

The Graystone eLINK



6982 Shearwater Drive
San Jose, CA 95120
408-535-6317

Please visit our School Website:
<http://www.sjUSD.org/graystone>

For the Week Ending : August 22nd, 2014

AUGUST

Message from the Principal

Aug. 26th - Back to School Night
Gr. 3 -5 6:00 to 6:30
6:30 - 7:00 Informational Meeting in cafeteria
Gr. K-2 7:00 to 7:30

Welcome to the 2014-2015 school year! We have had a GREAT beginning of the school year, and I know this positive energy is indicative of the year to come! The students have been participating in daily PBIS assemblies, dedicated to reminding students how to be respectful, responsible and safe throughout campus. Be sure to ask your student how they can be Graystone GREAT at school.

SEPTEMBER

This year, we are fortunate to welcome some amazing new professionals to the Graystone staff. Noella Bickel has joined the third grade team this year. As a former teacher and administrator at Stratford School, she brings not only experience, but also a commitment and dedication to our school community. Courtney Griffin is our new K-2 special day class teacher, Kimberly Namek is our new RSP teacher, and Charlene Lee is our new school psychologist. All three professionals bring valuable special education experience from other school districts, and we are excited to have them as a part of our staff. Sibel Ilsever will be joining Suzanne Olver in a new role this year – Intervention Specialist. As a Graystone parent and experienced teacher, Sibel is a welcome addition to our staff. Mrs. Ilsever and Mrs. Olver will be supporting students in achieving academic success, both in the use of our Adaptive Technology programs (Lexia & Dreambox) and in the academic instruction in the classroom. Alex Mandrusov will be joining us as the 4th & 5th grade PE teacher on Thursday and Friday, sharing the position with our returning PE teacher Autumn Edgar. Finally, we welcome Coach Max as our Recess 101 Manager this year. He will be with the students during all recesses, organizing fun games, promoting “fun-petitive” positive sportsmanship & leadership, and running activity sessions for kindergarten through third grade. Recess 101 is an amazing program, and would not be possible without the Home & School Club, who funds 100% of this program! This is one of many examples of your generosity supporting an enriched academic experience for the students of Graystone. Thank you for your support!

Sept. 2nd - Home & School Club Meeting
9:00am in cafeteria

Sept. 5th - Recycle Day

Sept. 5th - Movie Night

Sept. 18th - Meet Home & School Club for coffee at drop off

Sept. 23rd - 26th - 5th grade to Science Camp

While a new Graystone Handbook will be coming home in this week's white envelope, there are a few new school guidelines I'd like to share with you. Your partnership in supporting these school rules is appreciated!

AFTER/BEFORE SCHOOL HOURS

Please note that students should not arrive on campus until 10 minutes before the start of their school day. No supervision is available before this time. There is no recess before school starts. Students should line up in their designated line when they arrive to campus. Be sure your child is picked up immediately after school dismissal. Students are not permitted to play on the play structures, blacktop or field, unless a parent directly supervises them. Adherence to the Graystone playground rules is required after school. To ensure the safety of all students, please be sure your child is supervised at all times and is being respectful, responsible and safe in following playground rules. If you need before or after school care for your child, a Child Development Center is available on the Graystone campus.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

SJUSD's New Nutrition Policy limits the number of class celebrations, so individual birthday treats can no longer be offered. Check with your child's teacher beforehand to see if a non-food item (such as a book) can be donated to the class. Please do not have commercial deliveries (i.e. balloons, flowers) sent to school for your child. Also, party invitations should not be passed out during the school day.

VOLUNTEERS / CAMPUS VISITORS

ALL visitors must register in the office and wear a visitor's badge prior to entering the campus. This includes volunteers, visitors, and pre-arranged classroom visits. Exceptions are parents attending performances or special events.

ITEM DROP OFF / MINIMIZING CLASSROOM DISRUPTIONS

Your support is appreciated in honoring instruction time during the school day by NOT dropping items off in the classroom (lunches, water bottles, jackets, backpacks, homework, etc.). Please bring these items to the office, and we will be sure given to your student in a timely manner.

Please join us on Tuesday, August 26th for Back to School Night. This adult only event is an opportunity for you to learn more about your child's teacher, classroom and curriculum for the year. The schedule for the evening is:

3rd to 5th presentations - 6:30 to 7:00

General Meeting in Superdome 7:00 to 7:30

K – 2nd presentations - 7:30 to 8:00

It's going to be an amazing year at Graystone! Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to talk to your child's teacher, our amazing office staff, or myself. Have a GREAT Graystone weekend!

Best regards,

Allison Long

Welcome back to Graystone. The HSC Board is looking forward to a Graystone Great school year. The blue membership drive packets should have been delivered safely to your homes via your kids. Please, please take the time to read them and do make a donation and join the HSC. This is our major fundraiser of the year, which keeps the HSC programs going for our kids. If you can't find your pack there are extra ones in the Graystone office. Membership drive ends September 19th. Let's go Graystone!!

