

Grass Valley

ELEMENTARY



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER • SEPTEMBER 13, 2019



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Let's be welcoming to all

Dear Grass Valley School Community,

Welcome back! We have had an amazing first week of school! We have approximately 536 students at Grass valley to start the 2019-20 school year. We have also welcomed 119 new Zebras to our school community, including 57 kindergartners.

The beginning of the year is a great time to **connect and establish expectations**. Our Zebras have spent time reviewing classroom rules and walking the halls to make specific connections to school expectations. Next week we will wrap up our recess orientation to help students understand the rules and procedures for the playground. During our first assembly we talked about kindness and reconnected to our central theme for students. We will continue with our focus on kindness character traits this year and introduce some tweaks later on.

We also used our assembly to discuss the importance of being accepting of our differences, and that our differences are what make us each unique. The students and parents of Grass Valley have multiple shades of skin color. Zebras come to school each day dressed differently, having different styles of hair, speaking different languages and eating different foods. Our diversity is a blessing to our community! It is my hope that we create a culture that is free of bias and full of respect and acceptance – where we can learn from each other in ways that allow us to reflect on our differences in positive ways. Our culture should spark continuous learning around our differences where we can examine how our relationship to our own culture guides our thinking and actions, which affect others. Together, we can help our students learn to embrace the dynamics of difference.

I would greatly appreciate your help in talking

with your children about your own family's diversity to help them process and embrace the beautiful differences we all have. Please remind them that their words and actions have a powerful effect on their peers and should be used to see the good and build each other up. Please convey the message that discouraging and oppressive comments about another person's skin color, race, religion or appearance are not tolerated at Grass Valley.

We also want to follow up on a change in practice that started last school year regarding **students receiving free and reduced lunch**. Any student who receives free lunch does not have to pay any fees for school. This includes field trips, class magazines/readers, yearbooks, etc. Students who receive reduced-price lunch are responsible for 40% of the amount.

As a reminder, we hope to see you at the **curriculum nights** next week. You should have received an email this week with times for each grade level (or see page 6). This is a time for families to hear more about classroom life and expectations for the year, as well as to ask questions. If you are unable to attend, please reach out to your child's teacher to make sure that you receive the information.

We are looking forward to an amazing year. We value your partnership in your child(ren)'s educational and social/emotional journey. Please reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

Regards,

T. Sean McMillan, principal

Melissa Hutton, associate principal

Please help us ensure student safety at GVE

Each child's safety is a top priority to the Camas School District and our Grass Valley staff. Our arrival and dismissal practices directly connect to our ability to keep all students safe and delivered where they need to be – with the smallest amount of confusion as possible. As we settle in after the first weeks of school, we want to provide the following critical reminders of drop-off, dismissal and safety procedures we have in place while your child is at school.

We know that some of our safety practices can cause extra wait time and some inconveniences. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in following these procedures:

- **Everyone coming to the school must check in** at the office before being allowed on the school grounds. Badges will be given to visitors so school personnel know that they have checked in. You must enter the campus from the main entrance only.

- **If you are a scheduled visitor or volunteer**, please check in at the office with staff. You will sign in and be given a visitor/volunteer badge. Thank you for respecting the teacher's time and work load and not interrupting classrooms when you are not scheduled to volunteer.

- **All CSD schools are locked** during school hours. When you come to the Grass Valley main entrance, you will need to press the "doorbell" button and identify yourself in the camera. Once you have been properly identified, the door will be unlocked for you to enter. Please be prepared to show identification and be asked some questions before being allowed into the building.

- **Unless it is a dire emergency, please let us know no later than 1 p.m.** (11 a.m. on Wednesdays) if you



are making a different school dismissal arrangement. Your planning ahead helps make dismissal time safe and organized.

- **Our campus is considered a "closed campus"** while students are on site. When you drive your child(ren) to school, please drive into the parking lot and drop off at the curb near the flagpole. Do NOT stop in the roundabout. If driving to the back of the school, please drop off at 44th Avenue and Emily Way, proceeding on Emily to exit. When walking your child(ren) to school, please stop at the campus entrances shown on the map above (the Grass Valley reader board sign, the beginning of the fence by the kindergarten rooms, the 44th Avenue gate at the back of the school by the portables, or the maintenance gate in the front of the school). From these locations, children should walk independently to school and after dismissal back to you. This ensures that we keep our campus secure and that we are aware of all visitors on site. We ask that you please not walk past these points, but instead say your good-byes in the morning and hellos in the afternoon at these points. We have staff in yellow vests on campus to assist students.

