

## Big Sur Roundup News Release for Feb 2019 Issue, by David Allan

At Pacific Valley School, one would consider January to be a relatively quiet month...EXCEPT for the weather! Yes, the forecast is calling for an El Nino pattern to set up with the Jet Stream shifted southward taking aim right at the Central California Coast, sweeping strong cyclonic systems directly over Big Sur to soak us with seething storm after storm. It is time to be prepared, and at our school, we have plenty of experience and contingency planning in place to keep our educational goals happening, even when the highway becomes closed by the slides.

Meanwhile, we carry out our business. We look forward to construction improvements to the school site which have been approved and will take place during the upcoming Summer Break. At that time, the school will get a fresh new septic system. The old underground ceramic pipework that leads to the septic tank and leach field will be replaced. All of us who are familiar with rural underground plumbing/septic systems, know that trees possess the great biological power to grow their roots right through solid materials given the time, and that time has come. So through timely facility upkeep we maintain a good learning environment.

Another new asset for our school will be a new school bus. Our Superintendent/Principal, Gordon Piffero, has secured a wonderful gift from a school district for which he once worked in the past. He has contacted Gonzales Unified School District, and they have offered our school district an extra bus in their possession, which they do not need. The bus has been fully serviced, inspected and certified by the CHP, and is ready to go. We wish to pass on our appreciation and gratitude to Gonzales Unified School District for this excellent offer to us. We also appreciate Gordon for his ability to network and negotiate such a benefit for Big Sur Unified School District. Bravo!

Meanwhile, as the school's physical plant is receiving improvements, our teaching faculty is also gaining new and cutting-edge training and technology to keep us "at the top" of our skills and provide our students with the finest education ever! In mid-January, our Elementary Teacher, Ellen Hall is attending the California Kindergarten Association's 37th annual conference featuring the highly honored educational expert, Dr. Jean Feldman. The California Kindergarten Association, which is sponsoring this event says that the conference is going to be their best one yet. Ellen will be returning from this conference possessing the latest "trade secrets" about enhancing the dynamics of how young minds can learn. She will pass on these new abilities that build inspiration, creative expression, and the joy of learning. The California Kindergarten Association is well-known for the supreme quality of their advanced ongoing training, and we are privileged to have one of our staff going to gain all the great knowledge and material that they have to offer. The ultimate beneficiary of all that is gained will be our students!

Even though our school is small in size, it has been and will be the best in providing the highest quality education for the children on the South Coast of Big Sur. Evidence of how our students achieve and can reach their potential in educational excellence can be noted right now! As this article is being written, our graduating student from last school year is on her way from the remote community of Big Sur to the hallowed halls of one of the most highly regarded colleges in the nation! This student will be a pioneer from our coast, crossing the country all the way to Vermont, where she will attend the famed Middlebury College. Middlebury College is ranked in the 2019 edition of the top 10 Best of National Liberal Arts Colleges. This promises a great future ahead for our graduated student and demonstrates that our little and remote school produces real scholars!

Ongoing evidence of three concepts that are valuable attributes to Pacific Valley School have been cited above in this article. First, we actively keep a good learning environment starting with a well-maintained school facility. Here the students can feel safe and comfortable with their minds' attention free to learn. Second, our staff keeps in pursuit of ongoing training and skill development. Our expertise as educators is of greatest importance and we are always seeking new and effective teaching skills, technologies, and strategies. Finally, as a result of these first two concepts, we are proud to see the evidence of student performance, achievement, and excellence, as is described about a graduating student advancing to one of the country's finest colleges.