



THE GRIFFIN

INSIDER

A Newsletter for the Families & Friends of Gladstone Elementary School

APR/MAY/JUN

2014

APRIL 2014

18 1st & 2nd - Haugh Theater
22 4th - Water Educ. Trip
22 English Learners Night
25 Kids Can Recycling

MAY 2014

1 Kinder-Long Beach Aqua.
6 SSC 5:15, PTA 6:30
12 4th - Gold Rush Camp
12-16 Teacher Apprec. Week
15 3rd - Lewis Playhouse
19 Elem. Band Concert
20 Choir Spring Concert
22 Open House
23 Honor Choir-Disneyland
26 Mem. Day – No School
27 Perseverance Awards
29 1st - Natural Hist. Museum
29 GATE Parent Meeting
30 Kids Can Recycling
30 Volunteer Parade
30 5th vs Staff Softball

JUNE 2014

2 Kinder Lizard Wizard
2 5th Gr. Party
3 5th - Riley's Farm
3 Kinder - LA Zoo
3 SSC 5:15, PTA 6:30
4 3rd Apple Valley Picnic
4 2nd Lunch @ Park
5 Last Day of School

What a 2013-14 Griffins!!

by James Ellis

As we are now well into the month of April, we have about 30 days left of school. In the coming days, our Griffins will be finishing up another year of learning. There will be some new testing that marks the end of this year -- our first time taking state exams on the computer. This will surely bring about some challenges, but I know our Griffins will rise to the occasion. This year's testing is as important as ever! While we will not have an API score reported this year, the results will be crucial as the test is tweaked for the upcoming years based on the results. As always, you can help your Griffin by making sure they are well rested for testing and encouraging them to simply do their best. Together with our teachers and support staff, our Griffins are ready to tackle this new challenge.

Beyond testing, students are also working on end of the year projects. Upper grade students are completing state and mission reports. Our choirs and bands are preparing for Spring concerts. Primary students are putting the finishing touches on writing projects and artistic pieces for the Open House on May 22nd. We hope you will find the time to join us for Open House, where you can see first hand a variety of work that has been completed throughout the year.

Speaking of May, this is the month where we recognize our teachers with Teacher Appreciation Week. This year, because the testing closes a bit later than usual, we will be celebrating Teacher Appreciation Week from May 12th – 16th. Please join me in saying thank you to the teachers who have led a classroom of Griffins all year -- helping them to grow academically and socially. Your thanks need not be expensive or elaborate; a personal note or a few kind words from parents and students goes a long way.

Finally, I want to thank the Gladstone PTA for an amazing year. Thanks to their efforts, we have countless events and activities that have enriched the Gladstone community. We are already enjoying the gift of tables and computers made earlier this year. Gladstone is the fantastic school it is because our students, parents, and teachers work together to make Gladstone a special place. The PTA is the organization that brings us all together in service to the students. Thank you for a terrific year.

The summer will be here before you know it, Griffins! Congrats on a fun year and get out there and enjoy your summer break!

Changes in My 1st Grade Class

by Martha Peterson

I can hardly believe the school year is coming to an end and the faces of my 1st grade class have grown and changed so much. It seems like just yesterday I was standing in front of little, wide-eyed kindergarteners who were ready for the adventure of 1st grade. When I looked out at those same faces today, a beautiful metamorphosis had taken place. Instead of the wide-eyed adventurers sitting in front of me, I was looking at 1st grade faces with toothless grins! It brought a gentle smile to my face as I realized that indeed most of the year has come and gone.

First grade is a wonderful time of change and growth. The student who was once timid about speaking in front of the class is now learning alongside of the little chatterbox who is learning that listening is also a virtue. Leaders are learning to follow, and followers are learning to lead. Friendships are made that will continue on for, perhaps, a lifetime. I know that my heart and life will be changed because of each of those “toothless grins” that I teach and learn with every day. The world takes on a new and beautiful perspective when I listen as my 1st graders listen, I see as my 1st graders see, and I learn as my 1st graders learn.

As summer begins, every day is a new opportunity to teach as well as learn. Let us learn to embark on each new adventure with the faith and wonder of a child. It can be their greatest gift to us. Have a wonderful and safe summer.



LOST & FOUND

The piles and racks full of lost sweaters and jackets continue to grow. As the school year comes closer to an end, please stop by and look for any lost articles of clothing.

Anything remaining in the Lost & Found area at the end of the year will be donated to a local charity.



STUDENT COUNCIL CORNER



Before spring break, Student Council hosted its annual **spring variety show** that included 19 student acts and culminated in a synchronized swimming skit performed by staff members. A good time was had by all as our Griffins displayed their many talents!

The last two **KidsCan collections** of the school year will be on Friday, April 25 and May 30. Look for flyers distributed before these dates to turn in with your donations. Those contributing will be entered into drawings for prizes and Student Store dollars.

The final **Spirit Dress Days** fall on Friday, April 25 and May 30. The April theme will be Career Day ... Dress for Success, and the May theme will be Spirit Shirt ... Gladstone Colors Day. If you would like to have some fun, join us on the black top following first recess for our monthly spirit rallies on those days!

Students interested in **running for office for the 2014-2015 school year** will need to attend an informational meeting in mid-May (date and time to be announced). The speech assembly and primary election will take place on Wednesday, May 21. The final election will be on Thursday, May 29. Only those promoting to 4th and 5th grade will be eligible to run for office.

The annual gift to the school was purchased early this year. Student Council contributed money to purchase the round concrete tables the students have been enjoying in the lunch area.

Thank you to all who supported Student Council and its endeavors this year. A special thank you goes to our representatives and officers! We are proud of what was accomplished and look forward to another busy and exciting year in 2014-2015. For those who recycled, a big thanks to you too! We will continue with our KidsCan Recycling Program, so please save your aluminum cans and plastic bottles over the summer to start the year off right! May the remainder of this school year and your summer be full of adventure!

FIFTH GRADE EVENTS

SAVE THE DATE!! The fifth grade party will be on Monday, June 2nd, from 9am - 2pm at the San Dimas Swim and Racquet Club. Set-up will be around 7:30 am or 8:00 am, and clean-up will be hopefully done by 3:00 pm. We hope parents will be able to come and help out at the party either for the entire time or for as long as you can!! There will be swimming, games, a DJ and lunch! Please come support our fifth grade class.

Please watch your emails from your student's teacher for further details as we get closer to the party date. We need a lot of volunteers!!

If you have any questions, please contact Janice Miano (jmiano@plannet.net) or Maria Sanderson (msanderson6@verizon.net).

We hope to see you there!!

Gladstone & PTA Opportunities

Would you like to be more involved in your child's school? Do you wish you could be a part of your child's learning process, and see what happens in their classrooms during the day? There are always



opportunities to help your child's teacher; in the classroom, on field trips, and after school. Would you like to help Gladstone make decisions about school activities and field trips? Come

and be part of the PTA! The meetings are once a month and we always welcome guests! Learn about the things happening on campus and help decide future events! Join us!

Gladstone Elementary School

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Office Lunch Hours:

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

*minimally staffed
during lunch hours*

Website:

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