

FREE

# School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation



Covering the Glendora Unified School District

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 7

MARCH / APRIL 2016

## Excellent Schools and Remarkable Achievement

By Dr. Robert J. Voors, Superintendent

The Glendora Unified School District has a long tradition of excellent schools and remarkable achievement. Sometimes we take this success for granted due to the ongoing nature of these accomplishments. Having just presented a report on the State of the Schools to the community, I thought I would share a few selected accomplishments – of some of the great things happening in our schools over the next two issues of *School News*:

1. Glendora has one of the Top High Schools in the Nation! GHS was ranked nationally again this year by Newsweek, US News & World Report, and the Washington Post.
  - With approximately 30,000 high schools considered, *Newsweek* ranked the top 500.
  - Glendora High School ranked 313 on the list. Only 58 California High Schools made the list.
  - GHS was a Silver Medal winner in the *US New and World Report* study. They considered 21,000 schools nationally, of which GHS was ranked 1,084. Statewide, GHS was listed 218 out of 2,199.



2. The Business for Education Honor Roll identified 6 Glendora Schools for their “California Business for Education Excellence” award, and recognized them among the best in the state. Congratulations to Cullen, Sellers, La Petra, Stanton, Sutherland, and Sandburg for earning this recognition!

We are very proud of our students and their parents for the dedication and hard work that led to their success... as well as staff at Glendora High School and each of the elementary and middle schools for the excellent instruction and support in challenging all students to achieve.

3. At GHS, Almost 500 students took 1,098 AP exams with a pass rate of 79%... Some students took as many as 16 exams in their high school career... These are classes like: AP Environmental Science, AP Computer Science, AP Art History, as well as AP Language Arts, Math, Sciences, Social Sciences, Languages and more.
4. The College Board recognized 197 students for their “above and beyond” success on these exams, naming 81 as AP Scholars, 38 as AP Scholar

with Honors, 78 as AP Scholar with Distinction, 14 as National AP Scholar, and even 1 as an AP International Diploma. Each honor requires an increasing stronger performance on exams for the college-level courses.

5. This year, we have two National Merit Semifinalists: Tiger Su and Neil Patel.
6. We continue to increase our student’s exposure to Career-Technical Education classes in our schools – and they have an academic focus and high level of rigor. One of our latest and greatest is a full video editing laboratory class at Glendora High School. If that’s not your cup of tea, students also have options such as Architectural Design, Culinary Arts and Athletic Sports Training. We also have a medical/health course of study where students get practical experience at Foothill Presbyterian Hospital and the nearby convalescent hospital. We are developing an engineering pathway that will be available soon.

## Thought Exchange

By Dr. Robert J. Voors  
Superintendent

We are continually looking for input from our parents, teachers, students, staff and community members to help make our schools even better. One way that appears to have been very successful is an on-line survey through Thought Exchange. This email generated format produced significant input: 1,200 Participants, 2,133 thoughts and ideas, 61,349 Stars (indicating importance of ideas to those surveyed).

Thank you for taking the time to participate in this survey and share your thoughts with us. Your

Tell us what you think!



input is a valuable part of the decision-making process and helps us reflect on what is important to our schools and our community. As we read and deliberate the

various viewpoints that are brought forth, you can be confident that your views have been considered, along with all others, by the school site leaders, district office personnel and the board of education. If you did not participate in this survey, please add your voice to a future Thought Exchange study. You can see the results of this study by following the link on our district website: <http://www.glendora.k12.ca.us/>



**Dr. Charles J. Gomer**  
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Member

# Glendora Education Foundation

417 W. Foothill Blvd., Suite B#324, Glendora, CA 91741 • 626/963-1611 ext 367 • www.glendoraedfoundation.org

## Glendora Students Soar into 2016!

Deck (if allowed one): The future is bright for Glendora's future leaders in technology, music, higher education, and more.

Thanks to the generous donors in the Glendora community, the 2015-2016 school year is going great! Our donors have made it possible for the Glendora Education Foundation to offer many enhancements for the students of the Glendora Unified School District, including:

- **State-of-the-Art Technology:** More Laptops, iPads and Chrome Carts have been added to the campuses, providing GUSD students cutting-edge learning with current technology.
- **College and Careers:** Opportunities to explore future goals through programs that include: Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID), Gifted and Talented (GATE), and Naviance College and Career Planning. Students are also exposed to careers and colleges through on-site and virtual visits, guest speakers on campus, and fieldtrips.
- **Music Program:** Whether it's singing or playing a string or wind instrument, every fourth and fifth grade student can explore and develop their musical talents through their school's vocal and instrumental music programs.
- **Experiential Learning:** Learning comes alive through hands-on experiences such as Nutrition Detectives and experiencing animal habitats. Principals select innovative assemblies and specialty programs that best suit their students. This makes learning real and relevant to GUSD students district-wide.

