

May/June PTA Newsletter...

As the 2007-2008 school year comes to a close we are very proud of all the honors and awards our Goleta Valley Junior High School students are receiving. Congratulations! You deserve to be recognized for all of your hard work and effort.

- Our GV Scientist's brought home the gold at the Science Fair with our students taking home a majority of the medals. Several students are now going on to state championships.
- Our Math Counts Team won first place in the regional competition with many of our 7th and 8th grade teams also placing in state ranking.
- Our International Fair put on by the Social Studies department was a huge success with cultural performances and booths through the week, culminating in a huge food court on Friday. Thank you Teachers, GV community and PTA for coming together in providing dishes and serving.
- Over 365 7th and 8th grade students will be recognized at our National Junior Honor's Society awards celebration on May 29th. These students have maintained a 3.5 grade point average for multiple semesters with no N's or U's in citizenship and work habits.
- Students will also be recognized at an 8th grade Awards Celebration on May 22nd given by departments, principal, and community partnerships. 100 8th grade students will receive Presidential Awards at promotion. Congratulations! We still have yet to see which House will win the Mariner's Cup!
- Our monthly award winners have grown as well with many students getting recognition for: Mariner, Teacher's Choice, Sportsmanship, Reading, Attendance.
- Our Advanced Band will be competing for 1st place in this year's Disneyland Magic Music Days.
- GVJH students have also brought home the first place trophy in the Dos Pueblos Jazz Festival.
- Our Drill Team performed at the fairgrounds during the fair.
- GVJH will be recognized as a NO PLACE FOR HATE school for the fifth year in a row, and receiving awards from the Anti-Defamation League and our local Assemblyperson, Hannah-Beth Jackson

Mr. Peterson and our band students have also had a successful year. Many of our students also performed at area high schools. Goleta Valley Junior High School is quickly becoming a Performing Arts magnet in the Santa Barbara area. Mr. Peterson continues to teach strings to over 40 students in the Goleta Union School district, culminating in a combined elementary-junior high school performance later in March. Additionally, our campus will host a performing arts camp through Stage Left Productions this summer and a strings camp for elementary and junior high school students preparing for the Goleta Valley Junior High School orchestra. I'm excited about our school continuing its strong tradition of performing arts during the summer months and throughout the years.

This list doesn't cover all the great things that are happening at Goleta Valley Junior High – which means that you attend one of the best schools in California! Congratulations to each student who set a classroom and/or physical fitness goal and achieved it. Remember, you don't have to win an award to feel good about the things you

do at GVJH. Set a goal and try as hard as you can to reach it; it will pay off in the long run.

Our school is great because of our teachers, our students, and our parents. Goleta Valley Junior High School is a parent-friendly campus, welcoming the incredible involvement of parents all over campus. We have parents consistently helping in classrooms and the library, behind the scenes with homework and tutoring help, providing items for the monthly luncheons, supporting penny, book and food drives, and most importantly, helping their children with homework and assignments. As a parent, your role becomes increasingly important as your son or daughter grows older. One way to remain involved at home is to ask questions about your child's life at school. Here are a few crucial questions to ask throughout the year:

1. What is your child's favorite subject, and what is your child's most challenging subject?
2. What are your child's learning strengths and weaknesses?
3. Who are your child's friends at school?
4. What are his/her symptoms of stress?
5. Does your child know how much you value education?

Your attitude and beliefs about the importance of school and an appreciation of our diversity has the greatest effect on your child's outlook and behaviors. The GVJH community is a special place. Teaching and learning, leadership, athletics, performing arts, clubs, and many other things define the 2-year experience that prepare our students for life in high school and beyond. Our students are a reflection of both their experience on campus and their families. Without the help of parents, our school wouldn't be where it is today. We have a wonderful involved PTA and school community. Helping can be as easy as spending a lunch hour with us, baking goodies for PTA events, or helping the Beautification Committee improve our campus. Thank you for all of your help and support this school year. Working together we really can make a difference.

See you around school!

Veronica J. Rogers
Principal