

FREE

School News

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Covering the Glendora Unified School District

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 5

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2015

SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Robert J. Voors

Shortly we will be on Thanksgiving break – and not far behind are the Christmas Holidays! I am very thankful to work in such a great school district with so many incredible educators, support staff and leaders. With that in mind, I'd like to take a moment to reflect on two people in particular that I've been thankful for in the Glendora Unified School District.



Doris Blum, Glendora USD Board Member since 1983 and Doug Ferrell Board Member since 1999; a combined service of 48 years to students, staff and the community of Glendora USD.

Doris Blum and Doug Ferrell have each given extraordinary service to the District as long-time members of the Board of Education: Doug for 16 years and Doris for a remarkable 32 years! Each has served as Board President multiple times. They have always kept students first and have provided expert guidance to the District in a wide range of areas. Imagine how much change education has seen in the past 32 years, yet the guidance of the Board and the stability and knowledge they provide has helped to preserve Glendora Schools as some of the best in California.

We welcome our two new member to the Board (this submission was due prior to the November 3rd Board of Education election) and offer a very fond thank you to both Doris Blum and Doug Ferrell. Your service has been inspiring.

The Kindness Club



By Steve Bishop, Principal Sellers Elementary

Be the change you want to see in the world. – Mahatma Gandhi

That quote inspired our new Kindness Club, sparked by a student's presentation. We're blessed with a great, caring community, evidenced by the tremendous participation in our many student-council-sponsored Give Back fund-raisers. Hats for Jose raised money for City of Hope Pediatrics, and Go for the Gold helped local cancer charities.

Schoolwide, we have daily Words of Wisdom

character lessons and a monthly character theme. But we needed to put this knowledge and effort into action on our playground. This is where the Kindness Club picks up. Student Kindness Ambassadors help facilitate friendly, simplified playground rules at recess. They look for ways to catch children being kind and recognize these actions. The goal is to daily promote kind acts from students' hearts instead of the organization's heart.

The Kindness Club has taken on this call to promote random acts of kindness at Sellers Elementary School.

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Charles Albrecht
President

Point to Ponder

By prevailing over all obstacles and distractions, one may unfailingly arrive at his chosen goal or destination.

— Christopher Columbus

I recently came across this quote and thought it rather timely since we find ourselves on the doorsteps of the holiday season. We are off to an excellent 2015–16 school year here in Glendora. And as one would expect while working with so many different elements on behalf of our children, we encounter challenges and triumphs. Thanks to a strong community bond, we can work together to overcome the obstacles and celebrate accomplished goals.

The quote by Christopher Columbus made me stop and wonder, “What are the obstacles and distractions I face in my life that threaten to derail me from accomplishing the goals that are important to me?” I think it is good to pose that question to our children, too. It might also be an opportunity to review their personal goals and ambitions, keeping in mind that each child is different, with unique needs and dreams.

As we enter the holiday season, things will get busy for us. May I even say hectic? It is my intent to take a step back now and check in with my children to evaluate our family’s stress level. I’ll even try to drive a little slower around town for the children’s safety. Most of all, I want to intentionally express my love and gratitude to my family and to our community.

Finally, if you have not had a chance to join your PTA, it’s not too late. Many fun and important volunteer opportunities are still available. If you can volunteer for any future activity or school event, please contact your PTA president. They will be thrilled to have you join in, and you’ll have something fun to share with your children.



Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Thanksgiving is quickly approaching and we have much to be thankful for including dedicated educators. As Dr. Summers says in her article on the following page, educators are also learners. We are grateful for their dedication to educating our youth.

Thank you for including *School News* in your reading choices.

Our next issue is January 20, 2016. In the meantime, have a Happy Thanksgiving, Happy Holidays and Happy New Year! We are always mindful of our men and women in the armed services.

School News

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Covering the
GLENORA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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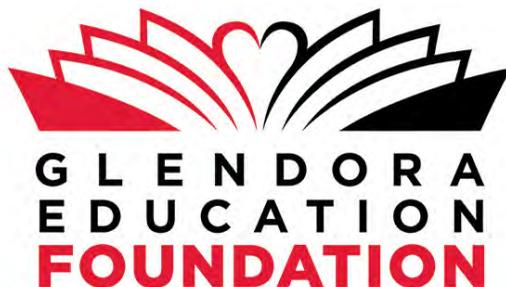
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Dollar-for-Dollar Gift Match for YOUR School!