Thank you for helping us keep students safe at school.

Meet your 2019-20 PTA board members

Hello Grass Valley families!

We are looking forward to a great year for the PTA and hope you'll join us in supporting our school and our students as much as you're able – whether that's supporting our fundraising, volunteering for projects and events, or just attending our meetings to see what we're about. We want everyone to feel welcome!



First, we'd like to introduce our board, so you can put a name to a face you might see often in the hall. If you missed our table at Back to School Night, you can still sign up any time to be a member. Fill out the form from the packet in the green Back to School Night folder, and return it with your \$10 payment to school. Don't forget to look over the volunteer interest form, too!

If you have any questions, you can find our email addresses on [the PTA website](#). The board meets monthly, and elections for all executive positions are held in the spring.

Thank you, and we hope to see you in the hall!



ROBYN SHERIDAN
PRESIDENT

Children:
Brooks, fifth grade, Mrs. Strawn;

Adalyn, fourth grade, Mrs. Hunting-Knight; Brody, second grade, Mrs. Kohler



TERESA McLAREN
TREASURER

Children:
Anne, eighth grade, Skyridge;

Kelly, fifth grade, Mrs. Dietzen



AMANDA RINESMITH
VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Children:
Mercais, second

grade, Mrs. Hanson; Tad, fifth grade, Mrs. Strawn



KRISTA JARAMILLO
CO-VICE PRESIDENT

Children:
Gabby, fourth grade, Mrs.

Thorkelson; Sebby, first grade, Mrs. Wiest; Greyson, age 2.5



SHAWN TAY
SECRETARY

Children:
Wyatt, third grade, Mrs. Moke; Clara, preschool

(starting kindergarten at GVE next year)



JACQUIE COPELAND
MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR

Children:
Kerry, fifth grade, Mr.

Crone; Gavin, third grade, Mrs. Schroeder



MARIAN WONG
CO-VICE PRESIDENT

Children:
Laine Brady, fourth grade,

Mrs. Thorkelson; Camille Brady, first grade, Miss Mueller



KIM SCHMIDT
FUNDRAISING COORDINATOR

Children:
Molly, third grade, Mrs.

Schroeder; Ella, seventh grade, Skyridge; Caitlyn, ninth grade, Camas High



NANCY NILLES
NEWSLETTER COORDINATOR

Children:
James Corvin, fourth grade,

Mrs. Hunting-Knight; Ben Corvin, sixth grade, Skyridge

KEY DATES COMING UP

THURSDAY: Payback coupon book sales end Sept. 19. Please return any unsold



books, payments or orders to school with your student. The books cost \$20, with Grass Valley PTA earning \$10 of each sale. One book was provided to each student during the first week of school. If you sold additional books, they will be delivered to your child's classroom. Thank you!

SEPT. 30: Spirit Wear orders due (see next page for more information).

OCT. 3: The first **meeting for Art Discovery volunteers** will be at 9 a.m. in the GVE cafeteria. Subsequent planning meetings will be held on the first Thursday of each month.

OCT. 7: The year's first **PTA general membership meeting** will be at 9 a.m. in the cafeteria. All are welcome to attend.

OCT. 10: The PTA's annual **RAINBOW DASH Fun Run** will take place on the track during the school day. This is one of our major fundraisers. All grades participate, with students gathering pledges in the weeks before the run. Family members are welcome to come cheer. Watch for more info coming soon.

OCT. 18: The first PTA **Family Movie Night** of the year will feature "The Secret Life of Pets 2," in the cafeteria. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.

OCTOBER: Be sure to save your Box Tops! Our annual fall **Box Top collection contest** will be starting next month – with a special reward for the classes that collect the most.



Volunteers wanted for 7 open committee chair positions

We have several crucial volunteer positions still available. The following committee chair positions are currently open:

- Laminating crew
- Lost & found
- Monthly birthday celebrations
- Book giveaway cart
- Staff birthday cards
- Family Movie Nights (three each school year)
- Winter Blast school dance (held in February)

If you're interested in any of these volunteer opportunities, please contact PTA President [Robyn Sheridan](#) soon. PTA membership is not required for most volunteer roles, and nearly anything can be done as co-chairs if you'd like to join up with a friend. And remember, committee chairs are always supported and guided by the PTA board, so you won't be jumping without a net.

None of our events and services can happen without the kindness and generosity of our volunteers. Our students and staff thank you!

New! Volunteers 'feed' Ziggy

We have a new program to introduce this year! Family volunteers, let's show Grass Valley Elementary families and staff just how much we support our school community!

