

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 : December 19th, 2014

DECEMBER

Dec. 22nd to
Jan. 5th

HOLIDAY BREAK

JANUARY

Jan. 6th - First day
back from Winter
Break. **Early out
Tuesday**

Jan. 9th - Recycling
Day

Jan. 13th - Home &
School Club Meeting
9am in cafeteria

Jan. 19th - Martin Lu-
ther King day
NO SCHOOL

Message from the Principal

Dear Graystone Community Members,

The holiday season is in the air, and we have had some wonderful events to celebrate this special time of year. Our kindergarten, first, second and third grade classes each performed a winter concert this week. It is wonderful to see the students, dressed in their best, singing to a room of smiling, proud parents and family members! These are the events that will be fondly remembered by the students when they think of their years at Graystone. Thank you for your support in providing enrichment opportunities, such as music, for our students!

Our Holiday Boutique provided an opportunity for students to purchase gifts for their families to further extend their experience of the joy of giving. The children always enjoy the shopping experience, finding the perfect gift for family members and budgeting their money. A big thanks to Arianna Wasserburger for organizing the event, as well as to the many volunteers who stepped up to be sure the event took place!

No matter what you celebrate during this time of year, I wish you a wonderful last two weeks of 2014. I hope you will be able to relax and enjoy your families during this time. I am proud to be a member of the Graystone community, and I look forward to a wonderful 2015 with you! We will see you back at school Tuesday, January 6.

Have a GREAT Graystone week!

Best regards,
Allison Long

HOME & SCHOOL CLUB NEWS

One year ending, another about to begin!!

Reviewing recent HSC events.

So many HSC events in the last few weeks! We thank everyone for all their support.

The Hosted Vendor Shopping event had a great turnout and was so much fun. It was so wonderful to see so many Graystone Moms together, chatting, visiting, eating, drinking with a little shopping thrown in. A great start to the festive season!

The Polar Express roared into Graystone! The smartly dressed conductors collected tickets, served the yummiest of hot chocolate and snacks, and distributed the magic bells. Oh to be a child and hear the magic jingle of Santa's bell! So many thanks to Ms. Olver and Ms. Ilsever for turning this into such a wonderful event.

The Holiday Boutique, which was organized by Arianna at very short notice, was another great fund raiser. Profits for HSC amounted to some \$2,000. The kids loved doing their 'own' shopping. Watching the little shoppers of the future deciding who to buy for, what to buy them and then whether they had sufficient funds was fun to watch! Huge thanks to Arianna and her team – from set up to tear down an incredible feat.

Looking forward to future HSC events.

(And of course there are many HSC events coming up in the New Year)

Our first HSC meeting of 2015 will be in the evening on Tuesday January 13th at 7.00pm. Remember adults only. We hope to see lots of you there.

The biggest fundraising event of the year will be the annual Spring Celebration on March 27th. This year the theme will be Lego. Lets be Graystone "Awesome". Huge thanks to Teresa Carr who is chairing the event again. But she needs your help!A message from Teresa:

Hey Graystone parents! I know that Christmas has everyone super stressed out, but put this in the back of your mind so you'll be ready as soon as we get back in January. The WalkATHon has been moved up by 2 months and is scheduled for March 27th with a Lego theme "Graystone, Everyone is Awesome!!!"

We have had a TON of people who already agree to help out, but I am hoping to fill out a couple of empty spots. We need people to head up/help with:

Spirit Week: Decide on a theme for each day of spirit week. Organize the Poster competition and put out posters/flyers with the spirit week info.

Set Up: Round up volunteers to help with this and be there nice and early the day of the event and help set up the track, auction, chairs, etc.

Take Down: Round up volunteers to help with this and be there at the end of the event to help take everything down and clean up.

Lanyards: Print off, hole punch and clip the lap cards and group according to grade and teacher.

Tee-shirts: someone to shadow this year and take on next the order and distribution of Spring Celebration Tee-shirts

Raffle: Find people/businesses to donate to the raffle.

Silent Auction: Find people/businesses to donate items for auction

I'm sure I have a million more things that I could use help on. Please be pro-active and shoot me an email to let me know that you are willing to help with this amazing fundraiser. My email address is teresa.carr@gmail.com

Thanks for your support!!

Teresa Carr: Mom of Eva (5th grade) and Ivy (1st grade)

On January 25th there will be a Sunday evening of wine tasting at Unwined, complete with the option of a kids karate experience next door. Fun for parents, fun for kids...a win/win! Watch out for details in the New Year.

This will be followed on February 27th by the first annual Graystone "Daddy, Daughter, Dessert, Dance" A chance for Dads and Daughters to put on their best and join the fun!

More details of these events and more to follow in the New Year.

Thanks

So many wonderful volunteers to thank for their time and energy. We try to thank people as we go along but I really do want to take time out to thank those folks who help us month in and month out or behind the scenes – Dean Nesson who heads up the monthly recycling, Angi Mariani for organizing Dinners Nights. Also a huge thanks to Pam Doherty, Katie Ciciarelli and Domique Tomei whose tenacity in seeing the directory through to completion has been formidable!!

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank the teachers and admin staff for their whole-hearted and unwavering support during this first half of the school year.

Wishing all the Graystone community a Happy Christmas and looking forward to seeing you all in January for another Graystone Great Year!!

