



September 14, 2023

Message from Principal, Heidi Galassi:

Hello Graham Families!

Over the summer, I read the praised book, "How to Talk So Kids Will Listen & Listen So Kids Will Talk". It provides a framework for building healthier and more effective parent-child relationships through improved communication and understanding. It advocates for a balanced approach that combines empathy and respect with clear boundaries and problem-solving skills. The book has been praised for its practical advice and is widely used by parents seeking to enhance their communication with their children... and also by principals who want to create a positive culture that promotes communication for building life skills for success. The next four installments will provide some short summaries of tips I learned from the book.

Respect and Empathy: The authors emphasize the importance of treating children with respect and empathy. They encourage parents to acknowledge their child's feelings and perspective rather than dismissing them or trying to problem solve.

Active Listening: The book teaches parents how to become better listeners by practicing active listening techniques. This involves giving your full attention to your child, making eye contact, and showing that you genuinely care about what they have to say.

Yosemite Logistics Meeting

In the coming weeks, Mr. Kim-Stevens will be hosting a series of meeting for families of 8th graders attending the trip to address the logistics regarding medication and Covid Protocols, preparing for departure to Yosemite, pick up following return from Yosemite, making donations, and any other questions you may have. Parents are only expected to attend one of these meetings

- Monday 18 September (English 1:30-2:00PM, Español 2:00-2:30PM)
<https://mvwsd.zoom.us/my/gms1175kimstevens>
- Friday 22 September (English 1:30-2:00PM, Español 2:00-2:30PM)
<https://mvwsd.zoom.us/my/gms1175kimstevens>
- Monday 25 September (English 4-4:30, Español 4:30-5:00PM) in person in the MUR

Sincerely,

Dr. Heidi Galassi

School News

Graham Counselors

Let's talk suicide. What do you need to know and how can you help? For most of us, the topic of suicide can bring a lot of pain, suffering, and trauma that we would rather shy away from and not talk about. However, did you know that talking about suicide does not actually cause a person or give the idea to kill themselves. Research has shown this to **NOT** be true and, in fact, has shown that asking someone if they are having thoughts of killing themselves is actually more likely to save a life.

To learn more about what statistics has to say about suicide and also learn the warning signs, risk factors, and how to support in a crisis please be sure to check out the two links down below:

[What Can You Do To Prevent Suicide](#)
[Normalize Talking About Suicide](#)

School Site Council

Our first School Site Council will take place next Friday, September 22nd from 4-5 in the Graham conference room. The objectives of this meeting will be:

- to introduce new and returning members to each other
- get an overview of the year
- look at some LCAP and student academic achievement data from the previous year
- review and discuss the draft of the School Plan for Student Achievement

Parking Lot issues

Parents: please pass on this information to anyone who picks up your student (grandparents, siblings, etc.)

We have been noticing several safety concerns at the front of school during our after school pick up. In order to keep your students safe from harm, we need all adults to be good role models. Please, stay in your car when picking your student up so that you can move forward in line. We promise, your student will be able to come and find you if you are parked along the curb.

Please do not have your student get into the car in the turn lane in front of the school. This is NOT a parking area. The cars in the turn lane must be able to move forward to keep the flow of traffic moving.

Please use crosswalks at all times, we have already had some near misses this year with adults and students crossing the street.

Please follow the directions of the adults who are out directing traffic. They are there to keep you and your children safe. A few extra minutes of patience and traffic is worth a life.

Yosemite Donations

"We are thrilled to be going on the 8th grade Yosemite trip again this year! To support this exciting adventure, donations can be made out to Graham Middle School. While the suggested donation for the trip is \$880, please know that any amount you can give is greatly appreciated. Your generosity ensures that all students can enjoy this remarkable experience."

GMSTV News

AWSOME ACT WINNERS

Pursue Knowledge

David - Ms. Geoghegan

Carla - Ms. Ditty

Madison- Mr. Kim-Stevens

Together We Can

Elias - Mr. Cassell

Liam - Mr. Lange

Graham's PTA

LET'S RAISE SOME DOUGH!

Blue Line Pizza PTA Fundraiser

Tuesday, September 19

15% of purchases at Blue Line Pizza (11:30 am - closing) will benefit Graham PTA.

Use promo code GrahamLovesPizza2023 for online and dine-in orders (and be sure to click "Apply Code").

Please also mention promo code GrahamLovesPizza2023 for phone-in orders.

Blue Line Pizza

146 Castro St.

Mountain View

(650) 938-7888

www.bluelinepizza.com

Not valid with third delivery services or with any other discounts or promotions.

The Spring Musical is Sister Act, Jr!

The Spring Musical is open to the entire school! If you are interested in being part of a full musical production, you should audition! *Everyone who auditions and commits to the rehearsal schedule will be cast. Auditions will take place **November 28, 29, and 30.*** Please visit [the Spring Musical Webpage](#) to download audition materials. Interested students must attend a lunchtime meeting on Wednesday November 1st.

Lost and found- LAST CALL!!

The lost and found rack will be placed in front of the school office for the remainder of the school year. Come by to find one of your sweatshirts, jackets or sweaters. Anything left over after September 20, 2023 will be donated to charity.

Reporting an Absence

Please call the 24hour automated Attendance Line at 650-526-3570, ext. 2680 or email

grahamattendance@mwwsd.org to report an absence or late arrival. Provide the following information: date of absence, student's name, grade, reason for absence, and name and relationship of the person reporting the absence. After reporting a COVID positive absence on the attendance line or by email click [here](#) to fill out the COVID reporting form.

