

GRANT WEEKLY BULLETIN

MARCH 5-9

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR MARCH

Tuesday	3/6	4 th Grade STAR Writing Test
Thursday	3/8	Kindergarten Chat with the Principal – 8:45 - Cafeteria Kindergarten, Primary and Upper Chorus Super Concert – 7 PM – Auditorium
Saturday	3/10	District Measure BB Planning Facilities Meeting – SAMOHI – 9-12 Noon
Tuesday	3/13	1 st Grade Chat with the Principal – 8:45 - Cafeteria
Wednesday	3/14	ELAC Meeting – 8:30 AM – Cafeteria PTA Honorary Service Awards – 7 PM – Auditorium
Thursday	3/15	The Jogathon – At Grant School
Tuesday	3/20	2 nd Grade Chat with the Principal – 8:45 - Cafeteria
Thursday	3/22	Stairways to the Stars – 7 PM – Civic Auditorium
Friday	3/23	Stairways to the Stars – 7 PM – Civic Auditorium
Tuesday	3/27	3 rd Grade Chat with the Principal – 8:45 - Cafeteria
Wednesday	3/28	Kindergarten Roundup – 8 AM – Auditorium
		March 31-April 15 Spring Vacation

NEWS, NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

DO YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT'S ON THE STATE TEST FOR YOUR CHILD?... I discovered a website that will give teachers and parents great information to prepare for the state tests that will be given this May. You will learn exactly what areas will be covered and be able to view actual questions from the previous four years of tests. This resource could be used to help students in specific areas. It's a fabulous opportunity to see real questions in grades 2-11, in language arts and math. Here is how you navigate to find the website:

1. www.cde.ca.gov
2. Select "Testing and Accountability"
3. Go to Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR)
4. Select "Program Resources"
5. Select "California Standards Released Questions"
6. Find the appropriate grade level

Good luck.

CHATS WITH THE PRINCIPAL SERIES – ROUND 2... Beginning Thursday, March 8, we will begin our second round of the Chat with the Principal series. All chats begin at 8:45 in the cafeteria.

March 8 – Kindergarten
March 13 – 1st Grade

March 20 – 2nd Grade
March 27 – 3rd Grade

April 17 – 4th Grade
April 24 – 5th Grade

SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING ON FACILITIES MASTER PLAN ...Grant School will be receiving millions in funds to improve our campus. We need your help. The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District invites you to attend a special School Board Meeting on the Facilities Master Plan. The meeting will take place on Saturday, March 10, 2007 from 9 am to 12 noon in the Santa Monica Cafeteria located at 601 W. Pico Blvd in Santa Monica. Free parking is available in the North parking lot near the Technology Building, accessible from Fourth Street via Olympic Boulevard. Big Blue Bus lines serving Samohi include Lines 2,3 and 7. Call 310-451-5444 for more information.

Parents, teachers, students and community members are invited to attend this presentation and discussion of major policies and options for the Facilities Master Plan. Based on input from the Board, District staff and public at this meeting, the Project Team will refine the Facilities Master Plan for public review and Board adoption in Spring 2007. For more information please visit the project website at www.ourschoolplan.com.

CHORUS SUPER CONCERT... Get ready for the trifecta; Kindergarten, Primary and Upper grade choruses will perform on Thursday, March 8, at 7 p.m. Under the direction of Betsy Newell, kindergarten and primary choruses, and Lynn Hall, upper chorus, over 100 students will sing for parents and friends. This is a tribute to our outstanding enrichment program sponsored by PTA. We hope you can join us for an extraordinary evening of singing and fun.

ATTENTION TO ALL THOSE CHILDREN WHO LIKE TO SING...Kindergarten and Primary choruses will begin the last session of the school year. The registration form for both choruses will go out this Friday. Grant's Kindergarten Chorus will begin Wednesday, March 28th, from 2-3 pm and will conclude June 6th. Primary Chorus will start on Wednesday, March 28, and go through June 6, from 3-4 p.m. If you have any questions, please contact Barbara McDonough at 450.2535.

4TH GRADE STATE WRITING TEST...4th Graders will be taking their STAR writing test on Tuesday, March 6. Please give your children rest and extra brain food for them to do well.

