter Editor; Lillian Soto, Holiday Gift Store; Cindy Pena, Escrip; Karen Plasencia, Back to School Picnic; Julia Piedad, Safety Chair; Maria Kelchner, Health Education; Dorothy Valentin & Carol Waller, Box Top Store; Melinda Johnson, Eastlake Educational Foundation Chair; Arleen Moran, Legislation; Laura Waller, Honorary Service Award; Claudia Molina & Minerva Ramirez, Outreach; Sonia Contreras & Marisela Alvarez, Parent Involvement; Marie Hawley, Yearbook; Mrs. Bengel & Ms. Forte, Teacher Representatives.*

Looking forward to the wonderful things to come throughout this school year! Thank you for supporting the AVCPTA.

*Marjie Antoine*  
AVCPTA President

## A Big "THANK YOU" from EEF Arroyo Vista Committee

The Eastlake Educational Foundation (EEF) Arroyo Vista Committee thanks all parents who donated money toward the silent auction baskets we prepared for their "Havana Nights" Gala Dinner and auction held on September 6, 2008.



The Gala is a fundraiser for EEF to raise money for six Eastlake public school technology programs. The Arroyo Vista Committee came up with two wonderful baskets from your donations, "Home Décor" and "Yoga, Relaxation and Recharge". Thanks again for your support!

# "WOW!"

## Express Yourself...

### in the National PTA Reflections Program!

AVCS students will have the opportunity to express themselves creatively and receive recognition for original works of art, while increasing community awareness on the importance of the arts in education through the National PTA Reflections Program.

The Reflections Program began in 1969 and since then, over 10 million students have participated across the nation. Though it is a contest, the goal is not winning – it is to encourage creative exploration and learning about various art forms. Check out <http://www.capta.org/sections/programs/downloads/ReflectionsWinners2008-color.pdf> to view some of last year's amazing entries at the national level!

#### 2008 – 2009 Reflections Theme: "Wow!"

Submit an entry in any of the six arts areas (original work only)

- 1) Literature
- 2) Musical composition
- 3) Photography
- 4) Visual arts
- 5) Dance Choreography
- 6) Film/Video Production



Entries will be evaluated by a panel of outside judges and based on divisions of appropriate age and skill levels. Selected AVCS entries will be submitted to the next PTA level.

Get your creative juices flowing and watch for more information, including entry forms, rules and deadlines!



## Did You Know?

Once again, the AVCPTA is providing \$37,000 to support art, music, physical education and technology classes for your child. Yes, that's right...for the past *four years* the AVCPTA has funded the Curriculum Experts Program that provides these enrichment classes for your child for several hours every seventh school day. Funds for this valuable program are generated by PTA fundraising throughout the year. That's why your help is so crucial. This year the PTA is raising funds in new and creative ways that build community and make the most of everyone's hard-earned dollars. We value your continued support. We thank you...and your child thanks you (even though they may never admit it...)!



## Keep an Ear

Out...word has it there may be recording stars among us! Watch for information about the sale of a compact disc of our very

own Arroyo Vista Charter students singing their hearts out for you and anyone else you'd like to hear...Grandma, Grandpa, Aunt Mabel or good ol' Cousin What's-His-Name! More to follow as details become available.

If fundraising isn't your "thing", consider a monetary donation directly to Arroyo Vista Charter PTA, and make sure you've registered your grocery store club card as part of the e-scrip program—it's an easy and painless way to support the AVCPTA. See pages 7 and 8 for details.



## I get it!

### How to read fluently...

*Fluency is one of the things that makes reading fun. "I Get It" is reprinted by permission from the 2008 Beginning Edition of "Reading Connection" by Resources for Educators, a division of Aspen Publishers, Inc. Copyright 2008.*

*www.rfeonline.com. They provide busy parents with practical ways to promote their children's reading, writing, and language skills.*

When Eric reads, he instantly recognizes most words. He reads sentences smoothly, understands what's happening in the story, and has good expression.

Eric is a *fluent* reader – his reading sounds like speech. Here are some ways to help your youngster read fluently.

**Be a role model.** When you read to your child, have him read along with you. Don't be surprised if he tries to match his voice to yours. You can also alternate paragraphs or pages, or take turns reading for different characters.

**Choose the right book.** Your youngster should recognize most of the words (one to two unfamiliar words per page are okay – that will keep him challenged). If he's having trouble reading smoothly, try picking an easier book.



