

# Pleasant Grove Elementary Gazette



## The Great Kindness Challenge

This will be an exciting month for us at Pleasant Grove Elementary, as we will celebrate The Great Kindness Challenge at the end of the month! This is a week in its 15<sup>th</sup> year of celebration at many schools across the United States. For more information on how it is celebrated across the country, and how you can engage as a family, click here: <https://thegreatkindnesschallenge.com/>

To prepare for our celebration, we will be participating in our Character Strong proactive bullying prevention lessons. We have begun to notice some behaviors that could lead to bullying, and we want to get ahead of it. We will need your help! In our later pages of the Gazette we will provide some things you can talk to your children about at home to keep our school the wonderfully supportive and safe place that it is.

In other news, we are excited to host some VAPA (Visual and Performing Arts) and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Media) events this spring! Phil Tulga will be at our school to do daytime assemblies for our students, and then a family night to make some instruments in the evening. Mr. Leonard, our Visual Arts teacher, will be hosting a Family Art Night on March 4 to showcase some of our student art and invite families to participate in art activities together.

Last, we are so grateful to Andi Linley for stepping up to coach not just one but TWO PGES basketball teams! We were able to place everyone who tried out and we look forward to some great competition. We do need a volunteer parent referee! If you can help out, please contact Coach Andi or myself.

Let's make 2026 our best year yet!

*Mrs. McCartney*

In this newsletter you can expect:

---

Principal's Message

---

Where is Dolly?

---

January Events

---

PTA Corner

---

Character Strong

---

Save the Date

---

Statewide Assessments

---

See What We've Been Up To!

---

Celebrate Our Students

---



## Where is Dolly?

Our wonderful secretary, Dolly Chamberlain, will be away from the office on an extended leave of absence for the foreseeable future.

As Mrs. Chamberlain takes this time to decide on her eventual return or a potential retirement, Teasjia Bangle, our current School Office Assistant, will be assisting with her duties. We remain flexible and supportive of Mrs. Chamberlain's decision-making process and will update everyone once a permanent plan is in place. Please contact Mrs. Bangle for anything that you would have contacted Mrs. Chamberlain. Dillard Elementary has graciously provided our office with support by allowing their SOA, Mrs. Anna Cools, to help us out.

## EVENTS

# January 2026

Date	Event
January 5	No School - Teacher Inservice
January 6	Students Return to School
January 8	PTA General Meeting (South Slope Winery @ 6:00 pm)
January 13	ELAC (English Learner Advisory Council) Meeting
January 20	School Site Council Meeting
January 23	PTA Family Dance
January 26-30	The Great Kindness Challenge Week
January 28	Family Music, Math, and Science Night with Phil Tulga @ 5:30pm

# PTA Corner

PTA General Meetings are the second Thursday of the month at South Slope Winery at 6:00 pm. All are welcome!

The next event of the year will be the Family Dance on Friday, January 23.



TIGERS 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



**PERSEVERANCE**  
Family Newsletter

**Perseverance Overview**  
This month is all about Perseverance. One way to think about Perseverance is pushing yourself through challenges and obstacles in our lives. We all have moments when we feel like we can't do it but we want to give up on a big task. To respond to these moments that help us work through these challenges in order to grow in those moments instead of giving up, how might you practice Perseverance as a family?

**Conversation Starters**  
Can you share or draw what it means to have Perseverance?  
When working towards goals, how does Perseverance help us to reach them?

**Purposeful Pursuits**  
Have some fun connecting as a family this month while practicing Perseverance. Here are 2 "Purposeful Pursuits" you can complete together!

Consistency is hard. Have each person in the family succeed by doing things that do each day or week. Rotate in 15 minutes, allowing a certain amount of extra "fun" getting to and a certain time, timing, screen time, or exercising. Create a place where each person can tally their progress and see who can keep their streak going the longest!

**Review Perseverance as a Family!**  
Remember that Perseverance is anything you do to work through obstacles and challenges. Here's a fun challenge. Can you fit into each activity through an exercise card? While it sounds impossible, with the correct feeling and feeling technique, you can make it happen! Give each family member a 4x6 index card and a pair of scissors. Ready for the answer? You can find the directions and solution online by searching "The Four Body Through an Index Card."

