

FREE

School News

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Covering the Glendora Unified School District

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3

MAY 2015

Partnership with the City of Glendora



Dr. Robert J. Voors
Superintendent

We are indeed fortunate to have an exceptional working relationship between the Glendora Unified School District and the City of Glendora! Nearly every city department works in some way with students, schools, facilities or employees. The Community Services Department and Library provide multiple programs and services to our youth. The mayor, city council members, department heads and employees are frequently at school functions and events to support your students.



We are extremely grateful for our exceptional Police Department. Taking the lead from Chief Staab, each Glendora Police Officer makes student safety a priority and supports the schools in everything from daily school safety and disaster drills to traffic flow. We even have a School Resource Officer, Officer Cordura, who is visible on our campuses every day and dedicated to the students and staff at our schools.

The Glendora Library, under the leadership of Janet Stone and through Senior Librarian, Cindy Romero, supports thousands of our students. This

happens not only during summer and breaks, but throughout the year. Homework Helpline, book competitions, tutoring, computer access, etc. are all critical supports for our students.

Take a look at these numbers:

Over 2,00 students participate in summer reading clubs and activities; the vast majority are pre-teens who read over 15, hours during the 6 weeks!

The live, online tutoring program for students helps approximately 2,000 students each year with their homework questions.

Approximately 100 students attend their free S.A.T. workshop.

In the past, librarians have visited the middle schools and met with 8th grade English classes in the school's library computer center. Students learned about library databases that could help them in their research when writing papers. Librarians saw a 400% jump in student oriented database use that month!

On behalf of the Board of Education and the school district at large, a big shout out and thank you to our city for all the great work they do for our kids. They are strong, vital partners that help make Glendora unique.

True Community Partnership

The Glendora Education Foundation joined forces with PTA, eGood and a variety of local businesses to launch the first annual Glendora Schools Week, a new effort to raise money for Glendora schools. The communitywide event took place in March and helped to raise \$16,253 for our Glendora schools! The money will go directly to the local PTA of each school to help with important educational programs.



GLENDORA
SCHOOLS WEEK

The over 30 participating businesses generously gave a portion of their weekly sale proceeds back to our schools through the PTA. The week consisted of special promotions and events with participating businesses. Matt Visser, development director with the foundation, said, "For being our first year, the 2015 Glendora Schools Week was a great success with bringing businesses, students and the community together to support our schools."

In an effort to encourage the entire district to participate, a friendly districtwide competition took place to see which schools could acquire the most RSVPs during the week. Although the competition was close between all the schools, it was Cullen that finished in first place and was awarded \$800 and a pizza party. Sellers came in in second place, and was awarded \$500 and an ice cream party. Sutherland came in third, winning \$200.

The Glendora Schools Week committee is "thrilled to have had over 30 businesses participate and 33 students complete their scavenger hunt" and guarantees that "next year's event is going to be an even bigger success." The Glendora Education Foundation would like to thank all the participating businesses, students, parents and community members! We are already looking forward to next year's event, and we are thrilled continue this annual tradition!

Keeping Cyber-Safe



Goddard Middle School has partnered with Glendora Police Department's social media experts, Sgt. Matt Williams and Corporal Shawna Cejello, to help inform and educate our students on the importance of using social media safely in a May assembly. (please see page 4.)

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



New State Testing

This spring, all district students in grades three through eight, and grade 11, are taking the newest computerized state tests as part of the 2014–2015 California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (Caaspp). These new tests are designed to measure student progress on the Common Core State Standards.

Some paper and pencil tests will still be taken in science, but most of the state testing this year will be done in computer labs or on individual devices called Chromebooks. The students will take the computer adaptive test in English language arts and mathematics and also complete a performance task in each of those subjects.

Parents will receive a score report to tell them how well their child is meeting the new standards. For additional information, a number of parent resources are being posted on the California Department of Education's website at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/> under the "students and parents" tab.



Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Congratulations to the Class of 2015!

In this issue you will read about an Accelerated Reading Campaign, Best Buddies Club, Giving Back, Cyber Safety, Parent University and so much more.