The First HSC meeting is on Tuesday September 2nd at 9.00am in the cafeteria. Please do come along, we'd love to reconnect with you and also meet the new Greystone parents. Working parents don't worry. We will be having some of our meetings this year in the evenings, starting November. We won't be serving coffee or snacks at our meetings this year – we think the money and time could be used to benefit the kids programs. We hope you agree! The agenda, minutes of the last meeting and the proposed budget will be posted to the HSC website (www.graystonehsc.org) over the weekend. Please take the time to look at them so we can jump straight into business at our first meeting. One of our first items will be approving the 2014/15 budget so please do take a look and if you have any questions do email us at president@graystonehsc.org so we can ensure we have the answers on hand at the meeting.

Volunteers – we are in desperate need for some kind people to head up and be part of the cash card team. We really need someone to help with sponsorship. In fact we need lots of volunteers. Whatever your time commitment and skill set we can find something meaningful for you to do. If you can help us in any area please email us at president@graystonehsc.org

And for the fun stuff. Movie night is September 5th. Please bring your families, picnic blankets and sweaters and join us on the playing fields to watch Frozen. Food will be available for sale from 7.00pm. Our first recycle day is September 5th.

At back to school night on Tuesday, the chairs of our membership drive, escrip and box tops will be present should you have questions or need more information about these important fundraisers. We hope to see you all there.

If you have any questions do email, approach us around school or track us down any other way,

Helen, Shari, Karen, Nikky, Stephanie and Trish

CORNERSTONE CORNER

Welcome back to Project Cornerstone at Graystone Elementary!

Who: Our entire community of students, parents, and teachers will benefit from this program!

What: We are excited to announce the 5th year of the ABC (Asset Building Champion) Project Cornerstone program at our school. This parent volunteer reading program aims to build the developmental assets - positive relationships, opportunities, values, and skills - that provide a foundation for a healthy, successful future for ALL our youth. The lessons focus on values like honesty, responsibility, and peaceful conflict resolution. Special attention is given to issues like student-to-student respect, dealing with bully behaviors and social conflicts. The goal of the ABC program is to teach our children skills that they can use today and throughout their lives to help them deal with peer pressure, building and keeping friendships, making healthy decisions, and solving problems. By sharing these concepts in class, we create a common language and vocabulary about these issues for the entire school.

When and Where: Each month, parent volunteers meet as a group to review the story and lesson plan they will present the following month. The approximate time commitment is about 3 hours total each month. Each month a new book will be read by a parent volunteer to your student's class. A lesson focusing on the above mentioned important building blocks of healthy youth development will be introduced. Each book and ways in which you can incorporate the lesson at home will be described in the e-link newsletter each month and in a take home newsletter after your child's lesson in class. Also, Project Cornerstone parents will be on the playground at recess. We aim to have FUN (Friendly, Understanding, Nice) zones with FUNvisors leading activities and projects where all students feel welcome.

Why: The more assets youth have, the more likely they are to succeed socially and academically. To learn more about the developmental assets and Project Cornerstone, check out www.projectcornerstone.org.

How: We need an army of caring adults to make this program successful. Please contact our school's ABC leaders for more information about how you can be one of these caring adults.

hilaryrowand@gmail.com

jtowlehome@yahoo.com

IN OTHER NEWS...

School Site Council needs YOU!

Our Graystone School Site Council (SSC) oversees the use of our state funds. Five parents are elected to represent the community on this committee. It is a two year commitment. Meetings are held once a month during lunch time. There are two positions open. We also have one position open as a SELAC member. The School English Learner Advisory Committee (SELAC) members are Graystone parents and educators

interested in improving the education of Graystone students who are English language learners (EL). The District English Learner Advisory Committee (DELAC) members are representatives from each school's English Learner Advisory Committee (SELAC).

If you are interested in running for SSC for the 2014-15 and 2015-16 school years, please submit a brief bio for the school ballot on August 29th. Please send your bio to Rmaczka@sjusd.org. If you have any questions, please call our office at 408-535-6317.

PRESCHOOL

Prepare your child for kindergarten at Graystone CDC's Preschool!

Graystone CDC's Preschool is now enrolling for the 2014-2015 school year! Our program is a play-based, school readiness program led by our wonderful Master Teacher, Kathy Krenzel. Enroll now to prepare your child for kindergarten, right here on the Graystone Elementary School campus! Our program runs from 9 am-12 pm Monday through Friday, and we offer flexible schedule options for your preschool child to learn and grow, anywhere from two to five days per week. We serve children aged 2 years, 9 months to 5 years of age.

Contact the site supervisor, Maggie Lougaris, to learn more or to schedule a tour! You can reach her at the center via phone at 408-997-1980 or by emailing center111@cdicdc.org

GIRL SCOUTS

Interested in learning more about GIRL SCOUTS?

Service Unit 642 will be hosting a
PARENT Information Meeting on
Thursday, August 21st at the

Vineland Library on Blossom Hill Road at 7pm.

Parents who would like to learn more about Girl Scouts, new troop formations, troop placement, and independent scouting are encouraged to attend! We are especially looking to recruit girls to form a kindergarten Daisy troop at Graystone.

If you have questions please contact:

Sheri Casey sherifcasey@gmail.com or Stefanie Bellucci skbellucci@yahoo.com
your graystone girl scout school managers