

Graves Middle School

School Newsletter



Principal's Corner

Alas, winter has rolled in at GMS, so I wanted to share a few thoughts with you about this school year. First, you will hear about our new Olweus Anti-Bullying program and our Sprigeo website for reporting bullying anonymously. We are proud of these things and we know they have made a difference for our campus. Also, we had a visit from a state agency (Federal Program Monitoring-FPM), so I wanted to share their findings with you.

As you may know, GMS receives state compensatory education funding known as EIA and federal money known as Title I, so we are audited every few years to ensure that we are complying with state and federal rules and that we are providing a good education to our students. GMS was audited and the state team found that we are compliant and they had great things to say about GMS. They said we have great kids and staff and they really loved our school. Kudos to our staff and students!

Olweus Anti-Bullying Program

As many of you know, GMS has implemented the Olweus Anti-Bullying program this year. Olweus is a nationally and internationally used anti-bullying program that has proven results for decreasing bullying in schools. The GMS leadership team received training last year, trained the staff this past summer, and implemented the program this year. Teachers and students have weekly meetings on Mondays to discuss how to prevent bullying at Graves. Our teachers use the powerful Olweus

Save the Date!

Parent/Teacher Conferences	No School	School Site Council
February 12th-15th Please make an appointment with your child's teachers. Minimum day schedule, students released at 1:20 pm	Feb. 11th & 18th No school these two days for Lincoln's birthday & Presidents' Day, enjoy your time off!	February 13th Join us for the SSC meeting in the Parent Center from 2:50-4:30 pm.

Write ELL Training for English/Reading Teachers

Our language arts and reading intervention teachers are receiving training this year to help our English Learners improve their writing. However, we have found that the training and strategies have been good for all of our kids. Graves was fortunate enough to receive a grant from UC Davis and West Ed. (an ed. research organization) that allows our teachers to receive free training and materials for writing instruction. We have had their trainers come to GMS to provide the training to our E/LA and reading intervention teachers this year.

Thus far the training has been excellent, as it has given our teachers great instructional strategies and ideas that help all of our students (not just our students who are learning English) learn how to write better. Our English Learners are also using the Rosetta Stone English Language Development program too. We can see the improvement already!



Olweus program continued

curriculum to empower students to help end bullying at our school. As many of you know, we also added a website known as Sprigeo (it is linked on our school website) where students can report bullying anonymously from the privacy of their home or web enabled device.

Although we found out that last year that only about 10% of our kids dealt with any type of bullying, we wanted to end bullying at GMS. As a result, the campus has a very calm feel this year. We feel that it has really helped our kids to know that they are safe at Graves and that bullying will not be tolerated. It has also given our kids the opportunity to get to know each other and their teachers on a more personal basis. We have had far fewer incidents of bullying this year and we have only had a few reports on Sprigeo. The Olweus program and Sprigeo have made a difference at Graves.



Winter Sports Winding Down

Our winter sports program is winding down the season and our 8th grade teams are gearing up for the end of season tournaments. Our 7th and 8th grade boys' basketball teams have fought tooth and nail and had some exciting wins, but they also experienced some tough losses. Our 8th grade boys' basketball team experienced an exciting come from behind win against East Whittier on the road earlier this season. Our 7th grade boys' basketball team had a great second half and soundly defeated Los Nietos for an impressive win at home. The coaches have worked very hard with our kids this year and their improvement has shown. Good luck 8th graders in the tournament!

Our 7th and 8th grade girls' soccer teams have also had some exciting skirmishes this season. The 8th graders have had many solid wins with only one loss thus far. We are proud of our 8th graders for their awesome season and wish them good luck in the tournament. Our 7th grade team has battled closely and had some impressive wins this year. They had a very strong showing against Los Nietos, as they won at home 4-0. Congrats girls, you have a solid foundation for next year. We want to thank all of the coaches for their great effort and long hours, our kids for their good sportsmanship and great effort, and our families for supporting their kids' sports and academic endeavors and the school too. We look forward to girls' basketball and boys' soccer, fight on Graves Middle School!