Thank you for including *School News* among your reading choices. Be sure to enter our Word Search Contest on page 7.

Our next issue is September 23rd. Have a wonderful summer and remember to make reading one of your summer activities.



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Covering the
GLENDORA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Cullen *Elementary*

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Dr. Cheryl Bonner
Principal

Visiting the Past

After spending a summer in Williamsburg, several Cullen teachers returned to school convinced that we could provide a better Colonial Day experience than the trek to Riley's Farm. And boy, have we! Cullen fifth-graders can now experience Colonial life during our annual Colonial Day event.

Colonial Day offers students the excitement of living in the 1700s. Children get hands-on experience in making rag dolls, calligraphy, weaving, Colonial games, manners, tin punch, quilling, militia training, and even Colonial justice as administered by the strong arm of the British courts!

Our fifth-grade teachers work collaboratively with parents to assemble the above activities for the students to experience on a rotating basis. At each station the children get their "passports" stamped. They can also earn a reward of British shillings for their historically accurate responses to questions from station proctors.

There have even been sightings of famous Colonial celebrities like Ben Franklin and Betsy Ross. What an awesome experience!



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Glendora *High School*

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



Paul Lopez
Principal

A Strong Finish

In March, GHS went through our WASC accreditation process. A team of seven educators visited to see the great things we do, and I believe we're going to receive another six-year term.

Testing season has started. Our upper-level math and science students are participating in the TIMMS exam, which compares high schools internationally. SBAC testing is coming up for juniors, and we look forward to the new test-s challenge.

Ryan Beyer, Rebecca Lowden, Parker Seale, Jeff Kirwin and Veronica Smeltzer have been chosen as our top seniors for their academic and athletic achievements. They were honored at the April Palomares League banquet.

The most notable news is Calvin Qi's victory in the National Merit competition. Calvin is one of the nation's top students and will attend Stanford University. He'll receive a \$2,500 scholarship. Congrats, Calvin!

The end of the year is approaching fast, and so is graduation. We're ramping up for a strong finish!



Superintendent Dr. Rob Voors, Board Members Mike Gautreau, Doris Blum, Doug Ferrell, National Merit Scholar Finalists Rachel Feek, Fernando Favila, Calvin Qi, and Alexander Ragucci, Board Members Cory Ellenson, and Dr. Charles Gomer.

Goddard *Middle School*

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



Brock Jacobsen
Principal

Keeping Cyber-Safe!

In most national studies, over 80 percent of seventh-grade students have cell phones, most of them smartphones. These devices have seemingly limitless capabilities and, when in the hands of an impulsive teen or preteen, can create an entirely different element in the already complicated social world of middle-schoolers. This spells danger!

Don't get me wrong—I am not suggesting we wage an all-out war against technology. That is simply a war we cannot win.

Social media definitely has its place with middle school students, and I believe it makes much more sense to set boundaries, teach them about acceptable use, and model appropriate use when possible.



Along those lines, Goddard Middle School has partnered with Glendora Police Department's social media experts, Sgt. Matt Williams and Corporal Shawna Ceello, to help inform and educate our students on the importance of using social media safely in a May assembly.

Sandburg *Middle School*

819 W. Bennett, Glendora, CA 91741 • 626/852-4530 • www.glendora.k12.ca.us



Eric Osborne
Principal

Breaking Barriers

Something magical happens during the first and third Thursdays of each month here at Sandburg Middle School!

Ninety-five students from all over the campus congregate behind our gym to eat lunch, play games, build friendships, and support one another as part of the Best Buddies Club (www.bestbuddies.org). The Club exists to build strong, supportive, and lasting friendships between students of all abilities, and to bring an increased awareness of those students with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

In addition to their lunch-time activities and games, the Best Buddies Club also sponsors our Special Olympics Team, and has held weekend events like



movie nights, bowling, and an autism awareness fundraiser at a local restaurant. Under the direction of Coach Amy Pearson (our adaptive physical education teacher), and our moderate-to-severe special education teacher, Mr. Eduardo Acevedo, eleven Sandburg students recently had the opportunity to participate in Special Olympics soccer and track.