Save the Date – Giving Tuesday

Double the impact of your gift to the Glendora Education Foundation on December 1, 2015! A generous donor will match the gift you make to your child’s school. Every dollar donated on this date will go directly to the school of your choice.

How these funds support YOUR school

Each principal has identified specific projects:

Sellers: A mobile science lab, intervention resources

Cullen: Technology updates, intervention programs

La Fetra: Intervention programs, technology updates

Stanton: Technology updates, parent education

Sutherland: Barton Reading tutors, GATE enrichment, classroom technology updates

Goddard: STEAM education, Chrome books, GATE education, school culture enhancements

Sandburg: Spartan Labs-Maker Space in library, tutoring enhancements

Whitcomb: Odysseyware-class credit recovery software, technology updates

GHS: Chrome cart, open library night for tutoring, Maker Space in library

What to Do

On Dec. 1, Giving Tuesday, visit our website, www.GlendoraEdFoundation.org/Give. Make your gift, and select the recipient school(s) of your choice.

OR

New this year, you can text your gift with your school name - see exact spelling above (example text: \$25 Sellers) to (626) 691-9876. For a general gift to the foundation, simply text your gift amount by itself.

Either way, your school will receive your gift and a dollar-for-dollar match!

All gifts, of any size, matter! Please make your gift on Giving Tuesday, Dec. 1.

For even more detailed information on where your dollars go, please visit:

www.GlendoraEdFoundation.org/Give

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

Connect, Collaborate, and Innovate

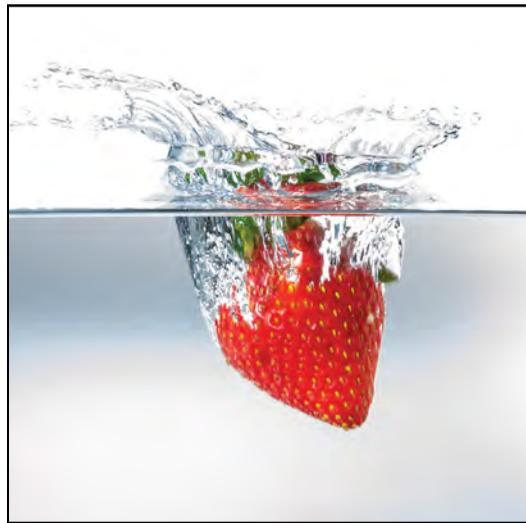
In Glendora Unified, our teachers aren't just teachers. They are also learners!

Throughout the year our teachers are continually working to improve their pedagogy, or the art and science of teaching. But for one special day in October the students are given the day off so that the teachers can come together and fine-tune their craft.

Aptly titled Connect! Collaborate! Innovate!, the day is structured so that our teachers can learn from one another in detailed sessions. The subject matter includes how to use innovative technology, high engagement strategies, writing strategies, mathematics, science, helping students with varied needs, using parents as allies, and understanding their own strengths in the classroom.



A local credit union provides lunch for the teachers. At the end of the day they are given an opportunity to meet together in small groups to talk about what they have learned, and how they can use this new knowledge in their classrooms.



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Cullen *Elementary*

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Dr. Cheryl Bonner
Principal

Rusty's Toolbox

"Welcome back, Little Diamonds! I hope you had a great weekend!" That is generally the lead-in to a Monday message. However, this past Monday, Rusty at Schooltoolstv prefaced his one-minute video clip with "Shout out to all the Condors at Cullen Elementary School in Southern California!"

Rusty is a school counselor in Northern California who provides a daily message through video clips on life skills for schoolchildren throughout the grades. The clips last about one minute and end with a follow-up question to encourage reflection on the day's topic. Topics encompass a variety of life skills such as how to converse,

how to deal with bullies, being a friend compared to being friendly, honesty, courage, and a wide range of topics related to getting along with others and being successful in school and life. Additionally, students and staff are given tools for communicating in positive, assertive and polite ways.



Rusty visiting Cullen School.

Glendora *High School*

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



Paul Lopez
Principal

Great Start

We have had a great start to the school year! In fact, we just finished the first quarter. My how time flies!

