

A P R I L 2 0 1 2

Graves Middle School

School Newsletter



Principal's Corner

This month I want to share information with you about our band program. I think you will be impressed with our music education program and how it is preparing our kids for high school, college, and beyond.

But I also wanted to share with you about a recent visit we had at GMS. We had the privilege of being visited by Mr. Vernon Billy, the recently appointed Executive Director of the California School Board Association (CSBA). I was able to give Mr. Billy a campus tour and visit some classes with him, his assistant, School Superintendent Dr. Kwek, and Board Members Jan Baird and Sharon Stys. Mr. Billy said he was impressed with our beautiful campus and with the level of instruction at Graves Middle School. This generous affirmation from the Executive Director of a statewide organization was very nice. As I have said before, "Come see the difference at Graves Middle School!"

Band Program

The band program at Graves Middle School has had a lot of success under the leadership of our band conductor, Mr. Nordquist. As many of you know, Mr. Nordquist is also the band conductor at California High School. The Panthers who continue their music education at California High School have a distinct advantage because Mr. Nordquist does an outstanding job of preparing them for high school music education.

Save the Date!

Academic Advisory

4/5/12

Students will receive their 3rd quarter grades. So look out for your child's advisory card.

Easter/Spring Break

April 6th-13th

There is no school from Friday, April 6th through Friday, April 13th. School resumes April 16th.

School Site Council

4/18/12

Join us for the SSC meeting in the Parent Center from 2:50-3:50 pm.

GMS Panthers #1



Our kids were pumped up and dazzled the judges. Of the 22 bands from several schools (both middle school and high school) that performed we were one of only six bands (California High School was another) that received a Superior rating.

The Whittier Festival was no fluke, as some of our Beginning Band students and our Advanced Band students traveled to Excelsior Adult School in Norwalk for the Hutchinson Festival on March 29th and received a unanimous Superior rating once again. Like the first time, they had to sight read unfamiliar music and they impressed the judges again. Our Panthers are performing at high levels after just two years of music education, whereas most other schools are 6th-8th grade and have three years to prepare. The preparation our kids receive and the success they have sets our band program apart, so come see the difference at Graves Middle School!



Band Program continued

As you already know, we have a Beginning Band and an Advanced Band at Graves. Our kids work very hard and are committed to the band program at GMS. Their hard work and dedication has paid off recently, as they have performed very well at two recent festivals and received tremendous accolades.

The Advanced Band traveled to Whittier High School on March 6th for a festival and they received unanimous Superior ratings (which is the highest rating a band can receive) from the judges for their performance. One of the things that makes their accomplishment so remarkable is that they had to sight read unfamiliar music and perform for the judges.



Panthers Start the Spring Season

Our Spring Sports Program has begun and our boys' soccer and our girls' basketball teams have a few wins under their belts. Our 8th grade boys' soccer team got out to a fast start with wins over Edwards and Dexter, but they lost to Los Nietos and Rancho Starbuck, and they tied Parks. The league is very competitive at the 8th grade level this year, so our boys look forward to battles against Lake Center, Hillview, and other league opponents. The 7th grade boys' soccer team has done well too, as they beat Dexter, Edwards, and Los Nietos, tied Parks, and lost to Rancho.

The 8th grade girls' basketball team is on fire, as they are 5-0 and undefeated in league play. They have victories over Edwards, Dexter, Los Nietos, Parks, and Rancho. The 8th grade girls are a tall and talented team that plays tough defense and shuts down their opponents. They look forward to upcoming games against Lake Center and Hillview. The 7th grade girls' basketball team had success against Los Nietos and Parks, but lost to a good Rancho team. The 7th grade girls also play tough defense and are coming together on the offensive end. They are ready to take on Lake Center and Hillview and other league opponents. We want to encourage you to come out and support our Panthers as they fight for the league title. Go GMS!!!