Our students competed very well against many teams. More importantly, they showed excellent sportsmanship. Sandburg is very proud of its athletes' accomplishments.

La Fetra *Elementary*

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



Marie Porcell
Principal

Accelerated Reader Campaign

Can you say “READ”? At La Fetra, we strive to motivate students to read, read, and then read some more! One way we encourage reading is through participation in the Accelerated Reader Campaign. Students select books within their reading levels, read them thoroughly, and take a short 5–10-question comprehension quiz. Points are earned for scores above 80 percent.

Once students have reached grade-level-point goals, they earn a fabulous student-designed AR T-shirt. Then, they can continue reading and add “bling” or sparkling jewels to their T-shirts. These are highly coveted items around our school!

One day, we hope to have every student reach AR reading goals not only for bragging rights but also because we know that the more you read, the smarter you get. At La Fetra, we’re growing avid readers with voracious appetites for knowledge, and the AR Reading Incentive Program is one way to help us increase dendrites!



Students who achieved reading goals for the 2014-15 school year by March 27, 2015 and will be featured in the school yearbook.

Sellers *Elementary*

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



Steve Bishop
Principal

Giving Back

At Sellers, we are working on 21st-century skills called the 4C’s + Civility. The 4C’s are creativity, collaboration, communication and critical thinking, with the addition of civility. We have many programs in place for our students that center around the Character Counts Six Pillars. We have a variety of programs to try to catch students doing something right and reward them for their actions.

Another area of character that we work on is how to give back to the community. We have a few programs that are led by our fourth- and fifth-grade Student Council that focus around giving back to cancer research and cancer survivors. Within our own Sellers Community, we have had several members that have been impacted by cancer.

We began this focus when our night custodian, Jose, was diagnosed with a very invasive cancer. We held a fund-raiser to help him cover the cost of treatment. Jose lost his battle with cancer, but in his honor, we continue the fund-raiser, now called Hats for Jose. The proceeds from this event are donated to the City of Hope’s cancer research.

Since that time, we have had staff members and children of staff members that have been diagnosed with different forms of cancer. Our student council continues to provide opportunities for our Sellers community to give back. One of those opportunities is an event called Laces for Life. This event will raise funds for cancer research by selling brightly colored shoelaces. Our staff also participates in Relay for Life with a Sellers team.

Teaching our student how to give back for a greater good is part of the unwritten curriculum that can make an impact in the lives of our students.

Have a fun summer!

Stanton *Elementary*

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



Dr. Sara Najarro
Principal

Parent University

In order for children to be successful at school, the student, the staff, the parents, and the community must come together to support the culture of universal achievement. We offer three Parent Universities to support this teamwork. Sessions are presented at convenient times, and child care, translations, and snacks are available.

Our first Parent University was presented by our district’s Teachers on Special Assignment, focusing on how Common Core State Standards are being taught in the classroom. Parents discovered ways to support their 21st-century scholars. In February, our second Parent University, “Parenting for School Success,” was presented by our school counselor. Parents explored ways to talk to their children so they will listen and listen to their children so they will talk. In April we held our last Parent University of the year, “Keeping Your Child Safe In and Out School,” focusing on the impact of video games.



Sutherland *Elementary*

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



Sheri Cole
Principal

Finishing Well

Many exciting events have occurred at Sutherland Elementary School over the last couple of months. It is a pleasure to see that our school participates in various activities that not only emphasize academics and also works as a community to support those in need.

Our second-grade students enjoyed an onsite planetarium show in the cafeteria, while our fourth-grade students had the pleasure of listening to a gentleman, Father Serra, who performed an interactive skit that allowed students to understand what life was like while establishing the California Missions. In addition, our fifth-grade students had an opportunity to listen to a monologue by Dr. Benjamin Franklin. It is wonderful that our students have these opportunities to enhance their understanding of curriculum through these types of assemblies.

Fourth and fifth-grade students participated in the district wide spelling bee. We are especially proud of our very own fourth-grade student, Miriam Tomt, who won first place in the district Spelling Bee. She is quite amazing!

