

# Grass Valley ELEMENTARY



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER • OCTOBER 4, 2019



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

## Why we talk so much about kindness

Dear Grass Valley School Community,

Now that we're entering the second month of school, we are hitting our stride: The kids are settled, assessments are finished and teachers are moving forward. I'd like to thank parents and caregivers for helping us get off to a great start by adhering to the expectations for pick-up and drop-off routines. Your cooperation helps things run much more smoothly.

This month I want to circle back to our school-wide emphasis on **kindness**, which I touched on in my September letter. Character education is a big part of our Positive Behavior Intervention Supports (PBIS) program, which strives to maintain a school culture that supports a positive learning environment for all students. As part of a more formalized approach to character education, this year we will continue our focus on one trait that can have a wide-ranging impact: kindness. The program will feature a different aspect of kindness each month, with an assembly at the end of the month to celebrate the theme and introduce the next month's topic. After two years of focusing on kindness, we are making some updates to refresh things for students. The topics this year are:

<b>October</b> – Compassion	<b>March</b> – Courage
<b>November</b> – Generosity	<b>April</b> – Humility
<b>December</b> – Respect	<b>May</b> – Perseverance
<b>January</b> – Responsibility	<b>June</b> – Self-control
<b>February</b> – Optimism	

To read a deeper explanation of each trait and how it relates to kindness, visit the [GVE website](#).

Next Thursday, Oct. 10, we'll be having our annual **PTA Rainbow Dash Fun Run** fundraiser – rain or shine. Each grade level will be asked to wear a different color of the rainbow for this festive event, and families are welcome to come out to watch. See pages 2 and 3 for details.

That same day, **test results for students who took the Smarter Balanced Assessment** in grades three, four and five last year will be sent home in an envelope from school. As you can see from the table on page 5, Grass Valley students did well. These test scores are one way schools in Washington are rated and judged. We do want you to know that our children are much more than a test score. Our test scores are a direct reflection of our hard-working students, our amazing and talented staff and the excellent relationship between school and parents. It is worth celebrating, but these scores are just one piece to the puzzle of each individual student. At Grass Valley we value the whole child, just as you do. All children do not start at the same point and have different routes to high levels of learning.

On Oct. 17 at 10:17 a.m. GVE will join all Camas schools in participating in **the Great Washington ShakeOut** earthquake preparedness drill as part of our safety practice. We'll be sharing more specific information about the drill as the date approaches, so families can understand what we're doing and discuss it at home if they wish. You can also visit the [ShakeOut website](#).

Looking ahead to next month, be sure to note that **conference week is Nov. 4–8, with elementary classes dismissing at 12:10 each day**. The annual fall Scholastic Book Fair will also be held that week in the library (see page 4). There will be an evening available for families that can't attend conferences during the day. Look for more information and signups coming soon from your child's teachers.

Regards,  
Sean McMillan, principal  
Melissa Hutton, associate principal

## October means the Fun Run is here!

We are busy gearing up for our second big fall fundraiser, our annual Fun Run on the track next Thursday at Grass Valley. (After this, we take a long break from fundraising.) The Rainbow Dash theme was so fun last year, we're using it again this year – and we have loads of cool swag for our young runners:

- Every student who returns their pledge sheet (even if it's empty) on or before Oct. 9 will receive a water bottle sticker.
- The grade level that raises the most pledges will win souvenir trucker hats for each student.
- The classroom that raises the most will win cupcakes generously donated by Simply Sweets bakery in Vancouver.
- The top lap-runners in each classroom will earn medals.
- EVERY STUDENT will get a free Fun Run T-shirt, courtesy of Radiance Dental.

To help create our rainbow, each class is encouraged to wear its assigned color (see next page). Other festive rainbow-themed outfits are also welcome.

We are still looking for volunteers to help keep our run going smoothly, so if you have a little time next Thursday, please check out our [signup online](#). Remember, you'll need a current [volunteer clearance](#).



## OTHER HAPPENINGS

### First PTA meeting is Monday

Please joins us for our first general membership meeting this Monday, Oct. 7, at 9 a.m. in the cafeteria. Everyone is welcome.

We'll hear from special guest speaker Doug Hood, Camas School District's director of elementary education. We'll serve light refreshments, and future Zebras are welcome.

