

# The Graystone eLINK



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San Jose, CA 95120  
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Please visit our School Website:  
<http://www.sjUSD.org/graystone>

**For the Week Ending : March 20th, 2015**

## MARCH

Mar. 27th - SPRING  
CELEBRATION!!

Mar. 31st - Colonial  
Day 5th grade

## APRIL

Apr. 3rd - Recycling  
Day

Apr. 7th - Home &  
School Club Mtg.  
9:00am in cafe

Apr. 13th - 17th  
Spring Break  
No School

Apr. 27th - Spring  
Concert - Kinder &  
First grade

Apr. 29th - Spring  
Concert - 2nd & 3rd  
grade

## Message from the Principal

Testing time is upon us for third, fourth and fifth graders! The California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress, or CAASPP, which has replaced the Standardized Testing and Reporting, or STAR Program, is the new state academic testing program. CAASPP is a system intended to provide information that can be used to monitor student progress and ensure that all students leave high school ready for college and career. This year, CAASPP includes computer adaptive tests in English–language arts and mathematics as well as paper-based tests for science.

Last year, most students participated in a computer-based field test. This practice run of the test, though no scores were provided, allowed students to experience computer-based testing and new types of questions. In addition, the field test also helped evaluate how well districts technology systems could meet the demands of computer-based tests, and determine what resources teachers and schools would need to better prepare students for future assessments.

Lessons learned from last year’s field test will help ensure a successful, full launch of the CAASPP system this school year. In moving forward, students will take the test in 3rd grade from March 23-April 2, 4th grade from April 6-April 23, and 5th grade from April 27-May 7 (please see communication from your child’s teacher for specific dates and tests). Students have been completing practice tests to prepare, which familiarize them with both the content and format of the test. To learn about the types of questions on the computer-based test, you and your child can view the practice test online at the California Department of Education (CDE) Smarter Balanced Practice Test Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sa/practicetest.asp>.

Following the spring 2015 testing, students will receive individual score reports. Student score reports will be sent home to parents and will include an overall score, a description of the student’s achievement level for English–language arts and mathematics, and other information. It is important to note that these scores cannot be compared to scores that your child previously received on the STAR Program tests because this test is based on the new Common Core State Standards, involves different types of test questions, and will not be reported using the STAR Program reporting categories.

If you would like more information, please visit the Parent/Student tab of the CDE CAASPP Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/>, or visit the San Jose Unified School District’s Web page at <http://www.sjUSD.org/parents/21st-century-learning/>.

You can support your child during their testing weeks by ensuring they get plenty of sleep, eat a healthy breakfast and arrive to school on time.

Looking forward to seeing you next Friday at our Spring Celebration! Have a GREAT Graystone week!

*Allison Long*

## **SPRING CELEBRATION UPDATE:**

### **Friday, March 20th**

We are getting ready to kick off this year's Spring Celebration. We would love to have parents come to our Pep Rally Friday, March 20th at 2:00PM. Posters for the poster competition are also due this Friday. Don't forget to put your name, grade, and teacher's name on the back of the poster.

### **Monday, March 23rd**

Spirit week starts on Monday. The spirit days are:

Monday is Lego Day, Tuesday is Color Day: K-White, 1-Orange, 2-Purple, 3-Green, 4-Blue, 5-Red, Wednesday is Super Hero Day, Thursday is Past Walkathon Shirt Day, Friday is this year's Spring Celebration Tshirt Day

### **Thursday, March 26th**

Tshirts will be sent home on Thursday and everyone should wear them to school on Friday.

### **Friday, March 27th**

During the day, the kids get to walk with their classes for an hour to help pad their lap cards. :) If you want to come watch or help out during a class, here's the schedule:

9:00-9:50 3rd Grade

10:00-10:50 Kinder, 1st, SDC (K-2)

11:00-11:50 2nd Grade

12:00-12:50 Track Closed for Lunch

1:00-1:50 4th Grade

2:00-2:50 5th, SDC 3-5

The event starts Friday March 27 at 4:00 and will end at 8:00. Students will walk to earn prizes and friends and family can bid on items at the auction and raffle. We will have food trucks on site.

To volunteer, go to for students: <http://graystonehsc.ivolunteer.com/2015scstudent> for adults: <http://graystonehsc.ivolunteer.com/2015scadult> .



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## HOW I STAND IN SOMEONE'S SHOES

Show respect for one another.

- Treat people the way you want to be treated.
- *Notice and read* body language.
- *Name* the feelings.
- Confirm that you have correctly identified the feelings by *asking!*
- *Understand and care* about the feelings of others.
- Agree to disagree.

Build relationships. Be a friend.

- Make eye contact and *stand tall*.
- Smile. Say "Hi!"
- Ask questions! "How are you?"
- Start conversations with open-ended questions.
- Give a "*real*" *apology*. Be genuine.

Listen.

- Listen without interrupting.
- Listen to the tone of the words being spoken.
- Check for understanding. Rephrase what was said, using the phrase "It sounds like..."

Be true to yourself.

