

Pleasant Grove Elementary Gazette



It's Wonderful to be a Tiger!

Happy September!

I love the months that end with "ber" because they include the start of a new school year, the beginning of fall, and pumpkin spice is all around!

For PGES, we are welcoming lots of new staff and students. We have 60 new TK students as well as a new Level 4 class! We are also happy to introduce new staff, including our new Level 4 teacher, Mrs. MacDonald; three new TK teachers, Ms. Mohamed, Ms. Flink, and Ms. Nagatani, a new 1st grade teacher, Ms. Greathouse, and a new 5th grade teacher, Ms. Knight!

Our new additions also mean some extra traffic, and we are working with EGUSD Safe Routes to School to consider best practices in managing traffic. Please know that this is in partnership with your awareness of the traffic rules, extra patience, and kindness with our staff as we navigate the traffic demands.

I am very excited to focus our year on the district's MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Supports) framework. Our school has once again achieved gold status in PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention System) for the 24-25 school year, the behavioral side of the framework! This year we will continue to focus on PBIS while honing our skills with the Instructional Framework and our core curriculum, as well as Social Emotional Learning with our Character Strong curriculum.

Our school is known for its parent involvement, and I'm looking forward to getting to know each of you. We will continue the tradition of Coffee Chats with the principal, with the next one on Wednesday, September 20 at 8:30 a.m.. I will be at each PTA meeting, and I hope to see you at the next one at South Slope Winery (there is yummy food and plenty of room to play there!)

Mrs. McCartney

In this newsletter you can expect:

Welcome to the New School Year! It's Wonderful to be a Tiger!

Events

PTA Corner

Volunteer
Spotlight

Upcoming
Events

Meet Our Staff

Celebrate Our
Students

EVENTS

September, 2025

Date	Event
September 2	Character Assembly (Outdoor Stage @ 8:20 am) Trait of the Month: Respect
September 8	6th Grade Sly Park Meeting (MP Room @ 4:30 pm)
September 9	Student Council Assembly
September 11	PTA General Meeting (South Slope Winery @ 6:00 pm)
September 16	Fall ELAC (English Learner Advisory Committee) Meeting (PGES Conference Room @ 8:30 am)
September 17	Coffee Chat w/ Mrs. McCartney and Ms. Bowles (PGES Conference Room @ 8:30 am)
September 22-26	Book Fair
September 23	Fall School Site Council Meeting
September 24	Fall Picture Day
September 25	Sock Hop & Evening Book Fair
October 3	Student of the Month (Outdoor Stage @ 2:00 p.m.)
Coming Soon	Watch the parent bulletin for details on a future Parent Picnic Day! APEX Fun Run will be October 27 - November 7 Young Rembrandts, Golf Club, and Other Clubs - info coming in the parent bulletin soon!



PTA Corner

PTA General Meetings are the third Thursday of the month at South Slope Winery. All are welcome!

The first event of the year will be the Book Faire= from September 22-26. That week will also include the time honored Sock Hop on September 25! Look for more info in our weekly bulletin.



PGES PTA UPCOMING EVENTS GENERAL PTA MEETINGS 2ND THURSDAY EACH MONTH FROM 6-7 AT SOUTH SLOPE WINES	
25 SEP	SOCK HOP & BOOK FAIR
24 OCT	FALL CARNIVAL
05 DEC	HOLIDAY MOVIE NIGHT
23 JAN	FAMILY DANCE
16 FEB	FAMILY SKATE
07 MAR	ANNUAL FUNDRAISER DINNER
27 MAR	Oodles of Noodles & BINGO

Get Fingerprinted!

The Elk Grove Unified School District requires that all volunteer candidates who work with students be fingerprinted as part of a criminal background check.

All parents wishing to volunteer in the classroom or chaperone a field trip must be fingerprinted. Ask your child's teacher for a form to get fingerprinted or to see if your prints are still valid from years past. Fingerprints expire after 5 years!

Volunteers are not charged for fingerprinting. The service is available in Room 103-A in the Robert L. Trigg Education Center, 9510 Elk Grove Florin Road, Elk Grove, CA 95624



Safety Corner

It is our goal to make sure our drop off and pick up are safe, but also efficient. When dropping off or picking up your student, pull **all the way forward as far as possible**. Keep moving up as the line moves.

Stay in your car in the drop-off/pick-up line area. **If your child is young or needs help getting in or out of the vehicle, find a parking space.** It's safer and will also keep our line of cars moving.

Kids should only get in and out of the vehicle on the curb side. If your child must get in the car on the other side, find another place to safely drop-off/pick-up your child.

Please do not make a left hand turn into the parking lot or drop-off/pick-up loop. If you are coming to school from that direction, you can continue past the school and make a U-turn at Ranchview.



Digital Citizenship

The more often you talk to your children about online safety, the easier it will get, so don't get discouraged if they don't respond immediately.

- What's your favorite website or app? What do you like to do there?
- Have you ever seen something online you didn't want to see?
- Do you ever talk to people you don't know online? What do you talk about?
- Can you show me which sites and apps you're using?
- How much personal information do you share online?