Helen, Shari, Karen, Nikky, Steph and Trisha

HERITAGE DAY

Graystone families mark your calendars, Heritage Day is coming on May 1st 2015. More details to follow soon. If interested in volunteering please contact Sheetal Patel at sheetalmp@yahoo.com or Prajakta Kumbhare at praj_kumbhare@yahoo.com

GATE NEWS

Attention 3rd, 4th & 5th grade GATE students - It is time for our GATE book publishing project!

ACTIVITY: Student Treasure Books

SIGN-UP DATE/TIME: Sign-ups are going on on iVolunteer and will end Friday 12/26/2014. To sign up for this activity, go to:

http://graystonehsc.ivolunteer.com/gatebookpublishing_002

COST: First book is free, but additional copies can be purchased for under \$20 each.

SPACE LIMIT - This project will be limited to the first 50 GATE students who register. We do have cancellations from time to time, so if your GATE student does not get into the event, feel free to check back periodically on the iVolunteer website to see if a space has opened up.

DETAILS: Give your child the opportunity to become their own author and illustrator with this wonderful program! Each child will be given a packet to complete their own hardcover, professionally bound book for free. Your student can choose any topic for their book. In the past, some students have written about a personal experience, creative fiction, made a scrapbook about friends, or a book of art. The choices are limitless!

IMPORTANT SIGN-UP INSTRUCTIONS : In order for your GATE student to participate in this program, you will need to sign up your child on the iVolunteer website beginning on the day/time stated above. In order to receive a publishing packet and receive reminders and updates, it is important that you sign your child up for all 3 dates we have set up on the iVolunteer page to review their rough drafts and collect the final packets. Also, when you sign up, there will be a prompt that will ask you if your child is going to type their book or write by hand. This information is important so we can order the right kind of packet for you.

TIMELINE:

Friday 12/26/14 - sign ups end

Tuesday 1/20/15 - Rough draft review and packet distribution in Super dome from 1:10pm- 1:40pm

Tuesday 2/10/15 - Second opportunity for rough draft review and packet distribution (for those who could not make it to the January date) in Super dome from 1:10pm -1:40pm

March 17, 2015 - last day to turn in final packet to school office

April - We will let you know when the books are ready!

If you have any questions, please email the GATE parent volunteer coordinators:

Prajakta Kumbhare at praj_kumbhare@yahoo.com

Sheetal Patel at sheetalmp@yahoo.com

Dear Families,

It is said that the measure of a person can be determined by what they do for those that can do nothing for them in return. If that is true, then the Graystone community has exceeded the scale by which their measure can be determined. Once again each of you gave from the heart to help families less fortunate to have the things they needed to provide for their family at the holidays. Toys, books, clothes, baby supplies, beds, vacuum cleaners, bikes, gift cards and cash were all donated to our 10 families. No gift was too small! When one little boy found \$1 on the playground he rushed to his teacher and asked that it be donated.

It is that \$1 that really moves us. When we started this program 7 years ago our goal was to instill in the children a sense of responsibility to their community and an understanding of the differing levels of need therein. For a young child to donate the \$1 he found instead of pocketing it to buy something later for himself means our goals have been accomplished. As we start to step back from this program and hand it into the capable hands of our successors, we want you to know that this experience has been one of the most fulfilling of our lives. Every year hundreds of people come together on behalf of perfect strangers in an effort to show them that they have not been forgotten and that, while they are unknown to us, they are not unseen. We cannot fully express how much this has moved us each year. Your generosity of spirit is tremendous, Graystone, and we thank you.

Happiest of Holiday Seasons,
Amber Marienthal
Sheri Meeks

REMINDER

Parents, a friendly reminder to be respectful and responsible when parking in front of our neighbors' houses. Please do not block driveways, and do not move trash cans onto the curb (if they are not on the street, they will not be emptied). Thank you for being a GREAT representative of Graystone!

**Almaden Valley Counseling
Service**

**Working to promote emotional
well-being**

“Shielding Your Child
From Conflict”

Cooperative Parenting classes are for parents who are either divorced or in the process of divorcing. The class focuses on reducing parental conflict, and addresses the factors that influence children’s post-divorce adjustment. Divorce is hard on everyone involved, but with proper education, parents are better able to work together and focus on the best interest of the children. Parenting is forever—family relationships do not disappear when a marriage ends in separation or divorce.

**Almaden Valley Counseling
Service**

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San Jose, CA 95120

Phone: 408-997-0200

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E-mail: staff@avcounseling.org

For more information and registration, visit our website:

www.avcounseling.org



Cooperative Parenting & Divorce

**How to Parent as a Team When You Are
No Longer a Couple!**

Winter 2015

8 week course

7:15—9:15 PM

Starting Thursday January 22nd

NO CLASS WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 29th (School Recess)

~ Co-Parents attend separate sessions ~

~ new spouses/significant others are welcome ~

The Goals of the Program

- Assist parents in shifting their roles from former spouses to co-parents
- Educate parents about children’s issues with divorce
- Educate parents regarding the impact of parental conflict on their children’s development
- Teach parents anger management, communication, negotiation, and conflict-resolution skills

REGISTRATION FORM

Cost: \$ 265.00 per person or \$325.00 for individual & new spouse or significant other

Register online or
Send check (payable to AVCS)
and this registration form to:

**AVCS
6529 Crown Blvd., Suite D
San Jose, CA 95120**

Name(s)

Primary Phone

Address

Secondary Phone

City / Zip

Preferred day of week for attendance

Name of co-parent

Age(s) of child/children

How did You hear about our class?