All of these programs are made possible by generous donors to the Glendora Education Foundation. The community's continued support continues to directly impact the students of the Glendora Unified School District. We are proud of these accomplishments, and look forward to achieving future fundraising goals to provide more opportunities like these to GUSD students.



**Kay Coop**  
Founder/Publisher



The Superintendent's message on the front page on the state of the schools is very encouraging. It is an exciting time to be a student.

One important factor helps make the GUSD excellent is their willingness to reach out to the community for thoughts to help make the schools better. The Thought Exchange information on the front page is a wonderful idea.

Thank you for continuing to include *School News* among your reading choices.

Our next issue is May 18.

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www.schoolnewsrollcall.com

Covering the  
**GLENDRORA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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## GUSD Educational Services

301 S. Loraine Ave., Glendora, CA 91741 • 626/852-4586 • www.glendora.k12.ca.us



**Rebecca Summers, Ed.D.**  
Director of  
Curriculum &  
Instruction,  
Staff Development,  
& Categorical  
Programs

### No Vaccine, No School

Senate Bill 277 is a new law known as No Vaccines, No School. Starting with the 2016-17 school year, students will have to be current on all their immunizations to attend school.

Parents/Guardians of students in grades kindergarten (including Transitional Kindergarten) and seventh grade will have to show proof that their child's vaccinations are up-to-date. Parents/Guardians will no longer be able to opt out of vaccinating their children due to personal beliefs and attend public schools in California.



**IT'S THE RULE  
SHOTS BEFORE SCHOOL**

Information about school immunization requirements and SB 277 Frequently Asked Questions are available on the State's Shots for School website at [www.shotsforschool.org](http://www.shotsforschool.org).

If your child is entering grades TK, K or seventh, the district encourages you to bring your child's immunization information to their school as soon as possible.

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## Cullen *Elementary*

440 N. Live Oak, Glendora, CA 91741 • 626/852-4593 • www.glendora.k12.ca.us



**Dr. Cheryl Bonner**  
Principal

### Operation Santa Clothes

During the months of January and February, several elementary school students from Glendora are able to receive special outfits of clothes from Operation Santa Clothes.

This service is provided by the Sunrise Rotary Club out of Covina, and has been actively spearheaded by Rotarians John and Pam Pomeroy. For years they have rallied donors to the cause of providing select elementary school students in the Glendora, Charter Oak, Covina, and Azusa Unified School Districts with two different clothing outfits, shoes, and underwear. Students who can benefit from this service are identified and allowed to visit a local store on their recognized shopping day.

Facilitated through the fund-raising efforts of the Sunrise Rotary Club, as well as our school PTAs and business and individual donors, the students are paired with “personal shoppers” who volunteer from the local Rotary Clubs, firehouses, high school service clubs, and churches. The volunteers help pick out the clothes and shoes, and the students return to school wearing their new outfits accompanied by smiles and expressions that match their joy and excitement.

With the economy experiencing more lows than highs in recent years, the need for such an operation has increased, because fundraising has indeed taken a downturn. However, Operation Santa Clothes has never wavered in providing support to those who will most benefit from it. Even though the shopping for so many students can last for over two months, the Pomeroyes and their shopper-volunteers remain constantly upbeat and engaged during each excursion. It’s not unusual to hear our students say things like, “This is the best day of the year!”

It’s easy to recognize the positive impact that this activity has had on so many of our students. During the past 22 years we have had over 32,000 children participate in and benefit from Operation Santa Clothes.

## Goddard *Middle School*

859 E. Sierra Madre, Glendora, CA 91741 • 626/852-4500 • www.glendora.k12.ca.us



**Brock Jacobsen**  
Principal

### Yearbook Staff Gives Back

Goddard Middle School’s yearbook staff works hard all year long to create the school’s award-winning yearbook. Lots of their time is spent on the sports fields and at after-school photo-shoots, in addition to class time spent writing captions and stories.

But this isn’t all that they do. After the first big deadline and half of their book is complete, they then spend time doing community service for those who are less fortunate than themselves.

Students use their organizational skills to work together to measure, prepare, cut, and create sewn blankets. These blankets are then donated to a local homeless shelter, along with toothbrushes and toothpaste put together in “care packages” to give to the homeless men and women guests. This year they put down their cameras and keyboards to make one-dozen warm blankets for the shelter!