It is exciting to walk our campus and see all of the wonderful activities that are taking place in our classrooms. Teachers and students are using technology to reach higher levels of learning. Our new teachers are doing a good job in the classroom.

Our athletic teams are off to a great start. Our teams are playing hard and are competitive in the Palomares League. Matt Fink, our talented quarterback, has been chosen to play in the Under

Armor All American game in Florida on January 2, 2016. We are excited that he has been offered this opportunity.

Our Associated Student Body put on a successful Howdy Dance, and Movie Night was spectacular, with 350 students in attendance to see "The Sandlot." We also enjoyed some exciting homecoming activities earlier this month. We are off to a great start!



Matt Fink receiving his Under Armor All American Jersey.

La Fetra *Elementary*

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



Marie Porcell
Principal

Eating Well

We are committed to promoting healthy eating and active lifestyles at La Fetra. And we are fortunate to have the support of our PTA and the Glendora Education Foundation to help fund special events and activities that will also foster healthy living habits.

For example, our amazing PTA coordinates a monthly "Walk to School Day" event. This year we are partnering with the Glendora Police Department to encourage our families to all walk to school.



The Foundation also helps to spread the word about healthy habits by offering a "Nutrition Detectives" program that highlights healthy food choices and the importance of daily exercise. Students are provided nutritious snacks like fresh fruits and vegetables in lieu of less-healthy options.

The message we strive to deliver is that engaging in healthy food choices and exercise today can help to develop a healthy lifestyle in the future. So let's eat well and play hard at La Fetra!

Goddard *Middle School*

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



Brock Jacobsen
Principal

Soaring to New Heights

Not many people knew. Perhaps not many cared at the time. In the midst of the economic crisis that led to so many cuts of jobs and programs, Goddard Middle School was dangerously close to losing its Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program. We lost our seventh-grade program, and the numbers were hovering just over 10 students in the eighth-grade AVID class. The outlook was bleak.

Thanks to the support of district leadership, the Glendora Education Foundation, and some incredibly dedicated educators on this campus, we somehow managed to navigate those challenging times. Years later, we are now reaping the bounty of that commitment, fortitude, and vision. This school year, Goddard's AVID program is now nearly 90 students strong.

Goddard's AVID program is focused on preparing all students for success in college and a global workplace by providing them with the study skills, learning strategies, and support needed to make this commitment a reality for our children. AVID is not designed with the 4.0 student in mind. Nor is it designed for the student who is struggling due to a lack of motivation. It is designed for the student "in the middle," who shows flashes of potential but is missing the tools to strive for greatness. We focus on writing, note taking, critical thinking, and tutorial strategies in addition to taking regular college and university field trips.

This is an elective class, but truly it is so much more. AVID strategies are good for all students. Our staff continues to look for ways to introduce these strategies to all students in order to continue to close the achievement gap and help our students realize their college and professional dreams.

Sandburg *Middle School*

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



Eric Osborne
Principal

Sandburg Starts Project 2 Inspire

With multiple languages spoken on campus and a variety of different ethnicities and abilities, Sandburg Middle School's greatest strength continues to be our diversity. Our diversity builds compassion and understanding toward others, which is a key component of teaching our students how to be respectful young men and women. In response to the needs of our diverse parent population, we have worked in conjunction with Stanton Elementary School to offer a new parent education course called Project 2 Inspire.

Project 2 Inspire is designed to engage parents in their children's education by increasing parental knowledge about schooling and the high quality educational programs that are available to their children. On October 26, parents from both Stanton and Sandburg started a fourteen session course in parent education that is offered in English, Spanish, Arabic and Mandarin. It is our hope and goal that Project 2 Inspire will become a valuable and ongoing service we can offer to our new-to-country and ESL parents.

If you would like additional information about Project 2 Inspire or would like to become involved, please visit our Parent Resources tab on the front navigation screen of our homepage (www.sandburgspartans.com) to download an application or call Sandburg's main office.

Sellers *Elementary*

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



Steve Bishop
Principal

The Kindness Club (please see article on front page)

Whitcomb *Continuation High School*

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



Ron Letourneau
Principal

Sports Programs

Some of the opportunities provided to students at a comprehensive high school are not available for many students at alternative high schools for various reasons. At Whitcomb High School, we have made a concerted effort to give our students some of the same opportunities as the comprehensive high school, only on a smaller scale.