## Trait of the Month: Perseverance

Our Character Strong Curriculum has its own family website! Click on the Family Strong icon to access the website or go to:

<https://www.characterstrong.com/familystrong>

One way to think about Perseverance is “pushing yourself through challenges and obstacles.”

To read more about this month’s trait, along with how you can talk about it as a family, click on the newsletter pictured to the left, or go to our website: <http://pleasantgrove.egusd.net>.

**BULLYING PREVENTION**  
Family Connection

**Overview**  
To help students achieve their best and make schools safe and welcoming, we need more than just anti-bullying policies. CharacterStrong uses strategies that are proven to work and focus on key social and emotional skills. In the curriculum, students will experience a blend of anti-bullying methods with other important skills like empathy, communication, and resilience. This helps schools deal with bullying better while also teaching students to understand and care for each other. This approach makes it easier for schools to embrace bullying prevention strategies and build an environment of kindness and respect.

**What is bullying?**  
Bullying is hurtful and repeated, but it also...  
- Is unwanted physical or emotional pain  
- Involves an imbalance of power  
- Can happen online (cyberbullying)

**Conversation Starters**  
What are some ways you can include others and make sure everyone feels welcome?  
How can you report bullying?

**Book Recommendations**  
- The Juice Box Bully: Empowering Kids to Stand Up for Others by Bob Soriano and Maria Chismarova  
- The Smallest Girl in the Smallest Grade by Justin Roberts

## Bonus: Bullying Prevention

Our curriculum has a flexible unit on positive bullying prevention. The intent of this unit is to grow our kindness and respect while developing our skills at preventing bullying. Our students have already studied cyberbullying in their computer classes, and now they will consider how to stop bullying, support someone who is being bullied, and report bullying when it happens. To read more about how to help your student navigate these social issues, click on the newsletter pictured to the left.

# Coming Soon!

Mark your calendars for these dates in February - May:  
February 17 - Lunar New Year  
February 18 - Spring and Promotion Picture Day  
March 2 - Read Across America  
March 4 - Family Art Night  
March 16-20 - Spring Break  
April 24 - Lunch with Loved Ones (*formerly Family Picnic Day*)  
April 27 - May 8 CAASPP Testing (Grades 3-6)  
May 26 - AR Celebration & BBQ  
May 28 - 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion



## Statewide CAASPP and ELPAC Testing



All 3<sup>rd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> grade students will be taking the CAASPP (California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress) test in ELA and Math at the end of April. 5<sup>th</sup> Graders will also complete the Physical Fitness test and the Science (CAST) test.

Students identified as English Learners will take the Summative ELPAC over the next few months.

To learn more about CAASPP and ELPAC testing, go to page 34 of the [EGUSD Parent / Student Handbook](#).

## Reading Difficulties Screener



This school year, EGUSD will implement the Multitudes screener for all students in grades K-2 about midway through the school year. It is a quick, one-on-one assessment of critical areas of reading and language. **PGES students will be taking the screener between January 20 - February 6.** Students who are currently on IEPs for reading, or being tested for one, will not take the screener. Students who are not currently proficient in English or Spanish will take an alternate screener.

Screener results will be shared with families within 45 days of the assessment.



For more information, see the links below:

- [English Flier](#) | [English FAQ](#)
- [Spanish Flier](#) | [Spanish FAQ](#)
- [Vietnamese Flier](#) | [Vietnamese FAQ](#)
- [Chinese Flier](#) | [Chinese FAQ](#)



---

## See What We've Been Up To!



Santa visited and the PTA hosted a movie night with popcorn and cocoa.



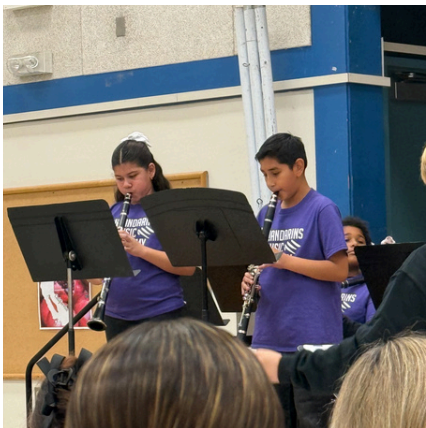
Our first graders presented a holiday singalong.