Many parents and family members enjoyed seeing our choir students perform at the Rotary Choral Festival in March. Students did a magnificent job during the performance. It is evident that they worked very hard preparing for the show.

Lastly, our staff and students participated in the annual Relay for Life. This year our school will had a booth at the event, and we even had Sutherland T-shirts available for sale to support the event. Many parents, staff and students signed up as part of the Sutherland Relay for Life team to raise money.

Whitcomb *Continuation High School*

350 W. Mauna Loa, Glendora, CA 91740 • 626/852-4550 • www.glendora.k12.ca.us



Ron Letourneau
Principal

Credit Recovery

As an alternative school, we look for ways to foster student success and recoup credits. One chief goal is to prepare our students for life beyond high school.

Before they leave us, the students need to earn a diploma, and we need to assist them in every way. One such way is through credit recovery, in which students can make up lost credits.

We utilize Odysseyware, a content-specific program meeting all A-G requirements. The classroom is designed to have no



more than 15 computers operating at any time, with a certified teacher and an instructional aide present.

Through Odysseyware, students work on classes not passed at their own pace either at home or in the classroom, thus eliminating some of the deadline pressures in regular classrooms. Teachers and administrators can track progress from school and home.

Credit recovery may not resolve every credit-deficient issue, but it goes far in assisting students with their academic needs.

PTA Council

500 N. Loraine Ave., Glendora, CA 91741 • 626/963-1611 • www.glendora.k12.ca.us



Staci Travisano
President

A Grateful Heart

May means so much more than spring flowers for many of us. May is a time when we focus on celebrating our moms, supporting our teachers and school staff members during PTA's annual Appreciation Week, and remembering the sacrifices of so many who served in the armed forces to protect our freedom as a nation on Memorial Day.

The beginning of May also signals the beginning of the end of our school year and soon-to-be days of summer fun in Glendora! Summer equals trips to the beach, family vacation time, and lazy days in the sunshine. My wish for each of our families would be that you have time and energy to make some memories together this summer, because we all know this time will pass far too quickly!

I'm incredibly proud of our Glendora families and the ways you care for those around you. Thank you for investing in the education of our children by serving as classroom volunteers, field-trip chaperones, and PTA members. Thank you for investing in the future of our children by supporting them at school events, donating to fund-raisers, and staying up late to work on school projects. When we work together to encourage our children to achieve their goals and always try their best, we are planting seeds for future generations of confident leaders, who will choose roads of adventure along with thinking about how to give back to their community.

It has been an honor to serve as your Glendora Council PTA president over the past two years. I have had the opportunity to learn so much from the families in our community, our schools and the children we serve about how we can work together to help our students best engage and thrive in the 21st-century world that they're growing up in. Our Glendora schools go beyond encouraging students to achieve their academic best; we work hard to teach our students to be members of their community who cheer for each other in good times and care for each other when times get hard.

Thank you, families, for making Glendora students shine! I am grateful for our community and all that you do for our children.

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Acclimating



Tyler Robert Armstrong

Every Step – What 7 year old wants to climb Mt. Whitney? I do! After months of hard work I was ready to try to set a record as the youngest person to climb Mt. Whitney in a single day.

Mt. Whitney is the highest mountain in the contiguous United States. It stands at an alarming 14,505 feet. Mt. Whitney is located in California. The Sierra Nevada is the home to many 14 thousand footers in California including Mt. Whitney!

The drive took us about four hours from my house to Mt. Whitney. The drive felt long, really long. All I could see for miles and miles was just desert, cactuses, and road. Then finally I saw little hills which got bigger and bigger and bigger until they were humongous mountains! As soon as we got to the Mt. Whitney Portal we unloaded and setup our campsite. After setting up and putting our food in bear boxes, we were able to relax by the fire and get a good night's sleep (except for me worrying about the bears coming into our tent).

The next day we had breakfast, nothing fancy, just oatmeal and bananas. We decided to take a hike about a quarter of the way up the Mt. Whitney trail to acclimate. We stopped at Lone Pine Lake. The lake was on the edge and looked like it was hanging onto the mountain. The lake had a beautiful blue color and was very cold. There was a very big patch of snow that seemed like it was dripping one drop at a time into the lake. It was very peaceful and quiet. We spent time acclimating at that lake, eating lunch and playing in the snow.