**Use Expression.** Punctuation marks are clues that tell us how to read something. Encourage your child to sound excited when he sees an exclamation point, and make his voice go up for a question mark. Teach him to pause briefly at a comma and slightly longer at a period.



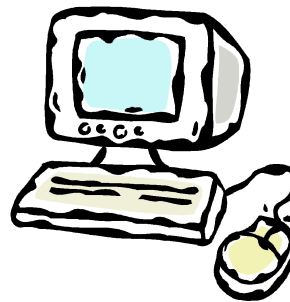
**Check for understanding.** If your youngster doesn't understand the book, he will sound choppy. And if he's reading one word at a time, he'll have a tough time following the plot. As he reads, ask him questions to make sure he understands the story.

## Read All About It!

The AVCPTA-sponsored Scholastic Book Fair runs **November 17—21**. Mark your calendar to join us for Family Night on November 20th. In addition to picking wonderful books to read with your child, it's a great way to jumpstart your holiday shopping! Watch for book selections and more in your schoolgrams.



## Check It Out...



- For a reading list at approximately your child's reading level, visit <http://star.cde.ca.gov> and click on California Reading List. Click on "Search for a Reading List" to find books for your child using the recommended Cali-

fornia Reading List number on the back of your child's STAR Student Report, that parents of third through sixth graders recently received in the mail. Or, check with your child's classroom teacher for book suggestions.

- Arroyo Vista Charter's Book Club meets quarterly. Watch for more information in your schoolgrams or check with Mr. Barnum for book selections and meeting dates.
- Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) testing is again underway. View the parents' toolkit at [www.nwea.org](http://www.nwea.org) and enter "toolkit" in the website's search box.





## Red Ribbon Week is October 20 – 24

Each year AVCS joins schools and communities across the U.S. that devote a full week of activities to encourage children to make healthy choices and be drug free. Watch your schoolgrams for more information!



### What You Can Do Today

- Talk with your child every day to build a close relationship while they are young.
- Get involved in your child's life—engage in positive activities and give encouragement.
- Set rules—help your child develop daily habits of self-discipline.
- Be a good role model—your child builds social skills and learns how to deal with stress by watching you.
- Teach kids to choose friends wisely—support your child's social development and show them how to build positive relationships.
- Monitor your child's activities—do you know what your child listens to, reads, and how he/she spends time with friends?

*Summarized from The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Family Guide, "Keeping Youth Mentally Healthy and Drug Free". Read more at <http://family.samhsa.gov>.*

### What is Red Ribbon Week?

The Red Ribbon Campaign is now the oldest and largest drug prevention program in the U.S., encouraging young people to say "No" to drugs and "Yes" to a healthy lifestyle.

### When is Red Ribbon Week at AVCS?

With a kickoff assembly at 2:00 p.m. on October 20, Red Ribbon Week will continue with activities that celebrate healthy choices through October 24.

### How Can I Participate in Red Ribbon Week?

**Kids:** Take the Red Ribbon Pledge and get involved in daily activities.

**Parents:** This is a good opportunity to discuss healthy choices with your children and inform them about the risks of illegal drugs, underage drinking and tobacco use.

### What is the History of Red Ribbon Week?

To honor the memory of Enrique Camarena, a DEA agent, his friends and family began wearing red satin badges. Parents who wanted to fight against drugs and alcohol began forming coalitions and used Camarena as their model, embracing his belief that one person can make a difference. They adopted the symbol of Camarena's memory, the red ribbon. The National Family Partnership organized the first Nationwide Red Ribbon Campaign.

### For more information visit:

[www.redribbonweek.com](http://www.redribbonweek.com)

[www.ncadi.samhsa.gov](http://www.ncadi.samhsa.gov)

[www.sadd.org](http://www.sadd.org)

[www.dare-america.com](http://www.dare-america.com)

# In the Garden

By Laura Tubelle de González



Since the rebirth of the school garden last November, we have done two seasons of planting, with lettuces, onions, radishes, sugar snap peas and beans during the cool season, and tomatoes, cucumbers, mini-pumpkins, watermelon, bell peppers, pizza peppers, jalapeños and eggplant during this warm season.

