



Mesa Grande Academy

COMMITMENT TO HIS EXCELLENCE!

Summer 2016

Principal's Newsletter

MRS. LYDIJA PLANTAK TO COORDINATE THE MGA BAND PROGRAM

After the recent retirement of Mr. Dennis Neufeld, the School Board has made the decision to hire Mrs. Lidija Plantak (pronounced lid-dee-a) as the coordinator and conductor for our Band program.

Mrs. Plantak holds a Teaching Certificate in Music Theory. She is classically trained in music theory and piano instruction and performance, and has a wide range of teaching experiences including choral group instruction and fine arts appreciation and humanities. She has coordinated multiple musical groups including choral and piano performance and elementary band theory. We are excited that she is bringing her expertise in organization and motivation in the area of musical performance to Mesa Grande Academy.

Our approach to the band program will be modified in the following ways:

- ⇒ Students will be required to take instrument lessons or show proficiency in order to participate in the band program (Some initial flexibility in this requirement will be provided for 5th and 6th grade students as they make decisions about the type of instrument they wish to play).
- ⇒ We will be developing ways to include string instruments in addition to the classical band instruments.
- ⇒ Mrs. Plantak will be coordinating and arranging for music lessons to be taught both on and off campus.

We believe that these adjustments will help our students raise their level of performance and the band program to reach its full potential.

HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING

- * Aug 15—Teachers Report back for Pre-Week
- * Aug 25—First Day of School
- * Aug 30—6:30 pm K-4 Back-to-School night
- * Aug 31—6:30 pm 5-8 Back-to-School night
- * Sep 1—6:30 pm 9-12 Back-to-School night
- * Sep 6-8—HS PUC Publication Workshop
- * Sep 9—K-8 Beach Day
- * Sep 10—Alumni Day
- * Sep 12-23—IA Assessment Window
- * Sep 14-15—9-11 IA Assessments
- * Sep 14-18—HS Senior Trip
- * Sep 19-21—5th Gr Catalina Trip
- * Sep 21-23—7th & 8th Sea Cave Kayaking
- * Sep 22-25—HS PUC Leadership Conference
- * Sep 27—K-12 Picture Day
- * Sep 30—9-12 Beach Day

MESA GRANDE ACADEMY SELECTED FOR LANDMARK EDUCATIONAL PILOT STUDY

Mesa Grande Academy has been chosen by the Southeastern California Conference Education Department to participate in a 3-year pilot study that will look at the efficacy of a curriculum and instructional resource coach in raising the proficiency and rigor in our classes in Adventist Education. The full-time instructional resource specialist will assist and support our teachers, students and parents in the classroom learning environment, and will provide a number of services including:

- Guidance in curriculum mapping and oversight— Provide for greater clarity for parents, students and teachers for what students are expected to learn.
- Provides assurance to parents that the education their students are receiving meets all applicable standards.
- Increased frequency of intentional and regular instructional observation and feedback for teachers for instructional improvement.
- Provide guidance to teachers in academic pacing in all subjects to ensure excellent coverage of

curriculum in the classroom setting across all grade levels.

- Develop techniques for greater student engagement and motivation in the learning process.

This is an unique and special study opportunity that we are privileged and grateful to have , and one that will have direct impact on the education that your student receives at MGA.

The Southeastern California Conference Education Department (our governing body for education) would like to expand this program so that all schools in the Southeastern California Conference have this resource. The Instructional Resource Coach will be Ms. Amy Cornwall. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

We look forward to seeing greater academic opportunities for our students and teachers, higher levels of performance by our students and teachers, and an increase in academic rigor and academic results as we engage in this study.

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TID-BITS OF INFORMATION

1. Thank you for using SCRIP. Your purchases have made a big difference for our school through the years. Bulletin boards, wood chips and help with the picnic tables, and playground shades are the latest way your SCRIP dollars have been used.
1. Mention Mesa Grande Academy when you shop at Office Depot and the school earns discounts on office supplies which

help keep the tuition costs lower. School ID Number is: 70006377 (they can usually look it up by name). Thanks for helping! We raised \$230.00 in the latest earnings report.

GAGA BALL PIT—CAN WE DO IT?

There has been significant interest from a number of our students and parents to install a Gaga Ball Pit at Mesa Grande Academy. What is a Gaga ball pit you ask? The picture below gives some idea. But to fully understand how this works look up gaga ball or go to this address on the Internet:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sO73MVAkhzw>

Gaga ball provides great exercise, can be played by students of varying physical abilities, and brings students together as they cheer each other on in the game. The concept uses some elements of dodgeball (avoid letting the ball hit your legs below the knees), but keeps the ball more controlled and less likely to hurt students.

To make this project happen, we need your support. I am asking for your help in the following ways:

1. Help in construction;
2. Help by donating funds toward the materials required;
3. Some Home and School SCRIP Funds may be a possibility—Buy more SCRIP!

Call the office (909-795-1112), email (alfred.riddle@mgak-12.org), or call or text Principal Riddle (909-855-5193) about the way you would like to help. Let's see if we can make this happen for our students!

We will be stepping out in faith a bit and begin leveling the ground near the playground this month in preparation for the installation (even though we don't have the materials yet).

Materials:

- * \$1300.00—Cement Slab (13 Cu Yards)
- * \$600.00—Lumber for sides
- * \$900.00—8 Corner Brackets, nuts and bolts, UV Plastic rail for tops

