

From the Desk of the Principal...

Welcome to Fall!

Staff members and students are beginning to “settle into” the schedule and routines of Grant Ranch School. Our new Grant Ranch family members have been both formally and informally welcomed. They are as follows:

Martha Foelker	First Grade Teacher
Kelly Francis	Early Children Education (ECE) Three Year Olds Program
Bernadette Howell	Secretary II
Lisa Stotts	School Psychologist (Megan Francisco is on Maternity leave)
Phyllis Whitaker	Seventh Grade Teacher
Kate Wilcox	Kindergarten Teacher
Ann Westra	Music Teacher
Genaro Mercado Perea	Gifted/Talented Teacher

Members of our Grant Ranch School family will be joining others throughout the community on Saturday, September 12, 2009 for the 3rd annual “Cure SMA Walk-n-Roll & Run Across America” at Clement Park to benefit the “Families of SMA” organization. Clinicians and the National Institute of Health believe Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) has tremendous potential for a treatment and cure.

Kindergarten through eighth grade students will complete both formal and informal assessments during the month of September. These assessments have been administered to determine student’s abilities in order to plan instruction that will better meet individual needs.

Staff and students are also beginning to participate in extracurricular activities. Staff members are not only participating in various professional development activities in accordance with the implementation of Response to Intervention (RTI), a state mandated program that will improve performance of ALL students, but also are working collaboratively in committees. Despite the decrease in grant revenues, we are attempting to continue to provide thirty after school programs ranging from Ping Pong to Shakespeare. Partnerships have been established with “Tutor Train”, “First Tee” and the Grant Ranch Kiwanis Chapter for the implementation of Tutoring, Golf, and K-Kids. All of these after school programs will be scheduled for Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm. An Activity bus provides transportation for the after school program participants.

Many sixth, seventh and eighth grade students are engaged in the fall sports offered by Grant Ranch School. These sports include boys’ soccer, cross-country, football, girl’s softball and volleyball.

The Grant Ranch School Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) will continue to sponsor fundraising activities. Students will be selling frozen cookie dough and our school will

continue to collect and submit Box Tops for Education. In addition, Grant Ranch School will encourage parents/guardians and staff members to purchase school supplies from Target. As part of the Target Reward Program, points are earned that provide additional funds for activities and programs at Grant Ranch School.

Finally, the staff and I will continue to expand our program on character education with the Positive Behavior Support Program (PBS). PBS works hand-in-hand with the RtI Program. As a result, additional activities will be planned and implemented that insure a positive school environment that are focused upon both academic and behavior.

Sandy Blomeyer