



# MVPAL Dispatch

"... because every kid needs a PAL!"

Spring 2007

Mountain View PAL  
 c/o MVPD  
 1000 Villa Street  
 Mountain View, CA 94041  
 (650) 903-6139 Mvpal.org  
 mvpal@mountainview.com  
 www.mvpal.org

## Greetings from Chief Vermeer!

On September 16, 2006, as I gazed out at the crowd that had gathered to celebrate the launch of MVPAL, it was clear that our efforts to reorganize PAL had been worthwhile.

In cooperation with the Mountain View Police Department (MVPD), the City of Mountain View, the Mountain View – Whisman School District, and the Mountain View – Los Altos High School District, and the generosity of our local businesses, service clubs, and individual contributors, we plan to bring exciting programs and more to you in 2007.

During the first half of 2007, MVPAL is launching a number of exciting events for youth of all ages. We will also be participating in some programming organized by the California Police Activities League. Please

check our website regularly for updates and e-mail us if you would like to be included in our e-News database.

Enjoy the first edition of the MVPAL Newsletter!  
 \*\*\*\*\*

*El 16 de septiembre del 2006 una gran multitud acudió al lanzamiento del programa MVPAL, lo que dejó muy claro que nuestros esfuerzos para reorganizar el programa valieron la pena.*

*En cooperación con el departamento de policía MVPD, la Alcaldía de Mountain View, los distritos escolares de Mountain View-Whisman y Mountain View-Los Altos, y la generosidad de negocios locales, clubes de servicio y contribuyentes individuales planeamos traerles programas mas emocionantes en el 2007.*

*Durante la primera parte del 2007 MVPAL lanzara un número de activi-*



*dades. MVPAL participara en programas organizados por el California Police Activities League. Por favor visite nuestra pagina de internet para enterarse de las noticias mas recientes. Mándenos un correo electrónico si quiere ser incluido en nuestra base de datos para recibir noticias.*

*Esperamos que goce la primera edición del boletín de noticias de MVPAL.*

Scott S.G. Vermeer  
 Police Chief  
 President, MVPAL

## Inside this issue:

Greetings from Chief Vermeer	1
PAL Launch Event a Success!	1
MVPAL Camporee Wrap Up	2
Collaboration with the Schools	2
Why PAL is Important to Me	3
Support MVPAL!	3
Upcoming Events	4
Join Now!	4



## PAL launch Event a Huge Success!

On September 16, 2006, over 500 members of the Mountain View community attended the MVPAL Launch event at Castro School. The celebration featured free food, sports activities, a bounce house, a chance to meet Sharkie from the San Jose Sharks, speeches and presentations from VIPs, including the Mayor, State Assembly-

member Sally Lieber, and the Police Chief, face painting with the MVHS Cheerleaders, prizes, and more.

\*\*\*\*\*



*El 16 de septiembre de 2006 mas de 500 miembros de la comunidad de Mountain View se dieron cita para celebrar el lanzamiento de MVPAL en la escuela Castro. La celebración contó con comida gratis, actividades deportivas, un brincolin, y la oportunidad de conocer a Sharkie—mascota de los San Jose Sharks. Hubo discursos y presentacio-*

*nes de parte del alcalde, la asambleista Sally Lieber, y el jefe de Policía. Las porristas de MVHS estuvieron pintando caras, y regalamos gran premios.*



# The First Annual MVPAL Camporee in the Oakland Hills

The Camporee was held in late September with 25 kids and 8 chaperones loading into cars, vans, and trucks with enough camping equipment to last a month. We braved traffic and headed north to Oakland. Who goes camping in Oakland? An hour later, we found out why—our beautiful camping spot in the Hills was perfect.

First, we had to set up tents. Problem: None of the kids knew how to set up a tent. Working together, however, we got it done. Next we had dinner and stories around the campfire - and ate many s'mores!!! We had a great time and the cheer lasted well past midnight.

Saturday morning started early. There was volleyball, basketball, arts and crafts, hiking, a conversation circle, and more. After a tasty lunch, we headed to a nearby pool to swim. When we returned to camp, the volleyball game of the century faced us. After the sun set, we went on a stargazing hike where we were able to see the planets and stars through some giant tele-

scopes. Then we went back to camp for another campfire and MORE S'MORES!

The morning started with more volleyball, football, soccer, basketball and a tasty breakfast. After cleaning up camp, we headed back to Mountain View, tired, a little dirty (okay, a lot dirty), but with some great memories and many new friends.

