

Grass Valley Elementary

School Newsletter • October 8, 2020

From the Principal

Dear Grass Valley school community,

It is hard to believe that we have Zoomed our way through six weeks of school already! It was absolutely WONDERFUL to see you at our supply pickup last Friday and at our curriculum nights. Connecting with you was food for the soul! As we continue to move along and find our way, it is important that you know how much we appreciate our Zebra parents. Thank you for your support!



Last week our superintendent, Dr. Jeff Snell, hosted an online Town Hall event (you can watch a recording of the meeting [here](#)) to share the process for starting live in-person school. We continue to watch our COVID-19 levels, as that is the key to resuming in-person school. An online survey was also sent out to allow families to share their intentions, whether staying fully remote or transitioning to hybrid. If you have not yet completed this [survey](#), please take the time to do so, as this helps inform our planning.

All elementary schools are currently planning for eventual kindergarten small group instruction and a hybrid learning model for grades K-5. Kindergarten small groups are scheduled to be the first back, with 10 students maximum per class. Under the kindergarten small group model, students go to school in A/B cohorts. Those in A cohort attend Monday and Tuesday, while the B cohort attends Thursday and Friday. Wednesday is a remote learning day for students in both cohorts. All students will participate in remote learning during their at-home school days. Hybrid will look the same, except we will have approximately half of each class attending. Be assured that throughout our planning, safety for all is our No. 1 priority.

Cohort A: In-person on-campus instruction M, T; remote W-F
Cohort B: Remote M-W; in-person on-campus instruction Th, F
Fully Remote: Fully remote instruction M-F

We will host a GVE online Town Hall on Tuesday, October 13, from 5:30 to 6 PM to share more details around our planning for a return to in-person learning. A link will be sent to you through ParentSquare. We know you have many questions. You might find some answers from the [Q&A](#) we recently held with

our kindergarten families, and we hope that you can attend the Town Hall next week to learn more and ask any other questions you may have.

As we continue to move deeper into fall, we want to make sure that we continue to stay connected, build relationships and maintain our sense of togetherness as a community. With that in mind, GVE will host a spirit week Oct. 26-30 for a fun change of pace. Stay tuned for more details.

During this time of remote learning we also want to be sure we can connect you to any supports that may be needed. We encourage open two-way communication so we can hear your feedback and continue to improve the learning experience for both students and their families. We know it is not easy and we are in this together. Thank you for taking the time to reach out to your teachers for support. We will be sending more information out in the near future regarding our process this year for conferences, which are normally held in the fall.

We also want to let you know that on Thursday, October 29, CSD is offering an online screening of the documentary "Angst," which focuses on teen anxiety. A link will be posted soon on the district's [All-Student Wellness page](#), which also offers many resources and supports for both students and adults. Our school counselor, Jenna Linerud, has also created a [website](#) with activities, articles, community resources and more. Please reach out to her if you feel the need.

Lastly, We want to share the link to CSD's most recent wellness series event, featuring Portland life coach (and parent) Lael Petersen. This is completely on the mark for all of us as we head into fall. You can find a recording here: [Managing Online Learning: A Survival Guide for Parents](#) (Passcode: spSb.+L3).

Regards,
T. Sean McMillan, principal
Hannah Hartman, associate principal

PTA News

ELECTION AND GENERAL MEETING OCT. 22: We will hold GVE PTA's first general meeting and elect a new president via [Zoom](#) at 5 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 22. Zebra parents Charmaine Lighthouse and Dawn Redmond are running for the position as co-presidents. Note that you must be a paid PTA member to vote on PTA business; however, anyone is welcome to attend our meetings. Use [this link](#) to pay your \$10 annual membership dues via the state PTA's website.



HELP WANTED: We are looking for a few parents interested in helping create a yearbook in this interesting year, as well as people to lead our Art Discovery program. We also have the position of fundraising coordinator open on our board. This role is mostly setting up Dine-Around events right now, so it's an easy introduction to the PTA board, which meets monthly. If you are interested in helping, please email our volunteer coordinator, [Heather](#).

CHIPOTLE FUNDRAISER: We will have a "dine-around" fundraiser from 4 to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 21, at the Chipotle at 915 SE 164th Avenue in Vancouver. Mention our fundraiser when your order and Chipotle will donate a portion of the sale to our PTA. For online/app orders, enter promo code XZFYZG9.

NEW WAY TO SUPPORT TEACHERS: To help families show their appreciation for our hard-working teachers this year, the PTA has set up Amazon Wish Lists for each teacher. To send a gift to your

teachers, simply order it from their list and it will ship directly to the school. You can access the lists via the [PTA website](#), under the Teacher Wish Lists tab of course.

SUPPORT US WHEN YOU SHOP: GVE PTA is now participating in the Fred Meyer Community Rewards program. If you have a store loyalty card, you can choose us as your charity to support us all year! We are also part of the Amazon Smile program. Shop Amazon via smile.amazon.com, type "Grass Valley PTA 3 6 65" as your charity and 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases will be donated to our PTA.

PAYBACK BOOK FUNDRAISER: Our annual Payback Book fundraiser is still going. Sales are all online and ship directly to you. The [books](#) feature coupons for local businesses and cost \$20 each, with \$10 of each sale going to our PTA. To purchase, go to paybackbook.com. Then, click on "Purchase a 20/21 Payback Book," select "Referred by a School or Group? Click here!" and choose our school. Please share this information with friends and family! You can save on shipping by bundling orders.

FUN RUN UPDATE: For those of you wondering about our annual fall student Rainbow Dash Fun Run fundraiser, we are postponing the event and hoping to hold it in the spring if possible.

GVE Student Handbook available

The [2020-21 GVE Student Handbook](#) is now available online. Parents/caregivers, please take some time to review it with your children. You do not need to sign and return the Student Behavior Agreement at this time. Thank you.

There's still time to pick up your new supplies

If you missed the supply pickup last Friday, please stop by the office as soon as possible to get important classroom supplies for your child(ren). Office hours are 8:00 AM to 2:45 PM on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, and 8:00-10:30 AM on Wednesdays.

See our first teacher appreciation prize winners!

The PTA had its first teacher appreciation drawing for three gift cards this week. Watch this [short video](#) to learn who the lucky winners are. Congratulations from the Grass Valley PTA Staff Appreciation Committee, and thanks to everyone who has donated a gift card. We welcome more gift card donations for future raffles – just mail or drop them off at school. We'll have another drawing next month.

Student meal distribution updates

Grab-and-go student meal pickups now run from 8:30 to 11:30 AM on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday at Liberty and Skyridge middle schools. Meals are FREE to all students regardless of income.

They are distributed as follows:

- Monday: 1 meal served per student
- Tuesday: 2 meals served per student
- Wednesday: No meals served
- Thursday: 2 meals served per student
- Friday: 2 meals served per student

Calendar

Friday, October 9: **State In-service Day – No school**

Tuesday, October 13: **GVE Hybrid Learning Online Town Hall with Mr. McMillan, 5:30 PM** (link to come via ParentSquare)

October 26-30: **GVE Spirit Week** (details to come)

Thursday, October 29: **CSD screening of "Angst" documentary** (link to come)

NOTE: You can also find an updating calendar under the "Explore" menu in ParentSquare.

Contact Us

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<http://schools.camas.wednet.edu/grassvalley/>

Grass Valley PTA: Visit us at <http://grassvalleypta3665.weebly.com>,

"like" us on Facebook and follow gvezebraspta on Instagram.



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.