“These students work so hard to take photos and interview students for their captions,” said Laura Purington, teacher and yearbook adviser. “I’m always amazed at their creativity and dedication. It is good for them to take a break from that and do something completely different that serves their community in a different way.”

Rebecca Jackson, an eighth-grade yearbook editor, added, “Making the blankets is something that makes me feel good because I am helping people who don’t have as much we do.”

The yearbook staff hopes to double the number of blankets and toothbrush kits they are able to donate to the shelter next year by involving more students in the project. They want to use their leadership skills to teach these additional students how to prepare and make the blankets.

Managing their classroom time, extra-curricular activities, and community service projects is giving these students some great opportunities to perform real-world problem-solving and decision-making.



**David Vannasdall, Ed.D. '16**  
Superintendent of Schools  
Arcadia Unified High School District  
Current Azusa Pacific Student

## Excellence in Educational Leadership

Azusa Pacific University’s Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership brings together a network of practitioner-scholars to prepare school administrators for enhanced leadership roles.

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srichardsmayo@apu.edu | apu.edu/educationalleadership



# Glendora *High School*

1600 E. Foothill Blvd., Glendora, CA 91741 • 626/963-5731 • www.glendora.k12.ca.us



**Paul Lopez**  
Principal

## In Full Swing!

Second semester is in full swing at GHS! Our English teachers have been working hard at creating a writing program for our freshman and sophomore students. This program will bring consistency and common language to our department.

All of our academic areas are working on changes to their curricular and instructional practices. Our winter sports teams are wrapping up their seasons and getting ready for the playoffs! We had six students sign athletic letters of intent to colleges around the country. It's exciting to see our student athletes

having the opportunity to perform at the next level!

Our visual and performing arts and cheer have kicked off their competition season and will be very busy over the next couple of months representing GHS. We appreciate all of the hard work that our students and staff put in on a daily basis at GHS. "It's great to be a Tartan!"

# Sandburg *Middle School*

819 W. Bennett, Glendora, CA 91741 • 626/852-4530 • www.sandburgspartans.com



**Eric Osborne**  
Principal

## Fighting Negativity Online

Sandburg students attended an assembly put on by Kim Karr, a teacher from Excelsior Middle School, who spoke to them about how to decrease online negativity and how to use social media appropriately. Students learned ways to deal with negativity on social media.

1. Post positively to make a positive impact on followers and friends.
2. Respectfully comment, report anything inappropriate.
3. Block inappropriate people and report users that post harmful content.
4. Inform students and adults when you see negative online content.

Through engaging questions and dialogue, students were made aware of how their actions online leave a digital reputation. Spartans were encouraged to promote positivity at school, online, and in their lives in general. One seventh-grade student was asked to give a genuine compliment in front of the student body and he stated, "Everyone in here is smart, intelligent and can do anything if they want to and believe they can."

# La Fetra *Elementary*

547 W. Bennett, Glendora, CA 91741 • 626/852-4566 • www.glendora.k12.ca.us



**Marie Porcell**  
Principal

## 21st-Century Classrooms

Classroom instruction has changed dramatically over the course of the last two decades. Where once there was a chalkboard and a microfilm projector, there are now interactive Smart Boards, computers, and tablets.

At La Fetra, we are working hard to keep up with the ever-changing technologies, while also continuing to engage students who are often more computer savvy than the adults!

Our 21st-century students are accustomed to obtaining information with a quick swipe, and are entertained by constant stimuli. Paper and pencil tasks are a thing of the past. When you visit our classrooms, you are likely to see students engaged in research and inquiry projects using computers or tablets for their fact-finding and presentations.



Teachers are also becoming facilitators of learning. They are providing opportunities for students to grapple with new concepts, often by using technology as information sources. Students are also collaborating with their peers as they work to solve relevant problems across content areas.

At La Fetra, teaching and learning continues to change as we prepare our students for success in the 21st-century workplace.



Parents, please join us by empowering your children to make good decisions in regards to navigating social media. Together, let's help create a positive online culture. Encourage your child to take action and stand up for people online. Let's turn things around one post at a time and battle the negative with positive. Collectively, we have the power to end negativity!

## Sellers *Elementary*

500 N. Loraine Ave., Glendora, CA 91741 • 626/852-4574 • www.glendora.k12.ca.us



**Steve Bishop**  
Principal

### Dads-N-Donuts

If you feed them, they will come! The Sellers Dads came out in full force for the annual Dads-N-Donuts event. This is a great chance for dads to bring their children to

school. The event is hosted by the Sellers PTA and is free to all dads and special friends. We encourage students to bring their dad, grandfather or a special friend of their choice. All are welcome.