\*\*\*\*\*



*El primer viaje para ir a acampar se llevó a cabo en septiembre, con la participación de 25 jovencitos y 8 chaperones. Todos abordaron los carros y camionetas con suficiente equipo como para un mes. Empezamos nuestro viaje hacia Oakland.*

*¿Se preguntaran que porque escogimos Oakland? Una hora después descubrimos la respuesta el paisaje de los cerros de Oakland eran perfectos para acampar.*

*A nuestra llegada ensamblamos las tiendas de campaña. Aunque la mayoría de los chicos no lo habían echo antes, todos se ayudaron uno al otro y pudieron finalmente construirlos. Después disfrutamos de cuentos alrededor de una fogata y comimos unas deliciosas s'mores.*

*El sábado empezamos a temprana hora. Disfrutamos de juegos de voleibol, baloncesto, trabajos manuales, excursiones, y un circulo de conversaciones. Al regresar al campamento nos esperaba un juego de voleibol muy intenso. Al cerrar la noche fuimos a disfrutar de cielos despejados y pudimos ver las estrellas y los planetas por un telescopio.*

*La mañana siguiente jugamos fútbol Americano, y baloncesto. Después de un delicioso desayuno empacamos todos nuestro equipo para regresar a Mountain View un poco cansados pero con muchos amigos nuevos.*

## Collaboration – by Superintendents Groves and Ghysels

MVPAL and the two school districts - Mountain View Whisman School District (K-8) and the Mountain View Los Altos Union High School District - have a solid, productive, positive relationship. The districts not only work closely together in providing an education for all students, they also have a strong collaboration with MVPD. Many representatives of MVPD are active members of Challenge Team, an organization that focuses on healthy activities for students.

Examples of our collaboration include the MVPAL Launch, Dreams and Futures, DARE, the upcoming Model Racecar Program, and others. MVPD's School Resource Officers (SROs), Ron Cooper and Katherine Comesana, provide much needed assistance to all of our schools. Working to build lasting relationships, students look forward to seeing MVPD officers on campus and relate to police in relationships

that promote safety, fun and productive choices for academic achievement.

MVPD is not only collaborative and proactive in building a strong community for kids, police and school officials are quick to respond to risk behaviors in our schools, as well as our neighborhoods to promote a positive school climate and healthy choices for kids in school and at home. Working together, we build a strong community for kids.

\*\*\*\*\*

*MVPAL y los distritos escolares de Mountain View-Whisman y Mountain View-Los Altos Union tienen un relación sólida y productiva. Los dos distritos no solamente trabajan juntos para proveer una educación para todos los estudiantes, también reciben la colaboración del departamento de policía de Mountain View.*

*Ejemplos de esto colaboración incluyen el lanzamiento de MVPAL, el programa de Coches Modelos y*

*otros mas. Los oficiales Ron Cooper y Katherine Comesana son los encargados de las escuelas y brindan asistencia a las escuelas. Los oficiales trabajan para crear relaciones duraderas con los chicos que se entusiasman al ver a los oficiales en su escuela.*

*El Departamento de policía no solo trabaja en colaboración para prevenir crímenes y mantener una comunidad unida, también trabajan muy duro para responder rápida y efectivamente cuando se presentan problemas de comportamiento riesgoso en las escuelas. Hacen todo a lo que esta su alcance para promover un ambiente agradable en la escuela y la comunidad. También tratan de educar a los jóvenes para que tomen las mejores decisiones. En esta manera, trabajando juntos, todos hacemos nuestra parte para crear una comunidad mas unida para nuestros niños.*

# Why PAL is Important to Me, by Officer Fernando Maldonado

I grew up in a tough part of Redwood City. My street was sometimes referred to as “Crack Heights” because of all of the drug dealers. It was not uncommon to hear gunshots. Gang graffiti, splashed along the fence lines and walls, warned strangers that gang members were close by.

Most of the kids I grew up with were either involved with gangs or drugs. Today they are either dead or in jail. My mother worked all day to support us, so I was responsible for taking care of my siblings. I truly believe that had I not had this responsibility I would have been out on the streets hanging out with the “wrong crowd.” I was fortunate enough to have a caring mom who signed me up with the Boy’s & Girl’s Club. This youth organization was a major factor in keeping me out of trouble. Not only did I learn life skills which I could apply at home, I participated in sports that allowed me to travel around the state.