### Fall Box Tops drive begins

Our annual October Box Tops collection drive gets under way on Monday and runs through Oct. 25. Send them in a zip-top bag or envelope labeled with your student's name and teacher. As you may have noticed, Box Tops are transitioning to a digital-based format. Visit [boxtops4education.com](http://boxtops4education.com) for digital submission information.

The top class wins the coveted Box Top Trophy. The top class's teacher receives classroom wish list items (up to \$25). We will have another collection campaign in spring.

### Fundraiser set at MOD Pizza

Our first "dine-around" fundraiser is at MOD Pizza on Thursday, Oct. 17. Dine anytime that day and mention you are with Grass Valley Elementary when placing your order. MOD Pizza will donate 20% of sales back to our school!

### Stuff the Bus chair needed

We are looking for someone to chair Stuff the Bus at GVE. This is an annual Camas School District food drive that runs from mid-November through early December. If you're interested, please contact [Amanda Rinesmith](#).

### Round up those Payback books

Just a reminder to check under your couch and car seats for any lurking Payback books! Please remember to send in unsold books with your student to school. They went home in a large white envelope during the first week of September. Thank you!

# Grass Valley PTA RAINBOW Dash FUN RUN

**WHAT:** A fundraiser to help the PTA support our students and staff

**WHEN:** Thursday, Oct. 10

**WHERE:** On the GVE track

**SCHEDULE AND CLASS COLORS:**

8:15-8:45 a.m	fifth grade	red
8:45-9:15 a.m.	fourth grade	orange
10:30-11 a.m.	first grade	blue
12:35-1:05 p.m.	second grade	green
1:05-1:35 p.m.	kindergarten	purple
1:35-2:05 p.m.	third grade	yellow

**VOLUNTEER:** Please check out our [online signup](#) to see if you can help! (Remember, you must have [volunteer clearance](#).)

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Get ready for Fall Book Fair coming soon!

### Hello!

I am so excited to share the news of our upcoming fall book fair. This year's theme is "Arctic Adventure Book Fair." Watch Mr. McMillan and Mrs. Hutton get dressed up in winter wear as we surpass last year's sales of 2,000 books! We thank you ahead of time for your support and enthusiasm for reading. Book fair profits go toward stocking our PTA book cart and buying books for our school library.

### Dates Open: NOVEMBER 4-8

(This is early-release/Parent-Teacher Conference week.)

#### Schedule:

Your child will have the opportunity to visit the book fair during their scheduled library time. There are additional shopping times available throughout the week as well.

#### Hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 8:00 AM-3:00 PM, with special evening hours on **Thursday from 5:00-7:00 PM**. Last-chance shopping is available on Friday from 8:00 AM-12:00 PM.



BOOK FAIR	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.
8:05-8:35	Thorkelson	Hunting	Veile	Stewart	Garcia
8:35-9:05	Obegi	Pachinger	Moke	Schroeder	
9:05-9:35	Sanchez	Hanson	McCoy	Kohler	Cluen
9:35-10:05	Fountain	Wiest	Mueller	Schrom	
10:05-10:35	Keller	Woolfe		Bell	
10:35-11:05	Crone	Dietzen	Crowe	Strawn	

Please be sure to browse through our Scholastic flyers. Just remember that **sales tax is not included** in the prices in the flyers. You can view and make purchases online as well — just find our fair on Scholastic's website. You can also set up an online payment method for your student to use during the fair (see the next page for more information). I look forward to seeing you at the fair!

Sincerely,

**Mrs. Erin Linton, teacher librarian**

## Book fair volunteers needed!

If you love books and kids, consider signing up to help with the Fall Book Fair! We need volunteers to help students find books and calculate costs, as well as to staff the ever-popular table of trinkets and posters. We also need help with setup and cleanup. This is a fun chance to interact with students and browse all the books. Please visit our [Signup Genius](#) to learn more.

Remember, you'll need a current [CSD volunteer clearance](#) to help.

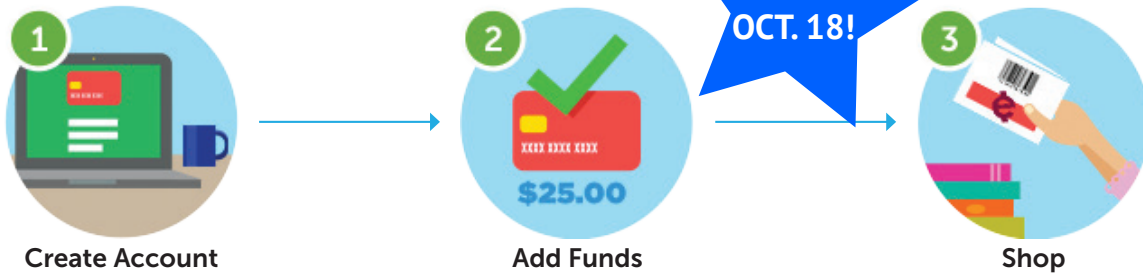
# Our Book Fair has a new digital payment option!



