

GRAHAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

36270 Cherry St., Newark, Ca 94560

Akilah Byrd, Principal

Mirian Lopez, Office Manager

Marisa Sereni, Attendance Clerk

January/February 2019

Telephone: (510) 818-3300

Visit our Website:

www.graham.newarkunified.org



COUGAR CUBS:

BE RESPECTFUL
BE RESPONSIBLE
BE SAFE

Principal's Message...

Welcome to 2019!

This month marks the second half of the school year and we are excited to continue learning with your students.

The start of a new year is always a good time to reflect on the things that worked well and the things that we can make improvement on. In looking at the California Dashboard data that was released last month in December, there are some particular areas that stand out. We remain in the "orange" color for both areas of English Language Arts and Mathematics. We are currently below the target for English Learner Progress, however, we did increase in points towards reaching that target.

<https://www.caschooldashboard.org/reports/01612346001481/2018>

This year, there is also a new indicator on the dashboard for Chronic Absenteeism. Graham did not do well in this area. We have identified that unexcused daily absences have affected this dashboard indicator in a negative way. Our color is "red" for chronic absenteeism with 31.5% of our students being chronically absent at school. You may wonder which students are chronically absent? Chronically absent students are absent 10 percent or more of the instructional days that they were enrolled during the school year. Graham had a huge increase in absences last school year. Not only does attendance equal dollars (from ADA; average daily attendance), but it equals learning, growth, rigor, engagement...If students are absent it increases the odds that they will lack the skill set needed for their grade-level.

If your child is not able to attend school you must notify us right away, each day. You can call us or email the main office directly. In addition, please notify us well in advance (at least 5 school days) if your student needs to request short-term independent study. As a school we will continue our school-wide efforts and rewards that promote positive student attendance. A BIG congratulations to our attendance class winners thus far:

Mr. King's kindergarten class (twice)
Mrs. Evans-Vasquez 3rd grade class
Mrs. Hiraga's 5th grade class

Lastly, winter is here and that means more rainy days and colder weather. Please be sure to dress students in warm clothing. We also have lots of items left in the lost & found weekly. Offer students a friendly reminder to check the lost & found just in case their jackets have gone missing.

Akilah Byrd

Important Dates to Remember

- ★ Jan 9 - Food Pantry at 3:30 p.m.
- ★ Jan. 9 - Vision Day #1 for K, 2, 5
- ★ Jan. 9 - GPS Meeting 6:00 p.m.
- ★ Jan. 17 - Vision Day # 2 for K, 2, 5
- ★ Jan 21- Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday - NO SCHOOL
- ★ Jan 22 - Staff Development Day - NO SCHOOL
- ★ Feb. 6 - Walk-A-Thon
- ★ Feb 6 - GPS Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
- ★ Feb 11 - President Lincoln's Day - NO SCHOOL
- ★ Feb 13 - Food Pantry at 3:30 p.m
- ★ Feb 14 - Twin Day
- ★ Feb 18 - Presidents' Day - NO SCHOOL
- ★ Feb 21 - Family Science Night 6:00-7:30 p.m.
- ★ Jan 31 - Feb. 22 -Pennies for Patients Drive



SCHEDULE

Monday-Thursday

K-6th 8:00am-2:32pm

Fridays

K-6th 8:00am-1:05pm



Pennies for Patients

Runs from January 31 to Feb 22nd

Students will bring home individual coin collection boxes on January 31st.

Please join us in supporting The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's (LLS) Student Series campaign. Your support will help fund the therapies and treatments that help save the lives of blood cancer patients today.

For over 65 years LLS has invested more than \$1 billion to advance cancer therapies and save lives.

Last year alone, Graham school raised \$1,376.36.

The most we ever raised in one year is \$1984.24

This year our goal is 1,500.00

Visit Our Graham School

Fundraising! The direct link to our school's page is:

<http://events.lls.org/pages/gba/JameSAGrahamElementarySchool-2017>



Box Tops

In October we ONLY collected \$97.00. Keep collecting and sending them to your classroom. We will mail the next batch in March. Bring them in as often as possible. Every ten cents counts!