One activity that was introduced a few years ago at many of the alternative schools in the valley is the San Gabriel Valley Continuation League. This league was formed to allow all students to enjoy the opportunity to participate in sports and earn a few credits along the way. The sports program has been a huge success for many of our students. There are currently 10 teams participating in the league. The teams work with each other to determine game schedules. Participating schools range from San Dimas in the east to Alhambra in the west, with all other schools in between.

There are currently four sports offered to the student body. We begin the year with flag football, which is very competitive. At the completion of the football season, we move directly into basketball season. We then move into the softball season, which is fun for all of them because of the mix of guys and girls participating. To finish off the year, the school plays a few soccer games.

In order to participate, students must maintain a grade-point average of 2.0 and be in good standing at school. We encourage competition, but the most important factors are good sportsmanship and building relationships with the other alternative schools. I am pleased to say that Whitcomb has made all of us proud!

Stanton *Elementary*

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



Dr. Sara Najarro
Principal

Partnerships are Valued

Over 3 years NEU @ Stanton Elementary has had an amazing partnership with Kelly Chakerian and her local church group. It all began with the Back to School backpack and school supply donation drive from the church. This year we had over 150 backpacks and tons of school supplies. The supplies have been donated to our new teacher classrooms as well as sent home with students. The smile on a student's face when they unzip their new backpack full of surprises is priceless. We had one day of service with over 200 volunteers and have had small groups come support our garden. Last year and happening again this year the church will partner with PTA's for our Affordable Christmas Shop. Here items will be donated and sold for an extremely discounted rate. Not only does the church group take care of our students, parents and campus, but they also support our teachers. With back to school gifts and first day of school

breakfast, our staff knows they are appreciated. However, it really should be the reverse! Our staff, students and Stanton community is truly humbled and full of gratitude for our ongoing partnership with this generous group.



Sutherland *Elementary*

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



Sheri Cole
Principal

Collaboration

Sutherland had its annual Walk to School Event in October. Many students and families walked to school with their friends. Stickers and healthy snacks were passed out at the front gates. Our beloved mascot, Cody the Cougar, was also there to greet the students and give them a high-five. Our PTA, Sutherland Cub Scout Troop, and fabulous parent volunteers helped to make the event a success!

Great things are happening in our classrooms. This year we are diving deeper into Common Core by learning more as

a staff about the 4 C's of Collaboration, Critical thinking, Creativity, and Communication.

Classroom lessons show evidence of deep thinking, as students engage in learning activities that challenge their thinking and require them to provide a rationale for their answers. Various grade levels are also using project-based learning, multiple sources of information to glean understanding, hands-on learning, and new technology to help accomplish the task of solidifying information.



**4th Grade Classroom exploring the topic:
"The Scientific Method."**

Love Bug



Kate Karp

Are you a Beluga Grad?

If Raffi was part of your childhood, you are. You dug into the meaning of “Baby Beluga” and had a great time singing “Down by the Bay.” And if you’re not one, here’s your chance to get a midlife diploma and mentor the children in your life.

Raffi Cavoukian, known by his first name, is bridging the near generation gap he created by not issuing a children’s CD in the last 12 years. *Love Bug* honors children and the world they live in; the collection is an extension of Raffi’s social-change movement, Child Honoring, as well as his desire to create environmental awareness and action as a team of humans. Worldly wise and socially and environmentally conscious, *Love Bug* pays lip service to causes only through what comes out between Raffi’s own lips.

All songs are meaningful and tuneful; they’re instructive for children and therapeutic for adults. “Mama Loves It” sings about teamwork beginning in the home. The instrumental “Pete’s Banjo” honors Pete Seeger, one of Raffi’s social inspirations. “Seeing the Heart,” like a Zen parable, is interpretable through intuition only, and “Water in the Well”—well, surely a teachable moment for our drought-parched state.

And “Turn This World Around” brings it all together. Raffi’s music is gentle and at the same time serious about the planet, both in leaving it for children and for children doing their part to preserve it. They, too, will be adults someday.

Discover Raffi’s Child Honoring philosophy at www.raffinews.com/.

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



Letters of Recommendation



Susan D. Marshall

Things you can do to tip the scale.

When it comes to getting financial aid, scholarships, merit money you will receive some of your best offers from the more selective colleges. That being said, they also have a more rigorous application process. Getting letters of recommendation is part of the process.