Taken from Netsmartz.com and EGUSD Digital Citizenship



Family/Parenting Resources

Care Solace

EGUSD's partnership with Care Solace provides access to services for our students, staff, and families at no cost. <https://caresolace.com/site/egusdfamilies>

Brightlife Kids

Personalized support for California families. Kids ages 0-12 get free, expert coaching for sleep issues, worry, social skills, and more. Live, 1:1 video sessions, secure chat, on-demand content, and more. <http://hellobrightline.com>

Staff Profile Highlights



Mr. Leonard, Art Teacher

Hello All,

My name is Pete Leonard. The kids call me Mr. Leonard. I am writing this to introduce myself. I am one of the new ART specialists for the Elk Grove Unified School District. In this new role, I will be working with elementary school age kids to provide a rich and well-rounded arts education for all students, ensuring they develop artistic literacy. The California Standards are organized around four artistic processes: creating, performing/producing/presenting, responding, and connecting, across the disciplines of dance, media arts, music, theatre, and visual arts.

I have been working with kids for over 30 years and this is my 27 year as a teacher. I have taught 3rd grade for many years, 4th grade 14+ years, 6th grade for many years and a variety of combo classes 1-4th, 3-5th, 4th and 5th combo class. I coached Soccer for 12 years and Rugby for 5 years. I also played Rugby for 8 years. I started in high school which led to being recruited to college and getting my degree in Art. I attended and played for the University of Cal Poly Humboldt and the University of New Mexico. My emphasis for Art was in Sculpture and Photography. After college, I worked in the photography industry for a while. After that I earned my teaching credential. I began teaching at NPS schools in 1998 and started in public education in 2000.

I have 4 kids, two boys and two girls. The kids are "all grown". The boys are book end boys with the girls in the middle (still home). My oldest and youngest boy moved to Hawaii. My oldest son welcomed his first child in November so I became a "Papa' Pete"

My interests include traveling especially to Hawaii even more now. I often travel to New Mexico where I studied Art at the University of New Mexico. I love to get out in nature, the ocean, mountains and even the desert. I am a huge fan of live music attending many concerts. Of course art events as well. Hope to see you around campus: Please say Hello !



Mrs. McCartney, Principal

Hello! My name is Tara McCartney and I'm thrilled to be your new PGES Principal! I've been in the Elk Grove Unified School district for over 25 years, as a classroom teacher, instructional coach, district administrator in Curriculum & Professional Learning, and site administrator. Most recently I served as vice principal at Miwok Village Elementary School.

I'm married with two sons, ages 24 and 22. Both attended K-12 in EGUSD, playing football and focusing on Media at Franklin High School, then graduating from the University of Utah (C/O 2023) and Arizona State University (C/O 2025). We are big football and hockey fans in our house, and I also have a big passion for theater - especially musicals.

Excellent Attendance



TK - AM	TK - PM	Kindergarten
<p>Fujishima, Ayumi A. Hoffstot, Parker J. Lam, Zoey H. Lau, Alexis G. Mac, Lincoln T. Rowe, Trinity R. Saephan, Karisa M. Thor, Miles T. Tran, Ivy R. Tu, Savannah A. Vo, Jessie Banks, Eliana R. Fang, Yuki N. Lee, Aria K. Phelps, Taj C. Wessel, Camryn M. Whitley, Haylee R. Winkler, Ethan T.</p>	<p>Ahmadreshad, Erhan Bui, Evelyn Cronan, Owen T. Gayas, Jayden Pham, Chase J. Qu, Katie Smith, Amina A. Thach, Elliette A. Tran, Cameron C. Woolston Linares, Vevila A. Yu, Celine Asar, Sanya Cabrera, Eyan M. Davila, Travis R. Dominguez Zavala, Gianna Huang, Evan Orozco, Andrea G. Orozco, Audrey I. Schritter, Jackson T. Tran, Kaden B. Yin, Everly J.</p>	<p>Buna, Odin R. Calvillo, Amos A. Calvillo, Liana N. Canuela, Harrison D. Coles, Amelia R. Congdon, Josey S. Ham, Alexander M. Hickling, Reagan C. Kitenza, Alyana A. Love, Charles M. Magana, Isaac J. Moua, Hunter M. Nanzer, Bennett M. Nguyen, Anna L. Nguyen, Jonathan D. Nguyen, Thao An T. Ortega, Auraelia A. Perez, Arianna E. Wessel, Lincoln S.</p>
First Grade	Second Grade	Third Grade
<p>Ahmadreshad, Idris M. Bufford, Seraphina N. Capetillo, Mateo H. Cunat, Carter H. DeBolt, Chloe L. Fang, Juvia T. Gill, Japreet K. Gonzalez-Franco, Miguel A. JR Grewal, Gursehj S. Hosmann, Toby M. Jaime, Adonis R. Khuu, Hai T. Kubach, Caitlin E. Paine, Christian K. Parsi, Olivia B. Phu, Madison P. Sythanyarutt, Kaptain J. Tarr, Athena R. Todd, Amelia M. Valencia, Alessio J. Whitehead, Everly R. Xiong, Lukas A.</p>	<p>Aguilar, Andres A. Anderson, Hope P. Banks, Jeremiah L. Bufford, Jace B. Cooper, Gabriel M. Do, Verick Q. Hand, Nash H. Huynh, Ellylynne C. Jones, Jordan B. Khuu, Hanhna M. Love, Owen C. Luong, Sebastian R. Lyons, Hishaun N. Montez, Luis M. Nguyen, Alice E. Nguyen, Lani Nwachukwu, Somto C. Pangilinan, Lukas M. Rashed, Yasmeen S. Sandhu-Goldner, Emory K. Sidhu, Sargi K. Wessel, Avery P. Zaragoza, Kendall M.</p>	<p>Aguilar, Andres A. Anderson, Hope P. Banks, Jeremiah L. Bufford, Jace B. Cooper, Gabriel M. Do, Verick Q. Hand, Nash H. Huynh, Ellylynne C. Jones, Jordan B. Khuu, Hanhna M. Love, Owen C. Luong, Sebastian R. Lyons, Hishaun N. Montez, Luis M. Nguyen, Alice E. Nguyen, Lani Nwachukwu, Somto C. Pangilinan, Lukas M. Rashed, Yasmeen S. Sandhu-Goldner, Emory K. Sidhu, Sargi K. Wessel, Avery P. Zaragoza, Kendall M.</p>