Our second graders celebrated our veterans.



Our band had a wonderful concert. Bravo to all those bravely playing their instruments in front of the large audience!





# Excellent Attendance



TK - AM	TK - PM	Kindergarten
<p>Eliana Banks Cristian Cervantes Keiry Cervantes Raegan Enterkin Kayla Ho Parker Hoffstot Madison McMasters Quinton Saechao Camryn Wessel</p>	<p>Sanya Asar Evelyn Bui Travis Davila Margaret Hand Katie Qu Jackson Schritter Suraya Singh Elliette Thach</p>	<p>Amos Calvillo Liana Calvillo Amelia Coles An Do Alexander Ham Reagan Hickling Claire Jones Hunter Moua Bennett Nanzer Anna Nguyen Jonathan Nguyen Thao An Nguyen Lincoln Wessel Magdalena Zakhir</p>
First Grade	Second Grade	Third Grade
<p>Seraphina Bufford Carter Cunat Toby Hosmann Caitlin Kubach Everly Whitehead</p>	<p>Jeremiah Banks Kenzie Brennan Jace Bufford Angela Edralin Nash Hand Ellylynne Hunyh Hanhna Khuu Alice Nguyen Lani Nguyen Emory Sandhu-Goldner Xander Simunich Avery Wessel</p>	<p>Hava Andaluz Kyleigh Aston Ashley Bok Camden Bok Eli Borkak Addison Fox Ava Garcia Atlas Herr Miles Hosmann Paige Moua Lucy Nanzer Kira Rhynas Shayaan Saeed Lucas Ursin</p>

# Excellent Attendance



Fourth Grade	Fifth Grade	Sixth Grade
Haniya Usman Ahmad Koa Brennan Jalton Bufford Maverick Congdon Kaylee Henzie Mia Kumar-Pesci Evie Lawson Chase Moua William Newman Hieu Nguyen Isabelle Nguyen Carson Retke Andrea Elaine Soares Huy-Haiden Tran Jasmine Trinh	Bruce Andaluz Bryce Aston Everett Barfield Aiden Bennett Sierra Bufford Oscar Cunanan Easton Dominguez Rory French Evelyn Hardenburg Chu Ye Her Jaelyn Jones Angela Lai Kourtnie Lewis Valentina Melendrez Ramirez Devin Mendoza Aizelle San Charlotte Sander Mason Shaw Makayla Tarr Hannah Tran Anya Tymochko Agustin Valencia	Peyton Bok Andrew Borlak Ally Buna Dylan Chuang Charlotte Cuong Chidimma Enemuoh Sofia Gasnakis Atticus Herr Ava King Zuri Luu Hien Nguyen Ryan Nguyen Trevor Pratt Ella Retke Subhan Saeed Rajvir Sondh Indie Taylor Gabriella Turanski Kent Vang Alexzander Zakhir

CONGRATULATIONS TO THESE STUDENTS!  
12/01/2025 -12/19/2025  
NO LATES, NO ABSENCES, NO EARLY DISMISSALS.  
KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK

---

# Students of the Month

Academic

Empathy & Perseverance

Effort

Our next student of the month assembly will cover December & January and will take place on Friday, February 6!



# Accelerated Reader



## BRONZE

EVERETT BARFIELD  
JAMES CARTWRIGHT  
MACI COLEMAN  
SYDNEY DE COU  
SOPHIE DIAZ  
SOPHIA LUA GARCIA  
ELLYLYNNE HUYNH  
AVA KING  
OLIVIA PARSI  
CAIA RAINES  
MARCO TAYLOR  
HUY-HAIDEN TRAN  
JASMINE TRINH  
LINH TRAN  
ANYA TYMOCHKO

## SILVER

JEREMIAH BANKS  
KENZIE BRENNAN  
FRANKLIN CANUELA  
CRUZ DAVILA  
SEBASTIAN LUONG  
AVERY WESSEL

## GOLD

BRUCE ANDALUZ  
KYLEIGH ASTON  
CAMDEN BOK  
SIERRA BUFFORD  
ELI LINLEY  
ALICE NGUYEN  
AMELIA PHELPS  
SAVANNAH SHEN

## PLATINUM

HOPE ANDERSON  
EVELYN LINLEY