A new bulletin board has been created near the center staircase to show families and staff how much our Grass Valley volunteers support students and staff. After you volunteer at school, please staple one blade of grass for each hour you've given to our GVE community. The idea is we cover Ziggy with food to "Feed Ziggy!" Let's show our kiddos how much we support them.

Not a member? Anyone can sign up for the PTA email list to learn about opportunities to help throughout the year. Email our volunteer coordinator, [Amanda Rinesmith](#), to join the list.

GRASS VALLEY ELEMENTARY SPIRITWEAR

FALL 2019

YOUTH



\$15



\$20



\$28

ADULT



\$25



\$25



\$45



\$32

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MAKER
PRIDE**

Product information and sizes can be found on our website.

ORDER ONLINE AT:
papermakerpride.com

Reminder: Curriculum Night is next week

Please be sure to mark your calendars for Curriculum Night next week. This is an opportunity to visit with your child's teacher about what your child will be learning and how the classroom functions. This evening is intended for parents and caregivers. If possible, please plan to attend without your child(ren). The schedule is as follows:

TUESDAY, SEPT. 17: GRADES 3–5

Fifth grade: 5:15-5:55 p.m., in your child's classroom

Third grade: 6-6:30 p.m., cafeteria

Fourth grade: 6:45-7:30 p.m., cafeteria

THURSDAY, SEPT. 19: GRADES: K–2

Kindergarten: 5:15-5:45 p.m., in your child's classroom

First grade: 5:45-6:15 p.m., cafeteria

Second grade: 6:15-6:45 p.m., in your child's classroom

We hope to see you next week!

IN BRIEF

CCE offers class for parents about Chromebooks

Adam Green, of the CSD Technology Department, is offering an evening class for adults called "Chromebook Clues for Parents."

There are two locations and dates available. Register through Camas Community Education in person or online.

Here is the course description:

"Would you love to understand your child's Chromebook better? Not sure if they really are done with their homework? Want to offer help when they say their Chromebook isn't working? This class is for you!" Class choices are:

Helen Baller: Monday, Oct. 7, 6:30-7:30 p.m. (Class code 1049-19)

Grass Valley: Thursday, Oct. 17, 6:30-7:30 p.m. (Class code 1050-19)

The cost is \$20 for up to two adults per household.

Time to return check-outs from summer Book MoVAN

The summer Book MoVAN's debut was a great success, but now it's time to round up those books that are still out with families. Families can return completed Book MoVAN books to their elementary school offices or to the Camas Public Library.

There is a box in the GVE office to deposit books. To complete a survey to share feedback, visit [this link](#).

School district's Student Wellness Page worth a visit

When you're wandering around the internet, consider stopping by the CSD All Student Wellness Page to explore the strategies, tips and supports for you and your students. It's updated regularly with new materials, including video and handouts from guest speakers on wellness topics. Click here to check it out.

Support our PTA when you shop Amazon!

You can support our PTA by shopping at smile.amazon.com. Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the Grass Valley PTA. AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you shop, including the same products, prices and service. Under "select charity or organization," type Grass Valley PTA 3 6 65.

Jazz choir rehearsals start next week

Welcome to GVE Music 2019-20! It is so nice to see everyone again and to meet our new Zebras! My name is Mrs. Wilson and I teach music to every student once each week for 45 minutes. We follow a wonderful state and national music curriculum, which covers steady beat, rhythm counting/reading, listening, singing and playing a wide variety of instruments.



That said ... all fourth- and fifth-grade students need a recorder to use in music class. For students in fifth grade who attended Grass Valley last year, the recorders are already at school, so there is no need to do anything else. For fourth-graders and students who are new to GVE, a recorder may be ordered for \$7* through Mrs. Wilson. Information papers are located on the music stand outside of the Music Room. If your child already has a recorder at home, please send it to school ASAP and it will be stored in a tub for their classroom.

* Please note: Students who are eligible for the free or reduced-price lunch program also qualify for free/reduced prices for field trips and other school fees. Students who get free lunch will pay nothing for their recorder, and students with reduced-price lunch will pay 40% of the fee listed, which would be \$2.80. This applies to any music expenses, including the GVVJ T-shirts, where the reduced rate is \$4.80.

