

GRANT WEEKLY BULLETIN

SEPTEMBER 14, 2009

SPIRIT DAY – SATURDAY – 9:00-3:00 PM

HERE WE GO!...Three days into the school year and it feels like we never left. Over the month of September there will be 12 parent meetings (PTA, ELAC, Parent Learning Resource Network, GAC, Booster Club, 5th Grade Parent Meeting, African American Student Parent Group, Green Geckos, 2 Back to School Nights and the Parent Volunteer Orientation) held at Grant! Our campus will shine after Saturday's Spirit Day. The teachers have been working very hard preparing their classrooms, analyzing test results and helping write a new Progressive Discipline Policy the will feature easy to remember school expectations and corresponding consequences. The first week saw over 650 Grant Geckos return from a long summer vacation ready to greet old friends and meet new ones. The year will feature a commitment from the staff to make those personal connections with kids that help them feel recognized and heard. We are extremely proud of the energy from all parents as six different parent groups work overtime to create the type of school environment that all of you have come to expect at Grant. So here's to a great year. We need all of you to be part of your child's education.

- New Teachers: Jaclyn Wiseman – Primary SDC-IS, Rachel Smith – 4th Grade
- Long Term Subs: Theresa Lee– replaces Nancy Ramsey for the first semester
- Instructional Assistants: Irene Garcia and Sandra Treto – Kindergarten Instructional Aides,
- Psychologists: Pam Nugent and Kris Vegas

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR SEPTEMBER

Saturday	9/12	Spirit Day 9:00-12:00 Noon; Grant Family Picnic 12-3 PM
Monday	9/14	Kindergarten Begins Full Day: 8:24-1:45 pm Room Rep Meeting: 7 pm – Library
Tuesday	9/15	Green Geckos Meeting – 7 PM – Library
Wednesday	9/16	ELAC Meeting – 8:30 AM Minimum Day: Kindergarten: 8:24-12:15 1st-5th - 8:24-1:15 Back to School Night: Pre K-2nd - 6:45-8:30 pm – Auditorium
Thursday	9/17	African American Student Parent Group Meeting – 6 PM - Library
Tuesday	9/22	Gift Wrap Kickoff Assembly: Times TBA
Wednesday	9/23	Parent Learning Resource Network (PLRN) Meeting 8:30 AM Minimum Day: Kindergarten: 8:24-12:15, 1st-5th - 8:24-1:15 pm Back to School Night: 3rd-5th - 6:45-8:30 pm – Auditorium
Monday	9/28	School Holiday
Tuesday	9/29	5 th Grade Parent Meeting – “Planning the 5 th Grade Year” – 7 PM
Wednesday	9/30	Parent Volunteer Orientation - 8:45 AM – Auditorium Booster Club Meeting - 7 PM – Library

FIRST DAY PACKET...Each student should have brought home an envelope with numerous forms and information for you to review. Some of the papers are informational, while others require you to read and sign. We know it's a bit overwhelming, but we ask you to take your time and fill out all forms and return to your child's teacher. PTA membership, E-packet/School Directory, student's rights and other items are included.

BIG EVENTS FOR SEPTEMBER

GET IN THE SPIRIT!...Grant Spirit Day and Family Picnic, Saturday, September 12th, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Cleanup 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Bring your cleaning supplies, garden tools, or even an extra broom and help us spruce up the campus. We have plenty of projects for the whole family including scrubbing, pulling weeds, painting, and organizing. Your teacher may even have classroom specific projects. Pepperdine University will be providing 25 college volunteers to help spruce up Grant School.

Grant Family Picnic 12 p.m. - 3 p.m. Bring a picnic and your bikes, scooters, Frisbees, and footballs and enjoy an afternoon of family fun on the big yard. Helmets are required for bikes, skateboards and scooters. Grant PTA will provide drinks and dessert.

CALLING ALL ROOM REPS...If you are interested in helping you child's teacher, classmates, and fellow parents, then become a Room Representative. Come sign up and learn about the fun you will have at the Room Rep meeting on Monday, September 14th in the library. The meeting starts at 7 pm **RSVP Michelle Peffer at Peffer/mpeff2@gmail.com.**

BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT THIS WEDNESDAY FOR PRIMARY GRADES...This is just a heads up that Back to School Night is coming. The Pre K-2nd Back to School Night will be Wednesday, September 16, and the 3rd-5th grade Back to School Night is Wednesday, September 23rd. The general parent meeting will begin at 6:45 p.m., and teacher presentations will follow at 7:30 p.m. A special day class and resource class presentations will precede the general parent meeting at 6:00 p.m. Both days are minimum days for all kids. Kindergarten will be 8:24-12:15, and grades 1-5, will be 8:24-1:15. There will be childcare provided for the Pre K, Kindergarten to Second Grade Back to School Night only.