Each year, this event grows larger and larger. This year, the PTA ordered 936 doughnuts from two different shops to make sure everyone was able to enjoy a doughnut. The coffee, milk and orange juice were donated by local businesses. Local-business involvement helps make this event successful. Of course, it also takes a lot of planning and help from all the PTA moms. Each year, this is a fun event for all involved.



## Sutherland *Elementary*

1330 N. Amelia, Glendora, CA 91740 • 626/852-4614 • www.glendora.k12.ca.us



**Sheri Cole**  
Principal

### Our Students Have Heart

Philanthropy is alive and well at Sutherland Elementary School. This year students will take part in our second annual Jump Rope for Heart event. Students took part in a kickoff assembly with a representative from the American Heart Association. They learned about how to keep a healthy heart and about people with special hearts. Students have an opportunity to raise money for heart research and become Heart Heroes. Many students have already raised money via online donations. With each level of donations raised, students earn pups, which are plastic dogs on brightly colored lanyards.



**First Grade Students wearing a Jump Rope for Heart Pup Lanyard**

During the Jump Rope for Heart event, students take part in various fun, physical activities to encourage healthy hearts. Last year students earned more than \$3,000. It is our hope to exceed that goal this year.

Our school recognizes the importance of teaching students the value of giving.

## Stanton *Elementary*

725 S. Vecino Ave., Glendora, CA 91740 • 626/852-4604 • www.glendora.k12.ca.us



**Dr. Sara Najarro**  
Principal

### Together We Rise

At NEU at Stanton, we are very proud of being able to not only receive but also to give. Stanton is often very fortunate to receive generous donations from many organizations, but it is equally important for our students to learn the joy of service and giving.

In order to develop well-rounded students that will be college and career ready, we not only focus on academics but also on character. This is done through character-development lessons, developing scholarly habits, and participating in service events. This year, our students were able to support our community by learning about foster children and some of the challenges that they face. With that in mind, our students raised over \$800 in one week to donate to our NEU charity of the year, Together We Rise. Not only were they able to support our foster youth but our students also learned the joy of giving.



**Together We Rise teddy bear charms.**



**Career Day**

There are a variety of special days and activities that occur throughout the year on the Whitcomb High School campus. Other than the prom, the one day that garners the most excitement on our campus is Career Day.

With approximately 100 students, Whitcomb has to be strategic with speakers and presenters. We start off by doing a survey in class to discover student career interests. We have found that many of the professions they select are careers that the students can become directly involved with immediately

following graduation or careers that can begin after the student receives certification by attending a community college for two years. Our students are looking for viable career opportunities that will allow them opportunities to utilize their skills immediately.

Over the years, our students have enjoyed speakers representing professions ranging from automotive, construction, welding, and emergency medical services to cosmetology and the culinary arts. Two mainstays for our students in the past have been the military and nursing, which we will once again highlight for our students.

We are continuing to search for new ideas. One such example is a court stenographer, who will be coming to speak with our students. We are always looking for ideas and careers that can meet the needs and desires of our students. We will continue to move in this direction. I invite members of our community who may be interested in providing suggestions or support for this special day in April to feel free to give us a call. You might have just the career we are looking for!

**Ron Letourneau**  
*Principal*

**Keeping Our Students Safe**



**Arturo Delgado, Ed.D.**  
*Superintendent*

Recent events have renewed the sense of urgency among education communities in keeping our schoolchildren safe.

Shortly before the holidays, Long Beach school officials received a terrorist threat – only two days after Los Angeles Unified School District shut down its schools over a similar threat.

Both threats were later determined to be a hoax, but with the memory of the San Bernardino attacks still fresh in everyone’s mind, precautions had to be taken.

In our communities, school and public safety personnel have made progress in implementing school security protocols, but there is – and may always be – more work to be done.

At the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE), we have reviewed security measures and discussed options to further enhance safety and emergency preparedness.

We are also planning to hold a workshop to better prepare LACOE, as well as districts and schools, in dealing with an active shooter situation.

In many cases similar to the San Bernardino tragedy, there was no pattern or method to the selection of victims by an active shooter.

These situations are unpredictable and they evolve quickly, so we have to raise awareness of behaviors that represent pre-incident indicators and characteristics of active shooters.

LACOE has collaborated with community agencies in promoting school safety. We help county K-12 schools comply with all local, state and federal school safety laws.

