

# George Hall Elementary School Newsletter

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## Birthdav Treats

Due to the increasing number of students with food allergies, schools have had to be extremely careful with any food items entering the school building. It is a safety issue and something that we must take very seriously.

Please reconsider sending in edible treats for birthdays. Instead, your child could donate a new or used book to the class, or a class plant, or a class ball, or pass out stickers or pencils.

## Upcoming Events

3/6 School Site Council Meeting  
3/9 Fire drill  
3/11 PTA Board Meeting  
3/12 School Board Meeting  
3/13 No school - teacher learning day  
3/21 PTA Auction  
3/24 SDAC Meeting  
3/26 School Board Meeting  
3/27 Coffee Chat

## About the English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC)

### What is the purpose of the ELPAC?

State law and federal laws require that we administer a state test of English language proficiency to newly enrolled students whose primary language is not English, as well as to students who are English learners (ELs), as an annual assessment. For California's public-school students, this test is the ELPAC.

The ELPAC is used to assess and monitor EL students' progress toward English language proficiency. The ELPAC is the test that is used to measure how well students in kindergarten (K) through grade twelve understand English when it is not their primary language. Information from the ELPAC helps your child's teacher provide support in listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

### How Can I Help My Child Get Ready for the ELPAC?

You are an important part of your child's education. Some things you can do to help your child are:



- Read to your child, or have your child read to you, on a regular basis.
- Use pictures and ask your child to tell you what they see in the picture or what is happening in the picture.
- Provide your child with opportunities to use language outside of school.
- Talk with your child's teacher about your child's listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills to help support your child's progress.

## What are MARS Assessments?

This March, in partnership with the Silicon Valley Math Initiative ([SVMI](#)), teachers will be administering a portion of the "MARS Exam". MARS is a Math Performance-Based Assessment. The MARS tasks are *formative* assessments, meaning they provide immediate information about what a student knows and can do in mathematics, where they have needs, and what instructional next steps will best support them.

Teachers will spend their upcoming March 13th professional learning day scoring and analyzing the MARS tasks. This analysis leads to collaborative planning of next steps for teaching.

You will receive a Student Report that will let you know what task was assessed and your child's strengths and challenges. The purpose of this assessment is to inform teaching moves; it is also one piece of data that is used for their 2nd trimester report cards.

There are many exciting things happening this year in Math:  
3/2-3/12 MARS Testing in K-5<sup>th</sup> grades  
3/26 we launch [Problem of the Month](#)  
4/29 STEM Night at George Hall

