

Vista Grande High School



February 27, 2008

Dear parents/guardians and supporters of VGHS students:

This newsletter is given to students every week during the school year. Copies are also available in our main office and on our website at vghs.org (click on "VGHS Community" then "Newsletters").

Upcoming Planned Events/Important Dates:

March 5	Field Trip. Leave VGHS 7:45 am, Return 4:30 pm. Drop off & pick-up promptly.
March 6,7	Staff in-service. No school for students
March 18-19	Student-Led Conferences- Contact Crew leader for appointment.
March 20	10 th Graders- Leadership Strand Applications Due

The Move to Canon West

Hurray! The move was successful in that we got ourselves situated into our new facility. Some cleanup at La Posta, moving of miscellaneous items and final hanging of boards at Canon West remains to be completed. Anyone with time available on this coming Saturday between 3:00pm and 6:00pm will be welcome to assist us. If you have a power drill and some cleaning supplies of your own that would be most helpful. We will be at Canon West at 3pm. If you have not been by the new building come on by for a look and help out for a few minutes if you can.

Board Games Donations

Do you have any old games at home that your family no longer enjoys? If they are in usable condition and are appropriate for teenagers feel free to come by and drop them off at school. We hope to use them during lunch times.

Substitute Teaching

We need to create a pool of substitute teachers from which to draw. To get certified as a sub requires getting fingerprints done at the sheriff's office and observing in classrooms for a part of a day. We would be happy to help anyone to get this process completed. If you have daytime availability and are interested in substituting for teachers when they are ill or away please contact Christine Torrez at 758-5100. You can schedule a time to come in and observe and pick up a fingerprint card.

VGHS and It's Closed Campus

The school creators wanted VGHS to be a safe place as well as a place where students could stay to get productive work done as opposed to going home at 2:30 in the afternoon with nothing to do and no supervision. It has been shown that these times are when students get into trouble or come under influences that could harm them. It is for these reasons that VGHS has a closed campus for 9th and 10th graders. Teachers stay extra each day to teach electives and to supervise tutoring. Some students object to being forced to stay on campus from 7:40 through 4:30. During their underclassmen years we expect that families desire us to know where their children are located at all times during the day and that they are under our direct supervision at all times. Once they become upperclassmen students will be required to leave campus to take care of internships, take classes at UNM-Taos or other things important to their academic progress. For these students, the VGHS campus will be open and we must be able to expect that they will get these things done in a responsible manner

Currently, some students feel that they are too restricted and that we are not allowing their voices to be heard. Other students feel that we have not provided enough structure so that it is hard to be supported in efforts to do the right thing. Clearly there is a balance that needs to be struck. We will be working on allowing their voices to be heard in the coming days and finding a solution that balances between the needs and desires of students and those of the school facility and staff. In the meantime feel free to provide input in ways that we can be effective, supportive of student success and our school goals while maintaining a well-deserved good reputation in the community.

Calendar and Budget Timeline for the 2008-2009 School Year

As we create our calendar and budget for next school year, be aware that your input is valued. We will be convening a parent council meeting on March 19 to present the budget and allow for comments and suggestions. The meeting will begin at 5:00pm on 3/19/08 at Canon West.

Tutoring and Afternoon Electives

Tutoring is still available each Monday, Wednesday and Friday starting at 2:30pm. The teachers at VGHS are committed to helping each of our students to succeed and to stay and work extra to help students who have fallen behind. At times we may require your student to remain after school to complete important assignments. We will notify you in advance either by phone or with a note home.

Student Drop Off at Canon West

When you drop off your student make sure that other cars are allowed to drop off their students safely. Also, thanks for being patient with other drivers.

Thanks, Greg Perry