- *Stand up* for your beliefs. Use "I don't like that kind of talk. It is hurtful."
- State your feelings using *I messages*.
- Allow someone to help you.
- Use *positive self-talk* and think *clear thoughts*.
- Spend time with people who let *you* be **you**.

Be Kind.

- Send notes or cards of encouragement and friendship.
- Invite someone you don't know well to play or eat lunch together.
- *Say and do* intentional acts of caring.
- Be an *UP-stander*.
- Be a bucket filler.
- Understand that *bucket dippers* need their buckets filled.
- *Stop and think* how to fill an empty bucket.
- Use *your lid* to fill their bucket with good thoughts to show you understand and care.

## IN OTHER NEWS....

The San Jose Jr. Sharks are proud to once again host Girls Give Hockey A Try Day on March 21. There will be two free sessions at 9:45-10:45 am and 12:30-1:30 pm at Sharks Ice San Jose (1500 South 10th Street). All girls ages 5-12 are welcome to participate!

Full hockey equipment and coaching will be provided. Each session is limited to 45 participants so register early! To register please go to: <http://sjrsharks.com>. Please contact [sjrsharkmlk@yahoo.com](mailto:sjrsharkmlk@yahoo.com) if you have any questions.

Come visit Girl Scout Troop 60323's booth at the Spring Celebration/ Walkathon on March 27! We are raising awareness about air pollution and promoting a Walk Week in April to encourage students to walk to school in celebration of Earth Day and reduce air pollution in our community.

Come join us in our booth for awesome prizes and fun! There will be a lollipop tree that gives students the chance win raffle tickets to enter into a drawing for three pedometers so they can count their steps when they walk to school. Students will also be able to get air-inspired henna and learn about air pollution.

<https://sites.google.com/site/helpourair/>

GS Cadette Troop 60323

Earlier this year I became the Graystone Representative for the SJUSD District Advisory Committee. As the elected committee Vice-Chair, I'm trying to get a program started for a Parent Support Group. This is comprised of parents from throughout the district who spring into immediate action when a SJUSD family suffers a tragedy. We want to be able to provide support and help the families navigate these difficult times with basic essentials such as meal deliveries, laundry services, or house cleaning. As I'm sure you know, a Leland student passed away Monday after collapsing at track practice. This is an opportunity to help a family in need of the community's support. You were all so generous back on October when one of our former Graystone students passed. With Mrs. Long's blessing and support, I am organizing some basic things to help this family. I will be organizing and sending whatever they need including meals, laundry, house cleaning, transportation. I'm asking Graystone families to again show their generosity. If you are interested in supporting this cause, you may leave a monetary donation (checks only, made out to Tristan Nguyen Memorial Scholarship Fund c/o Leland Athletic Booster Club) in an envelope in the office with my name on it. Any donation large or small is greatly welcomed! I'll check in with the office daily. These first few days and weeks are usually the hardest, and our goal is to put this into action as soon as possible to ease in their grief and sadness. I thank you all for your support and generosity.

Rikki Quevedo

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# TOBY TALK

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*Hello friends,*

This month I am not answering any questions because I want a chance to talk about something that affects all of us and is near and dear to my heart.

During the month of April, my family at VCA Almaden Valley Animal Hospital is participating in The Morris Foundation K9 Cancer Walk at Vasona Park in Los Gatos. Morris Animal Foundation is a nonprofit organization that invests in science to advance animal health. The Foundation is a global leader in funding scientific studies for companion animals, horses and wildlife.

I just found out that my friend, Brewsky, had a tumor removed from his skin and it came back as a cancer called Mast Cell. I was so sad when I heard the news. His is a type of cancer that can grow back and spread if his parents are not careful. I met Brewsky when his mom brought him in after she rescued him from a bad home. Brewsky is just about the funniest, friendliest American Bulldog you can meet. He loves cats, and



If you have a question for Toby please email us at: [Au207@vcahospitals.com](mailto:Au207@vcahospitals.com)

that makes him ok in my book, (I am his favorite, of course). His Grandma, Karen, works at the animal hospital so he gets to come in to see me whenever he wants. He loves to play in the backyard while I bask in the sunshine and watch him be silly.

That is why I was so excited when I found out that VCA was walking in the K9 Cancer walk. Since its founding in 1948, Morris Animal Foundation has invested more than \$92 million toward 2,300 studies that have led to significant breakthroughs in diagnostics, treatments, preventions and cures for animals worldwide.

By walking this year, VCA is joining the cause to fight cancer which ends the lives of more dogs than other diseases. Over 6 million new dog cancer diagnoses are made each year. By participating in and fundraising for this walk, VCA can help increase Morris Animal Foundation's capacity to invest in science that will help prevent and treat cancer and other diseases in dogs.

Anything that will help extend the life of my buddy, Brewsky, I am happy to promote. If I could walk along with my friends, I would!! If anyone would like to sign up to walk with TEAM VCA or donate to the cause, please visit their website:

<http://support.morrisanimalfoundation.org/goto/vca2015>

Thanks for listening!!

Your Friend, Toby



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*This Newsletter brought to you by  
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Ask Toby 1