ENGLISH LEARNERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ELAC) INVITES YOU TO ITS FIRST MEETING...The English Learners Advisory Committee (ELAC) parent group invites you to our first parent support meeting of the school year. Wednesday, September 16th, at 8:30am in room 2. Come check out our new parent room, meet other Spanish-speaking parents, and find out about the exciting school year ahead. Special guest CREST will help you sign up for after school activities and answer questions. Our bilingual Community Liaison, Elena Uliantzeff, coordinates the Grant ELAC. For more information you can call her at (310) 450-7684 ext. 147.

Los invitamos a participar en la primera reunion para padres ELAC de este año escolar. Este miercoles, 16 de septiembre en el salon 2 nuestro nuevo lugar para padres. Conozcan a otros padres que hablan español, nuestro invitado especial será CREST.

GREEN TIP OF THE WEEK...The first Green Gecko meeting for year is coming up on Tuesday, September 15, at 7 p.m. in the Parent Room (Room 2). Please join us and hear what we have planned at Grant this year and help us achieve our goals. We hope to see some new faces there. Thanks. The Green Geckos

PARENT VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION...On Wednesday, September 30th, at 8:45 a.m., all parents planning to volunteer in the classroom, on the playground, in the library, the cafeteria or the office are cordially invited to the Grant Parent Volunteer Orientation. We will discuss the opportunities to volunteer during the day, your responsibilities, and what you need to do to qualify (TB test, forms) to volunteer at Grant. Our goal is to have every parent give a minimum of 10 hours to the school this year.

THE ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN... has begun. Please take time to read the periwinkle letter (with donation envelope attached), which you received in your first day packet. Your Annual Donation funds the following expenditures: Kindergarten and Primary Aides, Supplemental Specialists, Educational Assemblies and Program-Enhancing Field Trips, Reading Specialists, Communications, Instructional Supplies and Equipment, Campus Cleaning, Maintenance, and Refurbishment, and Academic Enrichment and Assistance and much, much more! Whether you are able to give ten dollars or several thousand dollars, your tax-deductible donation will significantly help us achieve these objectives. Please dig deeply and give what you can! Fill out the Annual Giving Campaign envelope with your donation, writing a check to Grant Booster Club, or using a major credit card. Installment payments are also easy! Your donation can be dropped off in the Annual Giving Box in the office, or posted. Donor families will be thanked in the Gazette. Donors of \$1000 and over will be invited to a special donor's event in late fall. Each donation is appreciated; all children benefit from your contribution. Please contact Patti Braun, Booster Club President at pattibraun@aol.com with questions. Thank you so much for your generosity!

JOIN CUB SCOUTING!...Do you enjoy camping, hiking, playing games, learning new skills, and having lots of fun? Then come check out Grant's own Cub Scout Pack 12. Our first pack meeting of the school year will be Thursday, September 17th at 6:30p.m. in the Grant School cafeteria. First graders are invited to join and form new dens, and boys in all grades are invited to join our existing dens. Stop by our table at Back to School night on September 16th to find out more, or call Rich Turk at 310-581-4909.

REQUEST FOR REASSIGNMENT OF A STUDENT OR, "THE DANCE OF THE TRANSFER"

Each year we receive a few requests from parents for their children to be transferred to another class. Here is the six-step procedure that you'll need to follow:

1. Stay calm. Somehow your child will survive.
2. Give the class a chance. Sometimes initial disappointment is replaced by the making of new friends, an exciting curriculum and a teacher that seems a little nicer than rumors would have had your child believe.
3. Make an appointment to talk with the teacher. If you have concerns, perhaps they can be alleviated through a parent/teacher conference.
4. **Beginning Monday, September 28th**, if you are still not satisfied, you may fill out a formal request stating the academic and social reasons for your transfer request.
5. Set up an appointment with the principal and teacher to discuss your concerns.
6. Stay calm.

Due to the new class configurations we must stay flexible the first several days of school. It is very important that you understand that no changes will be made until the aforementioned steps have been taken. Our number one goal is to create academically and socially balanced classes that meet the requirements of gender equity, diversity, behavior issues, leadership and parent support. Your patience and understanding are truly appreciated.

BELL SCHEDULES...Here are the bell schedules for the school year. Late Start Fridays will be September 5th. On Monday, September 8, all kindergarten classes will revert to the regular day schedule. Please note that school begins one minute earlier this year.

Regular Day
Minimum Day
Late Start Fridays

Kindergarten: 8:24-1:45
Kindergarten: 8:24-12:15
Kindergarten: 9:44-1:45

1st-5th Grades: 8:24-2:50
1st-5th Grades: 8:24-1:15
1st-5th Grades: 9:44-2:50