

Principal's Rogers New Year Message...

Wishing everyone in our Goleta Valley Jr. High community a Happy, Healthy, and Safe New Year in 2010! 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. Our rigorous academic programs, talented music and performing arts departments, industrious technology programs, and athletes that exhibit sportsmanship provide excellent opportunities for our students. Check out our six year plan, grades, and upcoming events online at gvjh.org. One of the reasons GVJH is such a great place includes our incredible Staff, PTA, and community support. Our 6th Grade Orientation will be Tuesday, February 9th, at 6:00 pm. January 15th is the end of 1st semester and will be a late start day with students arriving at 10:30 am.

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 will soon begin 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 is also in full swing with the Sea Monkey House in the lead this quarter earning the most points at 498. Community service is an important part of our caring House Program. Great job student with the canned food drive at Thanksgiving. Students also hosted a Dollar Dance in honor of the sad loss of Trent Gerke to support the Teddy Bear Foundation. We are now collecting pennies/\$ in his honor to help support the Cancer Foundation. A number of students will be honored at our Award's Ceremony on January 15th with an early release to a lunch BBQ. We celebrate the following awards:

- ***National Jr. Honor Society: on target 3.5 GPA and no N's or U's***
- ***Mariner Award*** 'caught you doing a good deed'.
- ***Teacher's Choice:*** academic and/or social.
- ***Sportsmanship:*** do your best and try your hardest.
- ***Basketball 'Lady' Mariners***
- ***PTA Reflection winners: 'Beauty is...'***

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, After School Tutorial and Homework Center; Library open before school, during lunch, and after school; Computer

Lab; Weekly Progress Reports; and Teachers, Counselors, Administrators who are readily available.

Academically, now is the time to begin asking focused questions about homework, midterms, and other major assignments for the core academic classes. At the beginning of the school year, final grades are a mere “blip” on the radar screen. Now, they are taking on a far more “real” connotation, and they will ultimately be the largest determinant of courses that your son or daughter will be able to take as a high school freshman. Our PE Department works hard to convey the message that developing good fitness habits on a daily basis is critical for good health. We also encourage walking and biking to school.

On a final note we at Goleta Valley Junior High are here in a mutual partnership to make each students experience a success. Check out our website where a 100% of our teachers have an updated web page and important information can be downloaded. Check out our calendar and daily bulletin on our website as well.

A critical safety reminder! The speed limit in front of the school is 15 mph and the deputies are diligently monitoring. Also in the parking lot we ask all parents to not use their cell phones and leave the middle aisle a ‘no stopping zone’. It takes a village to raise a child. Thank you for your support.

Go Mariners!
Veronica J. Rogers