After we hiked back down we went inside our tent to relax and pack for the next day. Packing took us a while because we were trying to make our packs as light as possible. We went to bed early because we had to get up in the middle of the night to start the hike. The next morning (really more like later that night) came quick. My dad woke me up at 1:00 am in the morning, to get dressed and eat in a hurry. I was excited because it was the day I was going to set the record and climb Mt. Whitney!

When we got to the trail we...(to be continued)

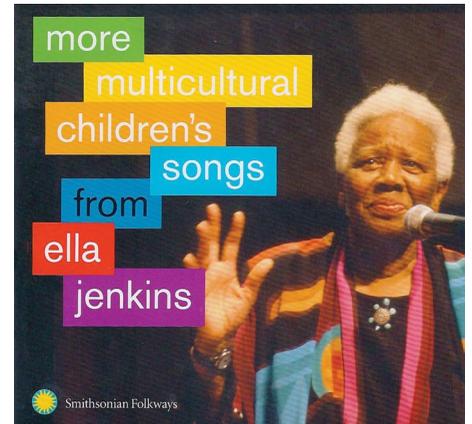
Publisher's note: I read an article about Tyler and immediately invited him to be a guest columnist. He is such an inspiration and I want our readers to hear his amazing stories. If you can't wait for the next column, please enjoy Tyler's web site! www.topwithtyler.com and www.facebook.com/topwithtyler and www.youtube.com/user/TopWithTyler

More Multicultural Children's Songs



Kate Karp

In celebration of the giving season, here's an offering from an award-winning children's music icon. Smithsonian Folkways has just released Ella Jenkins' 34th album, a sampler of music and spoken word that represents many diverse countries and cultures around the world.



Jenkins, called the First Lady of the Children's Folk Song, has recorded collections for children since back in the days of vinyl. My teacher played her records when I was a child in 1957, and yours may have, too, in the six-plus decades of her still-active career.

This collection sends children on a global tour that will educate them about vocabulary, special celebrations and cultures from here in the United States straight through the planet to the Great Wall of China—well, actually, that would be in the Indian Ocean, but you get the idea. There are stops at an Australian zoo for a visit with the continent's unusual animals, in Cuba for a dance lesson and in Israel for a dreidel spin. Children will learn how to count to ten in Spanish, French, German, Italian, Hebrew, Japanese and Greek (and in English, of course) and will hear how *Cairo* in Egypt is pronounced differently from *Cairo* in Illinois. And their passports are good for a dozen other lands.

Jenkins turned 90 years old in August, and she's still singing. *More Multicultural Songs* comprises her continuing gift of learning and connection to cultures through song to children everywhere.

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

Summer Fun 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 Please put GUSD in the subject line.

Entries must be received by July 15, 2015
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

- | | | |
|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Awesome | Lessons | Sunscreen |
| Barbeque | Lifeguard | Surfing |
| Beach | Picnics | Swimming |
| Fireworks | Pool | Vacation |
| Fun | Popsicles | Volleyball |
| Hot | Sand | Water |
| Ice Cream | Summer | Wave |
| Lemonade | Sunny | |

**Congratulations to Sylvianne Bradley-Sesteaga
Winner of the March Word Search Contest!**

L	X	V	O	S	L	W	B	P	L	O	O	P	R	N
D	A	Z	U	K	E	I	E	L	O	H	G	R	E	D
G	R	N	Z	R	T	L	A	I	D	Z	D	E	M	S
U	N	Z	O	O	B	C	Q	N	M	R	T	M	J	
Y	E	I	H	W	Y	E	H	I	A	C	N	A	U	Y
R	D	H	F	E	C	E	B	D	S	H	E	W	S	P
S	A	E	L	R	N	M	B	N	L	P	A	S	Q	D
M	N	L	E	I	U	O	U	F	K	A	O	G	H	H
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P	E	M	L	T	D	W	G	N	I	M	M	I	W	S
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P	T	T	I	I	K	V	A	C	A	T	I	O	N	D
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