

Greene February Parent Newsletter

Courtney Carlomagno • a month ago • Wednesday, Feb 19 at 5:00 PM • **6th Grade, 7th Grade, 8th Grade, GR Staff**

Dear Greene Families,

We hope you and your student are having a great start to the spring semester! This Friday, February 21, Progress Reports will be available online for all students. We encourage you to take some time to review your student's progress together and discuss their achievements and areas for continued improvement.

As you review, remind your student of key habits that contribute to their success:

- 1 Arriving to class on time.
- 2 Asking teachers for help when needed.
- 3 Dedicating time outside of school to their coursework.

If you have any questions or need additional support, please don't hesitate to reach out to your student's teacher or counselor. We're all here to help!

Thank you,
Greene Admin Team

This message includes important updates and information regarding the following topics:

- Principal's Google Meet - February 26
- Celebrate Black History Month: Kuumba Performances
- Attendance Reminders: Tardies and Attendance
- Prop 28 Survey
- Career Lesson Student and Teacher Feedback
- Homework Habitat
- Update: Student and Family Engagement Specialist Team
- Clubs for Spring 2025
- Course Registration - Palo Alto High School, Gunn High School, Palo Alto Middle College
- Update from Youth Community Service
- Snack Donations
- Upcoming Events

Principal's Google Meet - Wednesday, February 26 - 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Please join us on Wednesday, February 26 from 6:30 - 7:30 pm for our monthly Principal's Google Meet and/or Principal's Coffee. If you have any topics or questions you'd like to be discussed, please complete the Google form located at <https://tinyurl.com/FebTopics25>. Use this link - <https://meet.google.com/bna-bahc-rkm> - to log onto the Google Meet on Wednesday evening. We look forward to seeing you then!

Celebrate Black History Month - Kuumba Performances on Thursday, February 27

Kuumba is a performance group in the Bay Area that focuses on West African dance & rhythms. Kuumba is the sixth principle of Kwanzaa that means "creativity" in Swahili (African language). It has been defined as meaning: "To always do as much as you can, in the way we can, to leave our community more beautiful than when we inherited it." Their mission is to spread joy through African Dancing & drumming by providing spaces to allow creativity to thrive through various art forms. LINK: <https://kuumba.online/>

As part of our Black History Month celebration, Greene Middle School invites you to attend one of our Kuumba performances on **Thursday, February 27th** during 4th period - **Performance 1: 2:00 - 2:30 pm**, or **Performance 2: 2:40 - 3:10 pm**. If you decide to attend, please remember to check in as a visitor at the main office before the show.

Attendance Reminders: Tardies and Absences

Consistent attendance and punctuality are key to student success. As we settle into the spring semester, we've noticed an increase in tardies and absences among our students. In fact, since returning in January, 128 students across all grade levels have accumulated five or more tardies.

Regular school attendance is not only crucial for academic achievement but also a requirement under California state law. Arriving on time ensures students don't miss valuable instruction and sets them up for success.

We encourage you to have a conversation with your student about the importance of being on time and attending class every day. Your support makes a difference in helping them build strong habits for success.

If you have any questions or need support, please don't hesitate to reach out to Principal Carlomagno.

Prop 28 Survey

In 2022, California voters approved Proposition 28, a measure that provides ongoing funding to expand arts and music education in public schools. This initiative underscores the vital role of visual and performing arts (VAPA) in fostering creativity, enriching education, and enhancing students' overall well-being.

As a result, California schools, including PAUSD, are receiving additional funds annually to continue to expand arts programming. These funds are intended to *enhance*—not replace—our existing arts, music, and theater programs, ensuring even more opportunities for our students to thrive creatively.

Attached, you'll find a [brochure](#) with more details about Proposition 28 and its impact.

Please provide your input in the brief survey below. Your input will provide valuable input for site administrators on how these funds are used to enhance our robust K-12 PAUSD Visual and Performing Arts Programs.

Please click here for [a brief survey](#) about potential future arts programming. This survey will be open until February 28th.

Career Lesson Student and Teacher Feedback

The Counseling Department presented lessons that address the Career Development aspect of the ASCA (American School Counselor Association) National Standards at Greene! The Career Development aspect focuses on providing the foundation for the attainment of skills, attitudes, and knowledge that allow students to make a successful transition from school to work. We know that we are developing the *whole* student, not just one facet. In an effort towards promoting that development, we presented lessons to each grade level as follows:

- 6th Grade: Character Survey
- 7th Grade: Values Survey
- 8th Grade: Career Interest Inventory

We are sharing the student and teacher feedback linked below

[24-25 Career Lesson Results](#)

Homework Habitat - Open Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday

Greene Middle School offers an after-school homework study center known as Homework Habitat:

- Homework Habitat meets in the Greene Library on Mondays from 2:35 pm - 4:45 pm, Tuesdays from 3:20 pm - 4:45 pm and Wednesdays from 2:35 pm - 4:45 pm.
- Teachers and tutors are available to assist students with their work. Students have access to library computers and textbooks.
- A late bus (4:55 p.m.) is provided for students in the Voluntary Transfer Program (VTP).

