

# Fall 2008 Newsletter

Principal's Message... Veronica J. Rogers

Congratulations on a successful first progress report! Our student numbers have increased with an enrollment of 840 students. We had a wonderful turn out for Back to School Night as well as Latino Night. Thank you for your support.

Please help your student stay organized and avoid the paper chase by helping them weed through their backpack each week. All students should have a binder and an agenda and are expected to write their assignments down to keep track of important deadlines. At home a quiet study area and a specific study time agreed on by parents and students can make a big difference, because an organized student is ready for success.

The following interventions and services are available for students who would like additional help or get a head start on getting their homework done:

- The Homework Center is also available Monday-Thursday in room 308 during lunch and everyday after school in the Library.
- Math Lab tutoring is available by request of parent, teacher, or administrator during period 7 (2:35-3:24). Please contact your student's math teacher or counselor for more information.
- Conferencing between parents and teachers is a good way to get a clear picture of what is happening in the classroom. Teachers can be reached via email or voice mail.
- Weekly Friday Progress Reports are also available through the counseling office.
- Students needing additional intervention will be referred to our Instructional Support Period (ISP).
- On Late Start Thursdays students can get additional support and tutoring help in the café.

We have several new faces on campus. We have hired new Math and Literacy Coaches: Ms. Bukenica, Mr. Scheuerman, Mr. Abel, Ms. Burley, and Ms. Hernandez. So our students should be getting a lot of personal attention and tutorial help.

This year's Healthy Kid's Survey will be administered in 7th grade Science classes before the Thanksgiving break. This survey is available in the school office and can be viewed in advance by parents. The survey is required in order to receive various extra State and Federal funding for local tobacco and drug prevention programs. This anonymous survey, unless you object to your student taking it, will provide our school and district with greater knowledge about risks facing youth as well as help us maintain a safe school

environment. Through this grant students have also been receiving Life Skills Training in their Health or PE classes.

The SSC is an important group responsible for developing and approving the School Site Plan, allocating funds for the School Improvement Program, Limited English Proficiency Program, and Title 1 expenditures. We still have one parent position to fill. We meet the fourth Wednesday of the month at 2:45 in the library. Parents are always welcome.

I believe the Parent-Teacher-Student Association (PTA) English Language Acquisition Program (ELAC) is the foundation of our school. Please join our membership drive and Make a Difference campaign. Your involvement makes a significant impact on our overall success. Also, a key source for school information is the monthly PTA "Mariner" Newsletter. It is available via our website from September to June. If you do not have access to the Internet, we do have a computer for your use in the school office, as well as hard copies are made available.

On a final note, please check your student's GVJH Academic Portfolio on the first page of their Agenda where Quarterly Grades, Standardized Test Data, Benchmark Data, Student Goals and Reflections of their Academic Progress can be reviewed. I am so proud of all we do together to make Goleta Valley such a great school as we continue to do what is in the best interests of our students.

Respectfully,

Veronica J. Rogers