



*December 1, 2020 Vol. 7 Number 6
Dr. Amrik Singh, Principal*

Sacramento Valley Charter School December Parent Newsletter

Dear Parents,

The uncertainty due to COVID-19 continues to affect our decision to reopen the school. Most of the counties are in the purple tier and it means that conditions are not safe for normal functioning. We know how difficult it is for our parents and families to cope with pressures of work related responsibilities and extra burden of monitoring kids' education at home. Distance learning can't be the ideal substitute for in-person classes. SVCS teachers and staff are working under these difficult circumstances to make online learning a rewarding experience for our scholars. Your partnership and trust are extremely important to achieve our goals.

The State Board of Education recently approved a plan to assess student learning, grade 3-8, at the end of the school year. Smarter Balanced Assessments (SBA) will not be waived as it happened last year. The only difference is that the CDE approved a modified SBA or CAASPP (summative) in ELA and Math that will be shorter versions of standardized tests. The assessments will be to assess the distance learning and thus get funds from the state.

After we come back from the winter break, the first week is marked for SBA or CAASPP interim assessments. Students will get training on how to improve on these assessments. In the second week, interim assessments will be administered to all students, grade 3 through 8. In the last week of April, the summative assessments of these standardized tests will be administered. Parents are welcome to contact the office for more information on these assessments.

As you know SVCS's "mission is to create an inspiring and challenging learning environment for our children and to promote a culture of strong social and family values." We resolve to stay close to SVCS's mission statements and continue to make a difference in the lives of our students.

The report cards that you received indicate how your scholar has been doing in school since August 13, 2020. The second trimester is in progress and it will end on February 26, 2021. If you have concerns about your scholar's performance, please don't hesitate to contact us. Stay involved in your scholar's education, even if you are busy. You can make a big difference.

- *Show your scholar you care about school and his/her future success.*
- *School attendance, homework completion, and healthy meals are some of the steps to success*
- *Talk with your scholar regularly about future goals*
- *Discuss progress reports and report cards together with your scholar*
- *Talk with your scholar about bullying and don't ignore questions about discipline*
- *Respond to school's messages promptly*
- *Stay involved in school events and keep in touch with teachers*

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Donations: SVCS aspires to become one of the best institutions in the region. Your support in the form of donations helps cover the many services we provide scholars. Will you donate \$ 5/ \$10/ \$20 to support SVCS programs? SVCS accepts donations to help offset costs for technology, supplies, and more. Donations made to the school are tax-deductible. Please click the donate button to donate today!



In addition, the office can provide receipts for cash and check donations, for electronic donations, you will get a receipt in your email. You can use these for tax write-offs for the upcoming tax season.

Award Assembly: The next award assembly will be on January 7, 2021. The classwork and homework in the month of November and three weeks of December will be the basis for recognition of scholars. Parents can encourage their scholars to get the awards by completing teachers' assignments. Teachers will be sharing the Zoom link so that students and parents can join the assembly. The assembly will be broken down in the following way.

K-3rd @ 8:30am 4th-5th @ 9:20am 6th-8th @ 10:10am

SVCS Board of Directors: Daljit Ghuman, one of the proud SVCS parents since 2015, has joined the SVCS Board of Directors. Mrs. Ghuman worked as instructional assistant for severely and emotionally disturbed students in Elk Grove Unified School District and Sacramento County Office of Education. Before attending Law School, she did her undergraduate education in criminal justice and paralegal studies while working for a prominent law firm in the Sacramento area. Currently, she is practicing as an attorney for family, civil, and criminal law. Mrs. Ghuman replaces Mr. Darshan Singh Mundy, one of the founding members of SVCS, who was on the SVCS Board since 2011. His services and contributions as a Board member was highly appreciated in the last Board meeting. Mr. Mundy sought retirement from the Board responsibilities to pay more attention to his family and business.

Spelling Bee Our school wide virtual spelling Bee will be held on January 8th. Class champions will be selected before the Winter break. Teachers will hold a spelling bee at the class level so that they can choose which of their students will participate in the school wide spelling bee. Help your scholar prepare for this spelling competition and give them the opportunity to master both their English skills and compete with other students. Parents are welcome to attend.



Gurjas Singh - 2019 SVCS Spelling Bee Champion

Winter Break will begin Monday, December 21st, and end Monday, January 4th. The month of December is central to worldwide celebrations. Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Shaheedi Diwas of Guru Teg Bahadur, Mata Gujri and Sahibzade of Guru Gobind Singh. There will be no school during those two weeks. Happy Holidays! School will return at the normal time on Tuesday, January 5th.

Winter Celebration: The Winter Celebration has been canceled this year due to COVID-19.

Physical Education: Please make sure that your child is exercising daily. All scholars are expected to participate in physical activities at least 200 minutes in 10 school days.



2019 Winter Celebration

Typing Club and Writing: Education has drastically changed since Smarter Balanced Assessments have been implemented. It requires that all scholars are proficient in typing so that they can demonstrate their writing skills on computer based standardized tests. But it doesn't mean that there is no need for handwriting skills anymore. Please make sure scholars are taking notes while in their classes and their handwriting is legible and easily decipherable. If you have any concerns about your scholars' handwriting, please don't hesitate to bring it to their teachers' attention.

Testing CAASPP Summative and ELPAC Summative testing windows have been scheduled for scholars in the last week of April and May of 2021. In order to prepare scholars, grade 3 through 8, we have scheduled CAASPP Interim tests, January 11-15. Teachers will review CAASPP testing after the winter break to make sure that our scholars understand how to take interim tests.

Prospective Students for the 2021-2022 school year may now be waitlisted. If you know families who want to enroll their kids in our school, please let them fill out the [Prospective Student form](#) on our website and submit it. We will contact them near the end of the year with further information on enrolling their new student.

Returning students We are sending out a Returning Students form. Please submit it as soon as possible but no later than 15 days of receiving it. This is extremely important to prepare a waiting list. If you don't respond to it, your spot may be given to a new applicant. Please access the form here: [Returning Students Form Link](#)

Attendance Reporting: Attendance for Distance Learning is required by state laws. Please report absences to the office before 8:30am if your scholar isn't attending due to sickness, or doctor's appointment.

Dates to Remember

Mon-Fri	Dec 21-Jan 4	Winter Break (NO SCHOOL)
Thursday	Jan 7	Awards Assembly
Friday	Jan 8	SVCS Spelling Bee