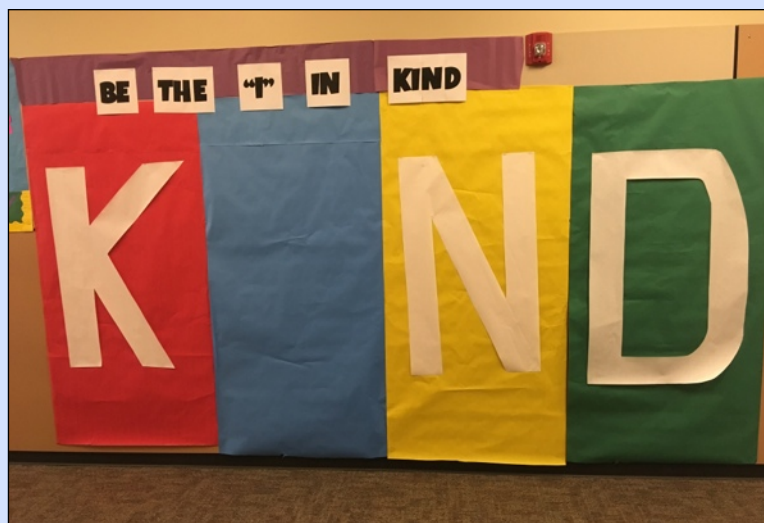
Grass Valley VOCAL JAZZ will begin next week on Wednesday, Sept. 18, for those students in grades three, four and five! Students will report directly to the Music Room after school for rehearsals from 12:15-1:15 p.m. each Wednesday. If your student is interested in joining the choir, please have them pick up the information from the music stand outside of the Music Room – especially the yellow information/registration sheet – so I may communicate clearly with each of you. Also, be certain to contact [Melanie Johnson](#) in the GVE office at 360-833-5710 to change your child's Wednesday dismissal plan. Please be prompt in picking up your child from outside the Music Room on Wednesdays at 1:15!

It is going to be another exciting year of music making at GVE! Thanks for sharing your children with me, and feel free to contact me at any time with questions, comments and/or concerns: natalie.wilson@camas.wednet.edu 360-833-5710, ext. 78100.

Natalie Wilson, music teacher

Scenes from the hall

Students and families have a new photo opportunity in the hallway outside the library. Grass Valley will continue its emphasis on kindness during the school year.



CALENDAR

September/October

16 SEPTEMBER	17 <u>CURRICULUM NIGHT</u> 5 th Gr: 5:15-5:55/Classrooms 3 rd Gr: 6-6:30/Cafeteria 4 th Gr: 6:45-7:30/Cafeteria	18 JAZZ CHOIR 12:15-1:15 PM	19 <u>CURRICULUM NIGHT</u> K: 5:15-5:45/Classrooms 1 st Gr: 5:45-6:15/Cafeteria 2 nd Gr: 6:15-6:45/Classrooms • Payback Book sales end	20 SPIRIT DAY
23	24 SCHOOL PICTURE DAY	25 JAZZ CHOIR 12:15-1:15 PM	26	27 SPIRIT DAY • AUGUST & SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY LUNCH 11:05-12:15
30 Last day to order GVE spirit wear	01 OCTOBER 4 th Gr. Field Trip Clark PUD (Veile/Thorkelson) 9:00-12:30	02 JAZZ CHOIR 12:15-1:15 PM	03 Art Discovery Meeting 9:00 AM, Cafeteria • 4 th Gr. Field Trip Clark PUD (Garcia/Hunting-Knight) 9:00-12:30	04 SPIRIT DAY • 4 th Gr. Field Trip Clark PUD (Stewart) 9:00-12:30
07 PTA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING Cafeteria 9:00 AM • CCE class "Chromebook Clues for Parents" Helen Baller (\$20) 6:30-7:30 PM	08	09 ASSEMBLY 8:20 AM • JAZZ CHOIR 12:15-1:15 PM	10 GRASS VALLEY PTA RAINBOW DASH FUN RUN	11 STATE INSERVICE DAY -NO SCHOOL-
14	15	16 JAZZ CHOIR 12:15-1:15 PM	17 CCE class "Chromebook Clues for Parents" (\$20) Grass Valley 6:30-7:30 PM	18 SPIRIT DAY • PTA FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT Cafeteria, 5:30 PM
21	22 NBA SPIRIT DAY	23 JAZZ CHOIR 12:15-1:15 PM	24	25

CONTACT US

This newsletter is published monthly during the school year by Grass Valley Elementary and the PTA. You can email the newsletter coordinator, Nancy Nilles, at newsletter@gvezebraspta.org. To add email addresses to the mailing list, contact GVE Head Secretary Aileen Hay at 360-833-5710.

• Grass Valley Elementary •

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• Grass Valley PTA •

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