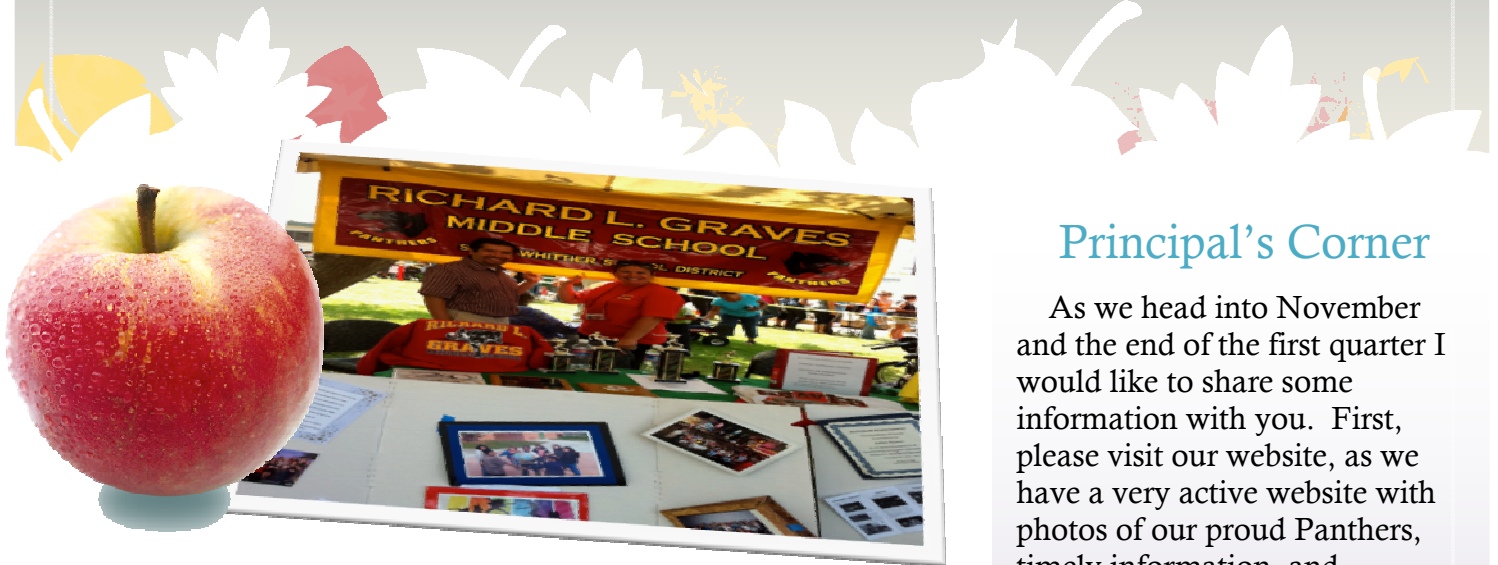


OCTOBER 2011

the

Graves Middle School

School Newsletter



Principal's Corner

As we head into November and the end of the first quarter I would like to share some information with you. First, please visit our website, as we have a very active website with photos of our proud Panthers, timely information, and homework assignments for your children's classes. The website also has all of the staff and teachers' email addresses so you can communicate with us whenever you would like to.

I would also like to encourage you to create an ABI Parent Portal account so you can check your child's daily attendance, check their homework assignments, check their grades, and their grades on individual assignments. I also want to encourage you to call the school if you would like to meet with a teacher, an administrator, or another staff member. At GMS we have an open door policy.

Come see the difference at GMS!

Direct Interactive Instruction

The teachers at Graves Middle School are receiving a significant amount of training from Action Learning Systems (ALS) on Direct Interactive Instruction (DII), so DII can guide our school's daily instructional practice. DII is a four-pronged approach to teaching students effectively; the four parts include using State Standards and measurable objectives during each lesson so that our kids are learning what the state of

Save the Date!

First Quarter Ends

Nov. 2, 2011

The 1st quarter ends Wed., Nov. 2nd.

Grade reporting is Fri., Nov. 4th.

Parent Conferences

Nov. 14-18, 2011

We'll have minimum days from Mon. 14th-Fri. 18th for conferences.

No School

Nov. 21-25, 2011

There will be no school the whole week, enjoy the holidays.

Direct Interactive Instruction Continued

California has deemed necessary for our kids to learn. Our teachers tell the kids about the State Standards and the lesson objective every day so that our kids know where we are headed as a school.

The second component is lesson structure and sequence. This means that our teachers use a well planned lesson where the teacher determines what students already know about the subject, then the teacher shows our kids how to do the problem, then they practice it together, then the students do it by themselves with support from the teacher. Finally, the teacher assesses students' understanding, and then summarizes the lesson. Solid lesson planning is critical to good instruction.

The next part of DII is the teacher managing the classroom proactively and effectively. In order to do this the teacher circles the classroom to be sure that kids are on-task and learning.

The final aspect of DII is student engagement, feedback, and correctives. When students enjoy what they are learning, they don't generally misbehave. Interaction and engagement are two keys to students understanding the class content.



The DII Teacher Training Process

Our teachers received training either last year or during the summer about how to incorporate DII into their instructional program. Then there were demonstrations by department by ALS coaches in some of our classrooms with GMS kids. Then our teachers had one-on-one support from our ALS coaches in our classrooms, with our lessons, and with our kids. All of this is to support our teachers in their use of DII. Another aspect is that Dr. Fraijo and an ALS Accountability Coach visit the classrooms to ensure that DII is taking place at GMS. This very thorough Professional Development process is making a difference for our kids. Great instruction, student effort, and parent support help kids meet their potential.





After School Sports: Football and Volleyball

Our after school sports program is off to a fast start this year at GMS. We have 7th grade and 8th grade co-ed football teams. Our football teams have battled Dexter, Edwards, and Granada. The games have been close and hard fought, as we have used our speed to battle our opponents. Unfortunately, our game against East Whittier was cancelled due to the heat; but I'm sure we would have won. Our coaches and students look forward to continuing to sharpen their skills as they play additional games.

We also have 7th and 8th grade co-ed volleyball teams. Our volleyball teams have battled Dexter, Edwards, Granada, and Rancho Starbuck (East Whittier was cancelled). Most of our games were close, but our 8th grade team has shown dominance, especially when they destroyed Rancho Starbuck. We have upcoming games scheduled with Parks, Los Nietos, North Park, Lake Center, and Hillview. Thank you to our parents for coming out en masse to support your kids and GMS.