Excellent Attendance



Fourth Grade	Fifth Grade	Sixth Grade
<p>Ahmad, Haniya Usman Bath, Hukam S. Borges, Emily M. Brennan, Koa T. Coates, Hudson C. Coles, Elliot B. De Cou, Sydney H. Fernandez, Sophia B. Frere, Hunter S. Gregor, Madison S. Gregor, Nolan B. King, Luka M. Kumar-Pesci, Mia A. Lema, Christopher J. Majeed, Zara S. Moua, Chase Y. Nguyen, Hieu Nguyen, Isabelle M. Pitt, Saige E. Ram, Aiza A. Retke, Carson D. Sanchez Perez, Mike Soares, Andrea Elaine C. Taylor, Marco W. Trinh, Jasmine L. Valencia, Areya A. Williams-Harlen, Gage J.</p>	<p>Aston, Bryce E. Bennett, Aiden Y. Bennett, Owen K. Bufford, Sierra Cunanan, Oscar j. Dominguez Zavala, Yeray Dominguez, Easton R. Enterkin, Colton P. Garcia, Juliana J. Glenn, Zackuriya N. Ham, Mason J. Hardenburg, Evelyn E. Her, Chu Ye J. English, Michelle N. Jones, Jaelyn R. Kitenza, Alden I. La Sance, Myka A. Linley, Eli J. Melendrez Ramirez, Valentina Mendoza, Devin J. Motoike, Kainoa T. Popham, Charlotte R. San, Aizelle I. Sidhu, Mehar S. Son, Jerin K. Sythanyarutt, Kanan J. Tarr, Makayla L. Tonnu, Tien N. Torres, Valeria M. Tymochko, Anya L. Valencia, Agustin I. Wiechert, Benjamin L. Zhou, Skylar Y.</p>	<p>Borlak, Andrew K. Buna, Ally Z. Chuang, Dylan F. Coates, Finley A. Cuong, Charlotte K. Dionisio, Jayden M. Enemuoh, Chidimma F. Herr, Atticus C. King, Ava H. Le, Nelson T. Lux, Kelsie R. Mahi, Rajvir Nguyen, Hien D. Othman, Eid M. Retke, Ella R. Ruano, Antonio C. Ruffell, Kash D. Saeed, Subhan Sondh, Nav P. Taylor, Indie V. Turanski, Gabriella A. Ursin, Benjamin T. Vang, Kent Vongvilay, Carson J. Winkler, Zachary Matthew N.</p>

Students of the Month

Academic

Character

Effort



Our first assembly will be on October 3.

Students will be awarded on the basis of academics, character trait of the month, and effort or improvement!



Accelerated Reader

Accelerated Reader Award Levels:

1st Grade - Bronze= 5, Silver= 10, Gold= 15, Platinum= 30
2nd Grade - Bronze= 10, Silver= 20, Gold= 30, Platinum= 50
3rd Grade - Bronze= 15, Silver= 35, Gold= 55, Platinum= 75
4th Grade - Bronze= 20, Silver= 45, Gold= 70, Platinum= 90
5th Grade - Bronze= 25, Silver= 50, Gold= 75, Platinum= 100
6th Grade - Bronze= 30, Silver= 60, Gold= 90, Platinum= 120

Accelerated Reader points are cumulative from month to month and trimester to trimester for determination of incentives and levels.

Our October newsletter will publish the names of students earning the levels this year!

What is Accelerated Reader? Watch the video here:

<https://videos.renaissance.com/watch/CXYt1AoQZJvfSM2EresiLo?>