Select teachers who know you over a dignitary that may not. Most likely, you will receive a stronger letter of recommendation that stands out from the rest.

Help Teachers and Counselors Help You

Make sure you arm your teachers/counselor with transcripts, a bio or brag sheet about yourself. Attach a project or some outstanding work that you did, possibly, in their class.

Make sure you are prepared in how you handle the situation.

Let them know that you don’t expect to see the letter. You need to give them the various forms they will need and envelopes already addressed to each of the schools where they are to send the letters.

You then want to make sure to follow up with thank you notes of appreciation. Teachers are not required to write letters for you. Counselors are. Both are more than worthy of the extra gratitude for their efforts.

You will shine all the more for the person you are.

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

Winter 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 (Please put Glendora in the subject line)

Entries must be received by December 15, 2015.

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

BLIZZARD	ICE SKATES	SNOWBOARDING
BOOTS	ICICLE	SNOWFLAKE
CABIN	MARSHMALLOW	SNOWMAN
CHILLY	MITTENS	SOLSTICE
FIREPLACE	MOUNTAINS	SOUP
FREEZING	OLYMPICS	TOBOGGAN
FROST	POPCORN	UMBRELLA
GINGERBREAD	RAINCOAT	VACATION
HOLIDAYS	SCARF	
HOT CHOCOLATE	SLED	

Congratulations to Isabella Garcia
Winner of the September Word Search Contest!



A Season of Sports - It Must Be Fall



Charlene Ashendorf

I was an only child and I was Daddy's girl. My father was the youngest of nine. I grew up with loads of uncles and lots of cousins, male (mostly). So my bonding experiences with Dad and the relatives were spent in Wrigley Field, Soldiers Field and the Chicago Stadium.

For a Chicago sports fan, memories of playoffs and championships are more often bitter than sweet, with the exception of "da" Bulls. Growing up in Chi-town it wasn't a matter of whether you followed sports or not, you just chose your alliance to the north or south side as is the case with baseball. And, if like me, you recall seasons as a Cubs fan, those were years of frustrations.

When we moved to the left coast I realized all too soon my biggest loss would be sports. California had far too many baseball and basketball teams and what could they know about the only real sport, hockey? Now it's true there was this team called the Kings, but imagine what a silly name for a team in a land where hockey would never rule.

For me, nothing could compare to the excitement of taking the bus and heading to Wrigley Field seeing apartments rise up from the pavement on Sheffield Avenue while sitting in the bleachers. There were vines that were planted in the '30s and then there was—the wall...and peanuts, hot dogs and cokes. Oh, and that "Take me out to the ballgame" organ. It was simple and so sweet. I grew up knowing the name of Ron Santo, Billy Williams, Joe Pepitone and Ernie Banks as well as I knew those of my neighbors. Even though there was never a post season appearance by my Cubbies in the 50s, or 60s or 70s... they were a fans team.

And then there was the only true sport, the game of hockey. How lucky I was to be able to tag along with Dad and his band of brothers to the Chicago Stadium. This place was huge. (You know how sometimes your memory plays tricks on you and things aren't really as big as you remember?) Actually it was the largest indoor sporting arena in the world. And if you thought the organ at Wrigley Field was something...As I remember the story my Dad told, this organ was built in the late '20s in Wisconsin and was so big, it took 24 railroad cars to transport it to the stadium. When my dad said we were going to the "Madhouse on Madison Avenue" my face would light up like the stars in the heavens! The Blackhawk's were known to have kept the fans on their feet with fights on the ice and in the stands.

1960 was a turning point in my life. The family relocated to Florida and the Blackhawk's would win the Stanley Cup without me. I never recovered from that season. Until Wednesday, June 6, 2007 when the Anaheim Ducks (first known as MIGHTY) would become the first team in west coast history to raise the Stanley Cup across the ice at the Honda (once upon an Anaheim) Pond.

It's fall, that season of sports is in the air and I will be watching my favorite teams on the sidelines while my dad will be looking down from that big arena in the sky.

Remembering when...