With 10 teachers sharing the garden, there are vegetables to harvest and stories to tell every week. Srta. Aguilar’s first-grade class has harvested over 10 long striped Armenian cucumbers, and is running out of ways to prepare them! Mrs. Pachon and Mrs. Watten’s first-grade classes hold the record on growing mini-pumpkins, with enough for the entire class to harvest and dissect to explore the seed structure inside. In mid-August, Sra. Lawson’s second-grade class harvested the first watermelon of the summer and it was delicious. We picked and ate it right in the garden.

Unfortunately the garden bed has been the target of some vandalism. Over the summer break, a 12’ TREX board was stolen, then another 16’ board several weeks later. (TREX is the recycled decking we use instead of wood.) We noticed that skateboarders had been using the side of the garden to practice their tricks due to the paint residues and suddenly poor condition of the brand-new boards. Please help us look after our precious school garden by taking a glance into the yard as you pass by in the evenings and on the weekends.

The newly-formed Roots & Shoots Garden Club held our first Harvest Celebration after school on September 8<sup>th</sup>. We offered food from the garden to taste, made scarecrows, and held a contest for the best looking animals or faces made from vegetables or fruits! (For ideas on how to create these characters at home, see Mrs. Summers in the library who has a copy of “Food Play.”) Thanks for celebrating the harvest with us!

## DIRECT DONATION PROGRAM



Too busy to fundraise? We understand. The Arroyo Vista PTA will gratefully accept your monetary donation. The PTA has committed to raise \$37,000 to support the Curriculum Experts Program, and still more funds are needed to support other great programs at Arroyo Vista.



Consider how much you otherwise might spend to enroll your child in art, music, or sports outside of school, or to attend a special event... Consider that PTA-sponsored programs support an exceptional education program at Arroyo Vista...Please thoughtfully consider whether making a donation is the right choice for your family this year.

Parent Name \_\_\_\_\_

Child/Children’s name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

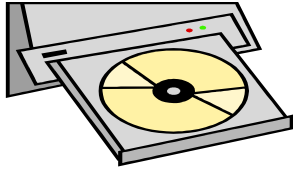
Teacher(s) name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Donation Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to AVCPTA and return to school in an envelope labeled “AVCPTA.”

**Whatever your family’s decision, we appreciate your support.**

Not sure how much to donate? The following are suggested amounts: 1 student- a family donation of \$75.00; 2 students- a family donation of \$125.00; 3 or more students- a family donation of \$180. Any donation amount is appreciated.



# FREE and EASY Way to Help Our School

## Support AVCPTA...with eScrip!

**You might win a DVD/CD Player! Just sign up your grocery store club card (a valid card number) with our school and be entered in the opportunity drawing! One entry per club member. Contest runs through November 1st.**

Register your grocery store club card below, and each time you use your club card when you shop our school earns \$\$'s that will help to sponsor school programs.

If your grocery store club card is already registered under our school, all you need to do is renew!

Please check: New Supporter\_\_\_\_\_ or Current Supporter\_\_\_\_\_

\*If you do not remember your club card number, call 1-877-723-3929.

Teacher Name\_\_\_\_\_ Student(s) Name\_\_\_\_\_



Put education on your shopping list... It's Free! It's Easy! It's Powerful!

VONS Club Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Group Name: Arroyo Vista Charter Elementary Group ID #137607793

Last Name\_\_\_\_\_ First Name\_\_\_\_\_

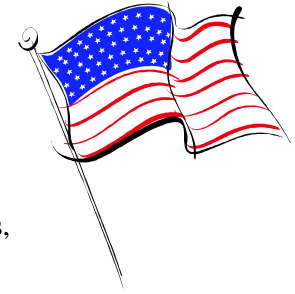
Address\_\_\_\_\_

Email Address\_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number\_\_\_\_\_

Note: All lines required. Confirmation email will be sent to email listed above.

**Return this form to: Teacher/School Office Attn: Cindy Pena**

## BACK TO SCHOOL WITH THE RED, WHITE AND BLUE



I would like to thank the fantastic volunteers that helped with the PTA's "Back to School with the Red, White and Blue" family picnic: Karen Washburn, Maricela Alvarez, Clara Fimbres, Nichole Sellers, Julia Piedad, Yadira Samaniego, Ali Scanlon, Emily Ramos, Yolanda Wright, Maria Kelchner, Lilian Soto, Patti Reardon, Patty Arriola, Rosie Snider, Lisa Wraith, Melinda Baccanari, Carla Tibbett, Lynne Alexiou, Arleen Moran, Melinda Johnson, Sara Gallegos, Carmen Romo, Debby Laufer, Heide De Grace, Leticia De Los Santos, Anna Boyd, Cheryl Mercer, Stacey Michels, Stacey Wolford, Marjie Antoine, and many others who pitched in to help! An especially big thank-you goes to Michele Kotas and Marjie Antoine who led us in the patriotic sing-along, the students involved in the color-guard presentation, as well as the school's custodial staff who stayed through the evening to help.