Bell Schedule

You can access the Graham Bell Schedule [here](#). School starts at 8:25am every day.

Medication Forms

If your child requires medication to be kept at school, please pick up a [medication release form](#) from the school office. We cannot administer any medication without the forms. Please note that all medication, even over the counter medications, need a medication form signed by your doctor. For more information [click here](#) to be linked to the Physical Health webpage.

Drop-off and Pick-up

There are different options for arriving at school. Please check out the Graham website for ideas for [Walking and Biking to School](#). If you plan to drop off your student on campus, please use the parking lot in front of the library for drop off and pick up. Please pull all the way up and then let your students out. Please do not pull out of the line. This is to assure that everyone safely exits their vehicle. The MVSP (Gym) parking lot will be for staff only. Also, Lane Avenue may not be used as a drop off or pick up location for students. Due to the limited space, it causes a safety hazard for our students.

Bike Cage

Please remind your students to lock their bikes in the bike cage. While the bike cage protects student bikes from theft by individuals passing our campus during the day, it does not guarantee theft protection after school from persons entering the bike cage. Locking their bike is the best way to ensure that the only person who walks away with a bike from our bike cage is the bike's owner.

Important Dates

September 15, Principal's Coffee at MUR and Virtual through [Zoom](#) 2:00-3:00PM

September 18, Yosemite Logistics Meeting (English 1:30-2:00PM, Español 2:00-2:30PM)

<https://mvwsd.zoom.us/my/gms1175kimstevens>

September 22, Yosemite Logistics Meeting (English 1:30-2:00PM, Español 2:00-2:30PM)

<https://mvwsd.zoom.us/my/gms1175kimstevens>

September 22, School Site Council Meeting 4:00-5:00PM

September 25, Yosemite Logistics Meeting (English 4-4:30, Español 4:30-5:00) in person in the MUR

September 29, Principal's Coffee at MUR 2:00-3:00PM

October 2, Picture Day Re-take

October 6, Principal's Coffee at MUR 9:00-10:00AM

October 10, Choir Concert at Auditorium 7:00PM

October 12 and 13, Teacher Service Day and Recess Day (No School for Students)

October 27, Principal's Coffee at MUR 2:00-3:00PM

October 27, Halloween Dance 4:30-6:00PM

November 3, End of Trimester 1 Minimum Day for students, dismissal time 12:50PM

2023 -2024 School Year Calendar - [Here](#)

District News

Attendance Awareness Month: What's an Excused vs. Not Excused absence?

Illness, doctor's appointments, bereavement, and certain religious exercises are excused absences. Please see MVWSD board policy for the full list. All other reasons are not considered excused.

Better Together: September

This month, #BetterTogether explores identity and celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month, which are both essential components of fostering inclusive and enriching schools in MVWSD. Recognizing and respecting the diverse backgrounds, experiences, and identities of students not only promotes a sense of belonging and allyship but also encourages a more comprehensive and meaningful learning experience for all. Hispanic Heritage Month, in particular, provides an opportunity to appreciate the rich tapestry of Hispanic/Latino cultures, their contributions to society, and the stories of Hispanic/Latino students within

our own community. Celebrate with us this month! We are #BetterTogetherMVWSD. For more information about Better Together, visit mvwsd.org/BetterTogetherMVWSD.

Volunteer badges: New, easy-to-follow chart

If you think that you will be volunteering on campus more than 3 times this school year for more than 10 min each visit, or plan to be an overnight trip chaperone, now is the time to apply for your volunteer badge. Please check the [easy-to-follow chart here](#) to help you get started. There are more steps to complete the first time you apply. After that, renewals are easier. Thank you for helping to protect our students' safety and to ensure MVWSD complies with state law. We are grateful for parents willing to help us at school!

Volunteer with MVEF!

MVEF needs 1-3 additional volunteers at each school in MVWSD. MVEF school representatives help the families at their school understand what MVEF is and why it exists so that they are inspired to donate and spread the word about the impact of MVEF funding. MVEF also needs volunteers to help with planning our annual Gala and other community events. To learn more, visit:

<https://www.mvef.org/volunteer>

The View Teen Center: September

The View Teen Center is a free facility in Mountain View (263 Escuela Ave) for all Mountain View and Los Altos 6th - 12th grade students. Drop-in hours are Monday - Friday, 3:15 - 7 p.m. and Saturdays, 1 - 6 p.m., and the center features a game room, makerspace, kitchen, computer/study room, outdoor area, and much more! See attached flyer for details about upcoming events and programs in September or [visit their webpage for more information](#).

Understanding Youth Mental Health and the Road to Resilience: Sept. 20

Youth and adults are invited to a panel discussion about teen mental health and well-being on Wednesday, September 20, 2023 from 6:30 – 8 p.m. at the Los Altos High School Eagle Theatre (201 Almond Ave). County Supervisor Joe Simitian will moderate a panel of mental health providers and students who will share about how to support mental health, how to check in and talk with youth, and describe locally available resources. Sign up for the free event: <https://direc.to/jNr2>.

MV Public Library Parenting Program: Sept. 27

The MV Public Library will host a parenting presentation, "The Best You for the Best Them," on Wednesday, September 27, 2023 from 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm on Zoom. Research shows that teens' and parents' emotional well-being are highly entwined. With support from author and parenting coach, Laura Cleary, set aside time to acknowledge your need as a parent for selfcare, and receive concrete ideas and support to model this for your teen and uplift your relationship. [Register here](#).