Charlene remembers growing up in Chicago with hot and humid summers, leaves that turned colors in the fall and endless winters. Active in her community and church, she advocates for seniors, affordable housing, literacy and libraries. Her hobbies include reading, writing and visiting art galleries. Charlene resides in Costa Mesa with her husband, Dennis who is a teacher in the Newport Mesa Unified School District. <http://about.me/cmash>

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Disclosure Laws Help or Hurt?



CathyLyn Brooks

Effective October 1, 2015 (unless delayed again; this was originally set for August 1) another portion of the Dodd-Frank legislation will take effect. The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) has revised the forms that disclose mortgage financing information to consumers. Overall this is a good thing. Legal forms and contracts should be in easy to read language. This is the trend and it is helpful to the public. They have also made some other changes that cannot be fully covered in the space here.

The CFPB did a good job of simplifying and re-styling the materials that lenders must deliver to buyers throughout the loan process. However, they may have not realized that the sale of a piece of real estate in California is a "team sport" and everyone has to really stay on track or delays are caused.

In their infinite wisdom, they have decided that the new Closing Disclosure must be delivered to the loan applicant no less than 3 days before the actual closing date. And further, that any subsequent material changes to this disclosure will re-start the 3 day time period and delay the closing by that same period of time.

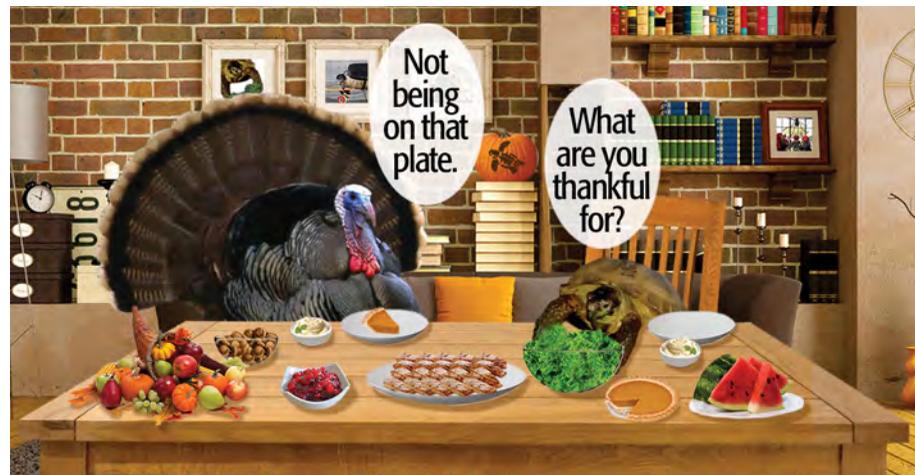
Do people need 3 days to review these simple documents? Doubtful. If you are reading this column, you are capable of reviewing and asking any questions in, I would guess, maybe as little as a few hours - 24 to 36 hours, if you have a really a hectic life. The documents are simplified, after all.

As closings are planned months ahead, moving trucks are ordered, utilities are set to be shut off, and belongings are packed away, a delay of 6 days at the last week is sure to throw a rock into that wheel of progress. Not to mention that if it is a chain of sales where a series of homes are sold and people are moving in a large procession from one home to another, what a mess that could create. This could cause some real unhappiness and it can be stressful enough just buying the home and packing to move.

For any loan originated prior to the implementation date of October 1, the new regulations will not apply. Escrows in process on that date will not be affected. Buyers and sellers can now expect to have escrow periods of at least 38 days, and that is if everything goes smoothly unless the buyers are truly pre-approved by an underwriter.

Also any change in the buyer's choice of loan program will require other changes and delay the process. Your broker or agent has likely attended a class on this new protocol. You will be able to spot them. They leave the class looking depressed and frustrated. If your agent has not taken the class, I suggest further discussion with your lender and escrow provider to ensure an efficient escrow.

CathyLyn Brooks has been a local real estate broker since 1980, earning the advanced credentials of Certified Residential Specialist and Graduate Realtor through advanced education and sales volume. She has completed the American Bar Association's approved Paralegal certification and is an instructor at UCI in the Paralegal program. She also teaches real estate related courses in the extension program. The NASD, the NYSE, and the National Futures Organization have appointed her as a public arbitrator. Her degree is in finance and marketing from the University of Southern California. CathyLyn is affiliated with Main Street Realtors and can be reached at: 562/719-2530 or cathylyn@earthlink.net Consumers should seek legal tax advice from professionals in each field.



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