We also offer workshops to train mental health professionals and other school personnel in the recovery process after traumatic school events.

I hope that we can all continue to work together to keep our students safe because it will take sustained commitment and resources from all of us to meet this challenge.

**Positive Words – Word Search Contest**

**Rules!** One word in the list is NOT in the word search.  
When you have completed the word search, one word will be left and that word you email to: [Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com](mailto:Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com) (Please put Glendora in the subject line)

**Entries must be received by April 15, 2016**  
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

- |          |            |            |
|----------|------------|------------|
| ANGELIC  | HEAVENLY   | PHENOMENAL |
| DAZZLING | HONORABLE  | REASSURING |
| FABULOUS | KIND       | SMILE      |
| GENUINE  | LUCKY      | SPARKLING  |
| GRACEFUL | MEANINGFUL | TRUTHFUL   |
| HAPPY    | OPTIMISTIC | UPBEAT     |



## Not Accepted to Your Dream School?



**Susan D. Marshall**

After the shock and disappointment fades there is a hidden secret many discover.

Did you know with a little work you can go to any college you want to? Pick a college, then work backwards. Sure you may have been rejected once, maybe twice, but that shouldn't keep you from taking classes there.

Look online. Many times there are online courses even degree programs available from your dream school. There are countless stories of students starting their degree online and finishing on campus.

Consider a transfer program. Many community colleges have transfer agreements and alliances with Universities. Find a transfer program that gets you where you want to go.

Look into extension programs offered by your dream college or through your community college. They may not be well advertised, but may be perfect for your situation. Two of my children discovered these programs unexpectedly. Although completely different programs; each program offered benefits that couldn't have been a better fit.

My daughter graduated after discovering the Pepperdine Graziadio School of Business and Management. The program she selected allowed her to work full time, attend classes in the evenings and on the weekends and offered a MJB option. Many of the students in her courses were already CEO's and business executives.

My son who always dreamed of and is now a commercial pilot, began attending MT. SAC; a community college. He discovered that he could attend classes on the Mt. San Antonio College campus every other Saturday and graduate within four years with a Bachelors in Business Management/Aviation Management from University of Southern Illinois.

Hidden treasures that may be just perfect for you.

Susan both educator and advisor specializes in college planning. She helps families save for and pay for college. If you have questions you would like answered in a future article contact her at Susan@College4Less.com or on her Web site at www.college4less.com

## Owl Singalong



**Kate Karp**

Adult Beluga Grads whose younger lives were enriched by Raffi's music will be very happy, particularly if they're parents, teachers or involved in any way with children. The beloved artist and children's advocate emerged from a 12-year hiatus in 2014 with his collection *Love Bug*, and he's following up with another planet- and child-centered theme in *Owl Singalong*.

The album was inspired by Raffi's little grandniece, Lucie, and her owl stuffed toy and also by the chorus of live hooting critters in his backyard. Those birds open the title song, a jaunty little melody inviting us to sing along. Choruses of human children and one or two adults join in on standards such as "The More We Sing Together" and other beloved songs that he's monkeyed—or verb-formed other animal species—with: "The Lion Pokey" and "The Dog on the Bus" are rendered with Raffi's brand of gentle silliness that has always endeared him to children.

Raffi presents his versatile voice in so many different ways, whether it's imitating a gruff lion, crooning like Rudy Vallee on "See the Moon," or entertaining with Pete Seeger's celebrated retelling of the South African folktale "Abiyoyo."

And as always, Raffi will leave gentle lessons for little Belugas and Grads of any age: "Green Dream" is his wish for the future for all his young listeners. And from "I'm Not Small": "I carry the world on my back. When it turns, I'll turn, too."

So simple, so wise, and so very Raffi.

Kate Karp is an editor for *School News Roll Call* and a freelance writer and editor.



# Bicycle Parts—Word Search Contest

**Rules!** One word in the list is NOT in the word search.  
When you have completed the word search, one word will be left and that word you email to: [Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com](mailto:Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com) (Please put Glendora in subject line)

**Entries must be received by April 15, 2016**

From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

- |             |            |           |
|-------------|------------|-----------|
| BASKET      | FRAME      | LIGHT     |
| BRAKES      | GLOVES     | PEDALS    |
| CHAIN       | GOOSENECK  | REFLECTOR |
| CHAIN GUARD | GRIPS      | SEAT      |
| CRANK       | HANDLEBARS | SPOKES    |
| FENDERS     | HELMET     | TIRES     |
| FORK        | KICKSTAND  | WHEELS    |



**Congratulations to Catalina Lopez**  
**Winner of the January Word Search Contest!**



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