

GRAHAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

36270 Cherry St., Newark, Ca 94560
Akilah Byrd, Principal
Mirian Lopez, Office Manager
Marisa Sereni, Attendance Clerk

November/December 2018

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www.graham.newarkunified.org

Principal's Message:

Dear Graham Families,

The first two months of school have brought many new positive events. It was great to see parents attend our Parent Literacy Night and Parent Math Event. We hope that everyone found both parent events useful, along with the provided materials for use at home with your scholars. I want to thank our current parent volunteers who help around campus in so many different ways. As I type this message, parent volunteers are outside setting up for our Harvest Festival. We appreciate you! I'm also sending a special thank you to GPS for all of our wonderful Unity Day t-shirts; kindness is our superpower!

This year we continue our implementation of Positive Behavior Interventions & Supports (PBIS) school-wide. Teachers reteach the school's expectations, and I as principal, have continued to facilitate restorative conversations with scholars requiring additional reminders of how to behave appropriately at school. A positive school experience will support our number one goal of improved achievement for all students at Graham Elementary School. As a school, along with many other schools across the nation, we celebrated Unity Day this year on October 24th. We stand united for kindness, acceptance and inclusion all school year.

We at Graham want to be united everyday and need the help of all parents to reinforce the important social skills that align with our 3 school rules; Be Responsible, Be Respectful & Be Safe. My staff and I are working diligently to increase student achievement levels at Graham while creating lifelong learners, thinkers, communicators, and positive contributors to our society. We cannot do it alone. I am very privileged to have the opportunity to lead and work alongside our highly committed, dedicated and professional staff, wonderful partners and parents.

Additionally, I would like to report on Graham's continued commitment to FLEX time during the school day. FLEX time is used for intervention, reteaching, acceleration, and enrichment. It is a proven effective way to meet the learning needs of our students, and we hope it has a very positive impact on our overall student achievement this school year. We appreciate our School Site Council for funding additional positions on campus that support student achievement. Feel free to check in with your child's teacher about what they are currently working on in their FLEX group.

Lastly, attendance matters. Being present ensures that your child receives full access to the curriculum. In addition to that, in times of budget shortfalls our main source of income for schools is through our ATTENDANCE. Please make an effort to get your scholar to school each day. We hold monthly classroom attendance competitions and reward classes with the highest attendance percentage. We need everyone's help in improving Graham's attendance rates and I appreciate the scholars who have perfect attendance thus far. Keep up the good work!

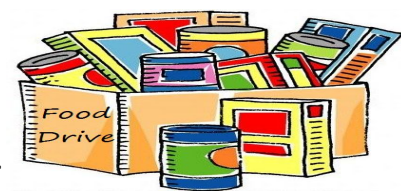
Thank you for your continued support!

Respectfully,
Akilah Byrd
Principal



Important Dates to Remember

- ★ 27th Aug - 1st Sep
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Thank you & a big thank you to all the families who donated money, supplies, goods and food for all the special events when asked.

Wow, what an amazing first two months of school this has been! It has been jam packed with activities and events. GPS parents helped organized the school wide Unity Day T-Shirts, Popcorn Fridays and the Harvest Festival, which raised \$1,950.00 this year. That money will go towards next year's Unity Day T-Shirts.

Thank you to all the parents who volunteer and dedicate their time in helping out in any way they can. Thank you to all the families who donated money, supplies, goods and food for all the special events when asked. Our events are successful because of our Graham Families coming together in support of our community. We appreciate each and every one of you for your hard work and dedication to Graham, Thank you!

In November we will be selling Chocolate Bars to raise money for Field Trips, 6th Grade Science Camp and Teacher/Staff Appreciation week. Our goal is to raise at least \$10,000 this year to help cover those expenses. Last year's fundraiser raised a total of \$8000 and it went towards field trip expenses, science camp and school wide events. We will be sending home permission slips with your child so that they can sign up to sell chocolate for this annual fundraiser. We are hoping to kick off the fundraiser during the week of November 13, 2018.

Please mark your calendar, Graham's Annual Multi-Cultural Winter Feast will be held on Friday, December 7, 2018. This is a community celebration, not a fundraiser.

The Winter Feast is a shared potluck. Please bring a dish or dessert from your culture to share. At this year's feast, we will have gift basket raffles and Photos with Santa.

Our upcoming GPS meeting are scheduled for December 5, 2018 and January 9, 2019 at 6 p.m. in the Library. Please attend.

Thank you,
GPS



SAFETY FIRST

We have several areas where we all have to be safer for the kids:

1. The Parking Lot
2. The Cross Walks
3. The 25 MPH Zone

PARKING LOT

It's easy for everyone to be in a hurry to get into and out of the parking lot. We all want to drop off and pick up our kids as quickly as possible.

Lately, more folks have been in more of a rush, and we've had more close calls and near accidents. Let's be safe!

Please take just an extra minute to take your time, drive slower, honor the signs & cones, and look around before pulling into traffic.

CROSSWALKS

Keep an eye out, whether the guard is there or not. Remember that the parents and kids in the crosswalk have the right of way as soon as they step off the curb.

25 MPH ZONE

Streets around all schools have a speed limit of 25 miles per hour. Don't get a ticket!

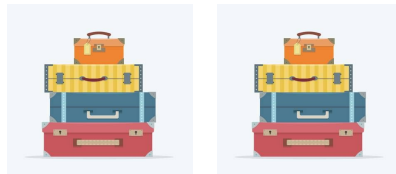
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PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

Dear Parents,
We are excited to have you at our Parent Teacher Conferences on Monday, October 15th, from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM. We will be in the gymnasium.

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Attendance Winners for September:

1st Place
Mr. King - Room 1

2nd Place
Mrs. Erwin - Room 17
Mrs. McCarthy - Room 24
Mr. Moresi - Room 5
Ms. Sosa - Room 21
Mrs. Villo - Room 25

3rd Place
Ms. Kolf - Room 4
Ms. Paxton - Room 2
Mrs. Vasquez - Room 23



Door Contest Winners for Unity Day:

Ms. Sosa
Mrs. Evans-Vasquez
Ms. Paxton



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