Growing up in a low-income, sin-

gle parent home, with little or no adult supervision, in a neighborhood with gangs and drugs, allows me to relate to what kids are going through today. I am very happy to be a part of the MVPAL Board of Directors, which I know will make a difference not only for our youth, but for the entire community.

\*\*\*\*\*

*Crecí en una de las partes mas peligrosas de Redwood City. La gente se refería a la calle en la que vivía como el centro de las drogas. Era común escuchar el sonido de balas. Las cercas y las paredes frecuentemente estaban cubiertas de graffiti advirtiéndome a intrusos que los pandilleros estaban cerca.*

*La mayoría de los niños con los cuales crecí se involucraron en pandillas o con drogas. Ahora, están muertos o en la cárcel. Mi madre trabajaba*

*en el día para mantenernos, y yo era el encargado de cuidar a mis hermanitos. Sinceramente creo que si no hubiera tenido esta responsabilidad hubiera terminado en la calle rodeado de malas influencias. Tuve la fortuna de que mi madre me inscribió en el programa de Boys and Girls Club. Esta organización juvenil fue una influencia muy importante porque evitó que me mantuviera en la calle con malas compañías. En este club obtuve conocimientos que pude usar en casa, y participé en deportes por los cuales viajé por todo el estado.*

*Haber vivido en una casa de escasos recursos, con una madre soltera, y con poca supervisión de adultos, en un comunidad llena de drogas y pandillas, me ayudo a relacionarme mas a fondo con los niños que están pasando por situaciones similares. Estoy muy contento de ser parte de la junta directiva de MVPAL, yo se que haré la diferencia en las vidas de los jóvenes y también en toda la comunidad.*



## HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT MVPAL

MVPAL seeks to foster a bond of mutual trust and understanding between police officers and young people by enabling them to interact in a non-confrontational setting. MVPAL’s long-term mission is to divert youth away from gangs and criminal activity by providing them with alternative activities under the care and supervision of trained police officers, recreation staff, and parent and community volunteers.

There are many reasons to

contribute to MVPAL, including, but not limited to:

- (1) The opportunity to showcase your company to a captive audience.
- (2) Recognition in our materials and on our website.
- (3) Making a difference in our community by supporting programs to provide local youth with meaningful activities in order to reduce the incidents of crime in Mountain View.

- (4) Finances limited? Give time! Volunteer & enhance your life and the lives of youth!

For more information, contact Joanne at (650) 903-6360 or visit [www.mvpal.org](http://www.mvpal.org). There are opportunities available at all levels and numerous ways to volunteer. A special thank you to our marquee sponsors—Mountain View BMW, Kiwanis, Rotary, and Wal-Mart.

# Mountain View PAL

1000 Villa Street  
Mountain View, CA 94041

Phone: 650-903-6139

Fax: 650-903-6122

E-mail: [mvpal@mountainview.gov](mailto:mvpal@mountainview.gov)

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



**“MVPAL...because every kid needs a PAL!”**



## Sampling of Upcoming Events!

Model Racecar Program (7th/8th grade)  
Crittenden MS • March 8 to May 17, 2007

Bicycle Safety Program (1st—5th grade)  
Castro School • April 21 & May 6, 2007

Major League Baseball Pitch, Hit & Run (Ages 7—14)  
St. Francis High School • April 29, 2007

Cinco de Mayo Celebration (All ages!)  
Mountain View • May 5, 2007

Mountain View PAL Grand Prix (All ages!)  
Mountain View BMW • May 19, 2007

Life After High School (High School)  
Fresno State University • July 14 to 17, 2007

**MAIL TO:**

## Join MVPAL!!

**All for just \$5/year.** For more information, please fill out this form and return it to 1000 Villa Street, Mountain View 94041, call (650) 903-6139, FAX it to (650) 903-6122 or e-mail [mvpal@mountainview.gov](mailto:mvpal@mountainview.gov).

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone/E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

School / Grade / Age \_\_\_\_\_

Favorite Activities \_\_\_\_\_



**Todo por \$5 por año.** Para más información, complete por favor esta forma y vuélvala a 1000 Villa Street, Mountain View 94041, llamada (650) 903-6139, FAX (650) 903-6122 o e-mail [mvpal@mountainview.gov](mailto:mvpal@mountainview.gov).

Nombre \_\_\_\_\_

Dirección \_\_\_\_\_

Número de Teléfono y e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Escuela/grado/edad \_\_\_\_\_

Actividades preferidas \_\_\_\_\_