SCHOOL TOUR...On Tuesday, March 6, at 9:00 am, all parents who are considering enrolling their children at Grant for the 2007-2008 school year, will have the opportunity to get a tour of Grant and ask any questions you may have about the school or enrollment.

ELAC MEETING...On Wednesday, March 14, our monthly ELAC meeting will take place in the cafeteria beginning at 8:30am. We have much to discuss including the Fiesta de Mayo Carnival, preparing children for state testing, and a special guest, Aida Diaz will speak to the parents about how the school and district help English Language Learners, and Alva Scott from JAMS will speak to parents about the ESL program.

HONORARY SERVICE AWARDS RECOGNIZES OUTSTANDING PARENTS AND TEACHERS...Please join us March 14 at 6:30 p.m. as we honor some very deserving parents and teachers with our annual PTA Honorary Service Awards. Our Honorary Service Award recipients this year are teachers Iris Takahsima, Olivia McDaniel and her husband Sean McDaniel, and parents David Gordon, Nancy Gutierrez, Olivia McDaniel, Sean McDaniel, Alex & Tracey Mebane, Kathleen Micham, Judy Stocker, Collette & Michael Storms and Joan Von Hermann. Childcare will be provided. Don't miss this night.

PTA MEETING...There will be a PTA meeting on March 14th, following the Honorary Service Award presentations. Items of business include a proposed Booster Club contribution to our new sound system in the auditorium and the presentation of the PTA slate of officers for 2007-2008.

THE JOGATHON IS COMING MARCH 15TH!...After our enthusiastic Jogathon Kickoff where almost 700 students heard about all the prizes and staff members wore the 2007 Jogathon T-shirt, it's now time to look at the Jogathon packet that went home today and sign up Jogathon sponsors. Last year we made almost \$47,000. This year's motto is..."Grant O'Jogathon 2007 – The Mean Green Jogging Machine."

THURSDAY, MARCH 28...KINDERGARTEN ROUNDUP...The high school graduating class of 2020 (wow!), has Kindergarten Roundup on Thursday, beginning at 8 a.m. All new kindergarten parents for next year should attend this important orientation. We will talk about kindergarten and Grant School, answer questions, pass out information and give a school tour. Most importantly, registration packets will be handed out and appointment times given. If you have any questions please call the office for information.

FIESTA DE MAYO CARNIVAL & SILENT AUCTION...Our biggest party of the year is less than three months away. The date is May 19th. If you would like to be involved with the planning of these events, for CARNIVAL please contact Jennifer Lax 310-392-7886 and for SILENT AUCTION please contact Elizabeth Kruis 310-399-2232.

WE NEED YOU!...If you are interested in being on the PTA Board for 2007-2008 or if there is a particular event you would like to chair, we want to hear from you. Please contact Becky Turk at 310-581-4909. We need your involvement to keep Grant great.

ACCIDENTS DO HAPPEN...Parents, we need shorts, pants, new underwear and sweatpants for children ages 5-10. Sometimes a child needs a change of clothes and we do not have a pair of pants to let him/her wear. We prefer the pants with elastic waistbands. If you can donate any pants please bring them to the nurse's office. Thanks.

SCHOOLS RULE ...Great job Geckos! Please continue to log all of your receipts at Westside Pavilion and Santa Monica Place. If it is more convenient, please leave them in the office and we will log them for you. Thanks!

STUDENT IN THE NEWS...Congratulations to Olivia Hosbein! She has been selected to attend the L.A. Clippers Read to Achieve Community Kids Block Party. She accomplished this by completing more than 300 hours of exercise from October to December 2006 through the Clippers Fitness Program.

GECKO PATROL – PARENTS HELP, TOO...Many, many thanks to Carlos Artavia, Norm Ellis, Jim Bernstein, Cecilia Jones, Michael Cohen-Scali, and Wendy Lowery for helping our Gecko Patrol morning drop-off service and for staffing the security table at the front of the school every week. We couldn't do it without you!

PARKING LOT SAFETY ISSUES...Parents, please read and follow the parking regulations at the front of the school. The school bus drop-off area has been blocked by parents who are parking in the at the bus zone at the wrong time thereby, endangering our students during drop-off. Please park only in the designated allowable areas. Courtesy, respect, fairness, caring and good citizenship are among the pillars of character we teach the children. Students emulate what their parents exhibit in and out of the home. Please help us in the yard, in the parking lot and wherever you are visible to the children.