Interested in attending? Students can pick up permission slips from the front office. Links to the permission forms can also be found below. Permission slips should be turned in to Ms. Jena Babcock, in the front office, in advance of their first day of attendance to Homework Habitat.

LINKS to our updated Homework Habitat Permission Forms (PDFs)

[Homework Habitat Permission Form - English](#)

[Formulario de permiso de hábitat para tareas - Español](#)

[家庭作业栖息地许可表 - 普通话](#)

Update: Student and Family Engagement Specialist Team

Greene's Student and Family Engagement (SaFE) Specialist Team is happy to welcome a new member, our Latino/Hispanic SaFE, Abel Velazquez (avelazquez@pausd.org). Abel's hours at Greene are Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8 am - 4 pm. Abel is available to provide support to students and parents, as needed. Abel joins the other members of our team: Mele Tupou, Stacey Davidson, and Qingmin Wang.

Clubs for Spring 2025

The Spring Club Fair was held on Jan 30th during lunchtime. Students were able to check out all of the offerings for Spring 2025. Please click on this link to see our [Spring 2025 Greene Club List and Meeting Schedule](#).

High School Course Registration Information for current 8th grade families

Course registration for the 25-26 school year will be taking place throughout late January and February. Information for current 8th grade students was presented during our Advisory/PRIME period on Wednesday, January 29th. **Course selections for Gunn and Paly are due by Friday, Feb 28th.** Please see the attached link for transition information and the parent info night schedule for the three PAUSD high schools.

LINK: [PAUSD 8th to 9th grade transition information](#)

Update from Youth Community Service

Greene Middle School students have been making an incredible impact through Youth Community Service (YCS) programs this year! From identifying five Core Values that guide their service projects to leading initiatives that benefit the community, their dedication is truly inspiring.

Most recently, students played an active role in a community event honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., contributing through volunteer work, art, and performances. Looking ahead, they are planning several exciting projects and events. Check out the [highlights and photos here](#) to see their hard work in action and find a preview of upcoming events on Slide 6.

Snack Donations for Students

Many students come to request a snack to give them energy to focus during their next class or to get them through the day. Please consider donating healthy, tasty snacks for our students. Some ideas include:

- Popcorners or Popchips
- Sunchips
- Granola bars (no nuts)
- Protein bars (no nuts)
- Fruit snacks
- Ritz cheese sandwich crackers
- Goldfish (all flavors and varieties)
- Beef jerky or beef sticks (Chomp or other brands)
- Cheez-Its

You may drop them off with Jena Babcock in the main office, and/or ship them directly to Greene (addressed to "Counseling Dept") via Amazon, Target, etc. Thank you so much for supporting students!

Please don't hesitate to contact us for any questions, comments, or concerns. We are always happy to hear from our families!

Your Greene Counseling Department, Telephone: (650) 494-8120

- Ms. Curry, all of 8th grade, and 6th grade (Oak and Sequoia) ext. 6636 scurry@pausd.org
- Ms. Payne, all of 7th grade, and 6th grade (Redwood) ext. 6920 kpayne@pausd.org
- Ms. Morales, all grade levels ext. 2411 amorales@pausd.org

Upcoming Student Events (*Families- remind students to check Schoology for student event updates*)

Calendar of Upcoming Events: (Link to [Greene Calendar](#))

- Wednesday, February 19 - Greene 7 and 8 Music Dept Benefit Concert @ PALY PAC - 7:00 - 8:30 pm
- Thursday, February 20 - SaFE Town Hall re: Student Rights on Google Meet - 6:30 - 7:30 pm
- Thursday, February 20 - PALY and Greene Jazz Concert @ PALY PAC - 7:30 - 9:00 pm
- Monday, February 24 - All Day Hearing Testing
- Tuesday, February 25 - ELPAC Testing
- Wednesday, February 26 - Principal's Google Meet - 6:30 - 7:30 pm
- Thursday, February 27 - ELPAC Testing
- Thursday, February 27 - Kuumba Performance in the MPR 2:00-2:30 and 2:45-3:15
- Monday, March 3 - Friday Schedule including release at 1:45 pm (periods 5, 6, 7)
- Friday, March 7 - No School - Staff Development Day
- Sunday, March 9 - Spring Forward! Daylight Saving Time begins
- Monday, March 10 - No School - Local Holiday

Thank you for your continued partnership.

Warmly,

Courtney Carlomagno, Greene Principal, 8th grade administrator, ccarlomagno@pausd.org

Jose Sanchez, Greene Assistant Principal, 7th grade administrator, josesanchez@pausd.org

Mimi Kwon, Greene Assistant Principal, 6th grade administrator, mkwon@pausd.org