We have collection sheets available in the office or you can just trim them and send them in a bag or envelope.

There is an app for your smart phone with even more easy ways to get coupons and help us earn money.

Please register at www.BTFE.com and we will earn electronic point for Graham.

Check out these websites for information or more ways to help:

<http://www.boxtops4education.com>

Notes from our GPS Parents Club

Thank you so much to all the families, teachers and staff members that came to our Annual Graham Multi-Cultural Winter Feast!

As always, the food was delicious, the decorations festive and beautiful. It was nice to see everyone enjoying the Multi-cultural dishes that were brought to share.

It was wonderful to see everyone sharing food over laughter and conversations.

We really appreciate all the volunteers who help organized, setup and decorated for this and every event at Graham.

We were especially grateful for all the generous raffle donations of gifts and toys that made this event even more special for all the students and their families!

In the new year, we will continue holding evening GPS meetings on the first Wednesday at 6pm of each month. Please join us whenever it is convenient for you.

Thank you for your continued support and for making Graham a wonderful place for our children to learn, strive and grow.



Open Enrollment Requests for the 2019-20 School Year are due by January 31th.

If you would like to have your child attend a different elementary school for the 2019-2020 school year, you will need to complete an Open Enrollment Form. These forms can be picked up at the office and you can take them directly to the District Office. Space is always limited so it is extremely important to fill out and turn in the form before January 31, 2019 to the District office. If you have any questions, the school office should be able to help you. Thank you!



You are invited to our Family Science Night!

Fun Science experiments and demonstrations for all ages.

Activities: slime, oobleck, chemical reactions, bubbles, shrinky dinks, constellations, snails, and much more!

Date: Thursday, February 21st, 2019

Time: 6:00-7:30 p.m.
Place: Cafeteria

This is a free event for you and your family.



State Law requires that students must have their Whooping Cough vaccine or **Tdap Booster** before they can start 7th grade.

TDAP vaccine can be administered on or after the 7th birthday to meet the requirement for 7th grade entry.

Schedule an appointment with your health care provider or clinic as soon as possible; then bring your child's shot record or written proof that your child has been immunized, to the Office, as soon as possible!

Students will not be allowed to attend **6TH GRADE SCIENCE CAMP** without proof of vaccination for whooping cough/pertussis.



ATTENDANCE MATTERS
every student, every day

September Perfect Attendance Classroom Winners



**1st Place -
Room 1 · Kinder · Mr. King**



**2nd Place -
Room 5 · 2nd Grade · Mr. Moresi
Room 24 · 3rd Grade · Mrs. McCarthy
Room 25 · 4th Grade · Mrs. Villo
Room 21 · SDC · Ms. Sosa
Room 17 · 6th Grade · Mrs. Erwin**



**3rd Place -
Room 2 · Kinder · Ms. Paxton
Room 23 · 3rd Grade · Mrs. Evans-Vasquez**



October Perfect Attendance Classroom Winners



**1st Place -
Room 1 · Kinder · Mr. King**



**2nd Place -
Room 23 · 3rd Grade · Mrs. Evans-Vasquez**



**3rd Place -
Room 19 · 5th Grade · Mrs. Zandona**



ATTENDANCE MATTERS
every student, every day

November Perfect Attendance Classroom Winners



**1st Place -
Room 23 · 3rd Grade · Mrs. Evans-Vasquez**



**2nd Place -
Room 25 · 4th Grade · Mrs. Villo**



**3rd Place -
Room 5 · 2nd Grade · Mr. Moresi**



December Perfect Attendance Classroom Winners



1st Place - Room 15 · 5th Grade · Ms. Hiraga



2nd Place - Room 23 · 3rd Grade · Mrs. Evans-Vasquez



3rd Place - Room 5 · 2nd Grade · Mr. Moresi