## Cowabunga dude!



Thank you to all that "hung 10" during this year's PTA membership drive. Over 500 memberships were turned in! Check out the waves in the auditorium to see this year's winners. They'll be enjoying some awesome grub and the limbo during their class luaus. Radical job to all of you betties and dudes that helped make this year's drive a success. Although the deadline to receive a free Legoland voucher with one paid admission and Golden Spoon yogurt have passed, we encourage families to join the PTA as we continue to collect memberships throughout the school year.

*Gina Boccia & Denise Glover*

## Say "Cheese!"

I would like to thank the volunteers who helped with our fall picture day. We had such an overwhelming response from volunteers that we had to ask some of you to wait until our spring picture day to lend a hand. Thank you to Patti Waud, Carla Tibbett, Darcie Hoogland, Miriam Aspe, Sally Costello, Cheryl Shields, Laura Waller, Marie Salamat, Malena Ritter, Kris Young, Arleen Moran, Yvette Nelson, and Anna Boyd. You all helped to make our day run smoothly. Mahalo...

*Beth Parry*



## Holiday Gift Store

The annual Holiday Gift Store will be opening its doors again this December. Volunteers are needed in order for this event to happen. The Holiday Gift Store is set up with merchandise so that your child is able to shop for holiday gifts for parents, family and friends. This is a great opportunity for the children to learn how to shop independently while learning to budget their money in a safe environment.

To make this experience happen for your child, volunteers are needed. If you would like to donate an hour or two of your time, please e-mail **Lillian Soto at Lilliansoto@pacbell.net**. Watch for a flyer to come home in November. Your help is greatly appreciated!



## Keep Clipping!

Your child can win prizes by clipping the specially marked 10¢ Box Top Coupon off hundreds of your favorite products! Bring them to our next Box Top Store! Proceeds go to support AVCPTA programs. Our first box-top store raised over \$287. Way to go! Keep clipping...every little bit counts!

ARROYO VISTA CHARTER SCHOOL  
A CALIFORNIA DISTINGUISHED SCHOOL  
"TOGETHER EVERYONE ACHIEVES MORE"

2491 School House Road  
Chula Vista, California 91915  
Phone: 619.656.9676

PRINCIPAL: PAT ROTH  
PTA PRESIDENT: MARJIE ANTOINE  
EDITOR: CHERYL MERCER

Suggestions for the Arroyo Vista Charter PTA? Stop by the school office and leave a note in the PTA mailbox. We'd like to hear from you!



**PTA National Headquarters**

www.pta.org  
800.307.4PTA  
email: info@pta.org

**California State PTA**

www.capta.org  
916.440.1986  
email: info@capta.org

**Ninth District PTA**

www.ninthdistrictpta.org  
858.268.8077  
email: phoebe@sdcoe.net

To receive e-mails about school events and activities, sign up for listserv at [www.arroyovistacharter.org](http://www.arroyovistacharter.org)

## Coming Soon!!!!

Watch for the new AVCPTA website  
[www.ArroyoVistaCharterPTA.org](http://www.ArroyoVistaCharterPTA.org).

Find out about current PTA events, fundraisers, committees, volunteer opportunities, who to contact and much more!



## Yearbook Pre-sales are Underway!!!

Order Yours Today!



Pre-Sales are underway for the Arroyo Vista

2007/2008 Yearbook. This year all pages will be in color! The pre-sale price is \$17.00. For an additional \$5.00 you can have your child's yearbook personalized with their name and photo on the front of the book. Checks should be made payable to Arroyo Vista Charter PTA. To pre-order your yearbook, please return the form below along with your payment to your child's teacher in an enveloped marked "YEARBOOK."

## YEARBOOK ORDER FORM

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Room: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please circle form of payment: cash or check # \_\_\_\_\_

Don't miss out!  
Pre-sale price of  
\$17.00 ends  
December 31st!

