

Grass Valley ELEMENTARY



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER • JANUARY 11, 2019



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

A few important New Year's reminders

Dear Grass Valley School Community,

Happy New Year! We hope you all had a fun and relaxing winter break with your families.

As we transition back to our regular routines, it's a good time to review our rules and expectations. Teachers have been doing this in their classrooms, and we are also focusing school-wide on behavior in the hallways and during line-up/transition times. This means observing the "GVE 3:" Be safe, be responsible and be respectful.

This is also a good time to revisit our school focus on kindness. For January, we are discussing kindness toward differences and different opinions. One way we can practice this is to remember that our students come from different experiences, different states and even different countries. We want all students to be respectful toward our differences and know that we can learn from them.

We'd also like to remind parents and families about a few important ways you can help your student(s) and our school community.

- First, **we've had more than 1,480 tardies** for the school year so far!! This is a shocking number compared with 600 at this time last year. It's important to get your children to school by 8 a.m. While a few minutes might not seem like much, they can really add up. Instruction starts immediately in the morning, and tardies not only mean lost learning time for the late student, they also interrupt the rest of the class in progress.

- **If there is any change** to your child's usual dismissal plan, please notify the school office by 1:30 p.m. (11 a.m. Wednesdays). We understand that emergencies come up. However, any dismissal changes that come in after that time are very challenging to accommodate. It's important for children to have consistency with their go-home

plan, so try to make it as consistent as possible.

- It bears repeating: We need everyone's help to keep our **parking lot** safe. Please model safety by using the marked crosswalks at all times, observing the speed limit and stop signs, and staying off of your phone when driving.

- **If you pick up students** at the maintenance lot, please park in designated spaces in our lot, and not along Grass Valley Court. Students who walk home exit to 44th Street or walk down the sidewalk past the buses toward the main entrance of the school. If you want to meet your child who is a walker, please stand at the back gate where the buses enter on 44th or next to the reader board at the main entrance. If you pick up your child near 44th Street in your car, please use Emily Way as your parking and exit route. Be courteous to our neighbors and avoid parking or waiting on their property. Also, do not walk on campus and wait outside the gym.

- **Please enter the building** only through the front office, and remember to sign in, sign out and wear a visitor badge while in the building.

We also want to thank everyone who supports our **PTA**. We appreciate having such a strong PTA and want to ensure it continues. They have some upcoming needs we hope you'll consider: 3-4 people to help with spring auction; 5-6 people to help with the carnival; and candidates for the executive board positions of president, vice president and secretary, which will be elected in early May. See page 2 for details.

We appreciate your help. If you have any questions or concerns, call me at 360-833-5710.

Regards,

T. Sean McMillan, principal

**Don't forget, Movie Night is tonight!
See page 3 for all the details.**

Volunteers needed for spring events, board

Winter has just begun, but on the PTA board we're already thinking about spring, when we have several major events: our annual Spring Carnival family fun night May 17, our silent auction fundraiser (held on the night of the carnival), and nominations and elections for the next year's board. If you've been wanting to get more involved in school events or the PTA, now is a great time to step forward. We'll need plenty of hands to put together the carnival and auction, and we are looking for candidates for several open board positions for next year. Here are the details:

CARNIVAL We're hoping to find at least five people to help our event chairperson with one or more of the following tasks: decorating; arranging vendors; planning games and prizes; handling communication/advertising; and setting up the event.

AUCTION We'd need at least three people to help with one or more of these jobs: sending letters to past and potential donors; procuring and packaging donations for display; setting up the day of the auction; and running the event.

BOARD All of our executive board positions are open for nomination and election each spring, with two-year term limits for each position. We have three positions that we know will be open for 2019-20: president, vice president and secretary. All of these can be co-chaired with another person. The other four board positions are also open to nominations, and will be appointed by the incoming executive board in late spring or early summer. Those positions are: fundraising coordinator, volunteer coordinator, membership coordinator and newsletter coordinator.

If you are interested in volunteering or want to learn more, please contact PTA President [Melanie Johnson](#) or Volunteer Coordinator [Amanda Rinesmith](#).

Thank you for all of your tremendous support this year. We appreciate you!



COMING UP

Spring BoxTops drive

We'll be collecting BoxTops again from Feb. 1 to Feb. 22. The classes that bring in the most will receive a special prize.

Art Discovery meeting

This month's meeting for Art Discovery volunteers will be at 8:15 a.m. Friday, Feb. 1, in the GVE cafeteria.

Want an easy job? Try the Nominating Committee!

Part of our process for finding new PTA board members includes forming an official Nominating Committee, a brief and simple job. We need three people who can give just a couple of hours reaching out to others in our school community who might be interested in serving on the PTA board.

Our elections are held in the spring, and the nominating committee typically begins looking at candidates early in the year.

If you are interested or have any questions, please contact our president, [Melanie Johnson](#). Thank you!

GRASS VALLEY PTA PRESENTS:
FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT



DATE: January 11th, 2019

TIME: 6pm

**LOCATION:
GVE Cafeteria**

Movie Licensing USA[®]
A Division of Swank Motion Pictures, Inc. • Tim Swank, Chairman

Doors open at 5:30. Seating is on the floor, so bring your own blankets, pillows or low chairs, as well as a picnic dinner or snacks if you wish. Admission and popcorn are free. Candy and water will be available for cash-only purchase. **PLEASE NOTE: All children must be accompanied by an adult for the duration of the event.**



Volunteers needed: We'll be looking for people to help with a few things before, during and after the dance. Look for an email coming soon to sign up.

CALENDAR

January/February 2019

14	15 Author Shane Burcaw presentation Gr. 3-5: 8:20-8:50 AM Gr. K-2: 12:35-1:05 PM • ECO Officers meeting 2:35-3:15 PM, Rm. 114	16 JAZZ Choir practice Music Room 12:15-1:15 PM	17 Student Leadership Team (SLT) meeting 2:40-3:40 PM Room 209	18
21 Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday NO SCHOOL	22	23 JAZZ Choir practice Music Room 12:15-1:15 PM	24 January Birthday Lunch • Student Leadership Team (SLT) meeting 2:40-3:40 PM Room 209	25
28 Secondary Grading Day NO SCHOOL	29	30 JAZZ Choir practice Music Room 12:15-1:15 PM	31 Student Leadership Team (SLT) meeting 2:40-3:40 PM Room 209	FEBRUARY 01 Art Discovery Mtg. Cafeteria 8:15-9:15 a.m. • 5 th Grade Field Trip Odyssey Middle School 12:15-1:45 PM
04	05	06 JAZZ Choir practice Music Room 12:15-1:15 PM	07 Student Leadership Team (SLT) meeting 2:40-3:40 PM Room 209 • PTA FAMILY FUN WINTER BLAST 5:30-7:30 PM	08
11	12 ECO Officers meeting 2:35-3:15 PM, Rm. 114	13 JAZZ Choir practice Music Room 12:15-1:15 PM	14	15 Presidents' Day Holiday NO SCHOOL
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CONTACT

This newsletter is published monthly by Grass Valley Elementary and the PTA. Email suggestions to PTA Newsletter Coordinator Nancy Nilles at newsletter@gvezebraspta.org.

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• **Grass Valley PTA** •

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