

Principal's Message...

We are looking forward to an exciting second semester at Goleta Valley Junior High School. I have been spending a great deal of time speaking with staff, students, parents at our school, and parents at elementary schools in and outside of our area. Each of the meetings I have attended reinforced my belief that GVJH is the best place for students to make the important transition from 6th grade to high school. Check out our six year plan, grades and events online at gvjh.org. One of the reasons GVJH is such a great place includes our incredible staff.

Our teachers are diligently working to give each of our students the tools to find success in the classroom and on campus. Now that we have entered the 2nd Semester, several aspects of academic and social discipline become paramount to every student's success. Character Themes of Respect and Responsibility have been a guiding Mariner theme. Our House program also is in full swing with the Golden Viking's House in the lead this quarter earning the most points and celebrating with a BBQ at lunch. We continue to celebrate quarterly the following awards:

- **Mariner Award** 'caught you doing a good deed'.
- **Teacher's Choice**: academic and/or social.
- **Attendance**: be at school and on time.
- **Sportsmanship**: do your best and try your hardest.
- **Best Athlete**: consistent athletic performance
- **Students on target for 'National Junior Honor Society'**

Our teachers are doing an excellent job of preparing and reminding students of these facts; however, our teachers need your help. You have the tough job of helping your son or daughter maintain a successful path throughout his or her remaining years of school. This includes academic and social concerns – and as the spring approaches, these concerns usually take on a more intense focus.

With this stage of the school year in mind, I am encouraging parents and students – reminding each person of the importance of open communication and a focused effort to find success at home and at school. We have a multitude of interventions at GVJH please take advantage of them from: Homework Center at lunch, Library open before school, during lunch, and after school; Computer Lab; Weekly Progress Reports; and Teachers, Counselors and Administrators who are readily available.

The weeks following February 23rd will focus on Diversity and Equity Awareness. Students viewed the 'Tak for Alt' video in their Social Studies classes and had an Assembly with holocaust survivor and civil right's activist Judith Meisel. Have you see the 44 colorful flags representing our diverse staff and student body in our cafeteria? Our anti-bias focus addresses issues of anti-bullying in race, religion, ethnicity, gender, age and disabilities with the aim of making schools and communities more inclusive. On March 19th we will host our Science Fair displaying the exciting projects 8th grade students have been working on. In April we will be celebrating our 'International Faire' sponsored by our Social Studies department. We are looking for support and ideas from

our community as we organize this exciting event. Specifically, parent volunteers, food contributions, talent and entertainment.

Our California Standards Star Testing window is April 20th to 30th. Please be sure your child gets plenty of rest, eats a good breakfast, and comes to school prepared to do their best. Our teachers have prepared them well with knowledge and test taking strategies to be successful.

GVJH is not only one of the best schools in our area; it is one of the best schools in California. Our Math Counts placed 1st once again as they have for the past several years. We finished a successful Spelling Bee as well. Over 300 students performed in the String's Festival and our Music Outreach program is in full swing thanks to Mr. Peterson. Drill Team recently performed at lunch and at SBCC. . Currently, students are rehearsing for our upcoming spring performance for 'Pirates of Penzance' and 'Talent Show'. Come see our talented students April 17th, 18th, and 19th. Our teachers love working with junior high school students and it shows.

Academically, now is the time to begin asking focused questions about homework and other major assignments for the core academic classes. Check out our website where a 100% of our teachers have an updated web page and important information can be downloaded. On a final note we at Goleta Valley Junior High are here in a mutual partnership to make each student experience success.

Go Mariners!
Veronica J. Rogers
Principal