No cash on hand the day of the Book Fair? No worries – Scholastic Book Fairs® is now offering Book Fair eWallet as a new payment option.

Simply set up an account and have funds immediately available for your child to shop the Book Fair. Safe and secure – it's easy shopping with Book Fair eWallet.

## How it Works:



To get started, visit our school's Book Fair homepage:  
[www.scholastic.com/bf/grassvalleyelementaryschool1](http://www.scholastic.com/bf/grassvalleyelementaryschool1)



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## Smarter Balanced Assessment results

2018-2019 ELA Scores (percent passing)			
	Grass Valley	Camas School District	Washington State
Third grade	83.6%	74.3%	55.4%
Fourth grade	83.7%	80.3%	56.9%
Fifth grade	86.5%	79.8%	60.4%
2018-2019 Math Scores (percent passing)			
Third grade	83.6%	77.1%	58.0%
Fourth grade	83.7%	74.8%	54.0%
Fifth grade	77.5%	64.8%	48.3%
2018-2019 Science Scores (percent passing)			
Fifth grade	83.1%	79.5%	53.2%



**Don't forget, there is no school next Friday, Oct. 11.**



GRASS VALLEY PTA PRESENTS  
**FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT**



**When:**  
**FRIDAY, OCT. 18.**  
Doors open at  
5:30, movie starts  
at 6 p.m.

**Where:**  
GVE cafeteria

**Cost:**  
Admission and  
popcorn are free;  
candy is  
\$1 (cash only)



Seating is on the floor, so  
bring your own blankets,  
pillows or low chairs,  
as well as a picnic dinner  
or snacks if you wish.

**PLEASE NOTE:**  
For everyone's safety,  
all children must be  
accompanied by an adult  
for the duration of the  
event.



# Scenes from the hall



Third grade



Second grade



Second grade

Kindergarten





Fourth grade



# CALENDAR

## OCTOBER/NOVEMBER

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 RAINBOW DASH FUN RUN 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade: 8:15-8:45 4 <sup>th</sup> Grade: 8:45-9:15 1 <sup>st</sup> Grade: 10:30-11:00 2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade: 12:35-1:05 Kindergarten: 1:05-1:35 3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade: 1:35-2:05 • Science Olympiad 2:40-3:45 Room 209	11 STATE INSERVICE DAY <b>-NO SCHOOL-</b>
14	15	16 JAZZ CHOIR 12:15-1:15 PM	17 CCE class: "Chromebook Clues for Parents" Grass Valley (\$20) 6:30-7:30 PM • Science Olympiad 2:40-3:45 Room 209 • PTA Dine-Around fundraiser at Mod Pizza	18 <b>PTA FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT</b> Doors open at 5:30 PM, movie starts at 6 PM Cafeteria 
21	22 NBA Spirit Day	23 JAZZ CHOIR 12:15-1:15 PM	24 Science Olympiad 2:40-3:45 Room 209	25
28	29	30 JAZZ CHOIR 12:15-1:15 PM	31 October Birthday Lunch 11:05-12:15 • Science Olympiad 2:40-3:45 Room 209	<b>NOVEMBER</b> 01
04 Book Fair 8 AM-3 PM • Conference Week <b>Early Release</b> (12:10) 	05 Book Fair 8 AM-3 PM • Conference Week <b>Early Release</b> (12:10)	06 Book Fair 8 AM-3 PM • Conference Week <b>Early Release</b> • JAZZ CHOIR 12:15-1:15 PM	07 School Picture Retakes • Book Fair 8 AM-3 PM 5-7 PM • Conference Week <b>Early Release</b> (12:10)	08 Book Fair 8 AM-NOON • Conference Week <b>Early Release</b> (12:10)

• Grass Valley Elementary •

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• Grass Valley PTA •

Visit us at <http://grassvalleypta3665.weebly.com>,  
"like" us on Facebook and  
follow gvezebraspta on Instagram.