



# THE GRIFFIN

INSIDER

A Newsletter for the Families & Friends of Gladstone Elementary School

## APR/MAY

## JUNE 2013

### APRIL 2013

#### 19 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday Bash!

28 Elementary Choir  
sings at Quakes game

### MAY 2013

2 Kinder LB Aquarium  
3 Kids Can Recycling  
7 SSC/PTA meeting  
14 4<sup>th</sup> Gr. Gold Rush Camp  
**16 OPEN HOUSE 5:30-7:30**  
17 Minimum day 12:25  
20 Band Spring Concert  
@LHMS 7:00 pm  
24 Volunteer Recognition  
Day/Parade  
**27 No School –**  
**Memorial Day**  
28 3rd Gr. City of SD Tour  
28 Perseverance Awards  
29 Choir Spring Concert  
30 GATE Parent Meeting  
31 Honor Choir – Disneyland  
31 Kids Can Recycling  
31 Positive Incentive Day

### JUNE 2013

3 5<sup>th</sup> Gr. Riley's Farm  
4 5<sup>th</sup> Gr. Party  
4 Kinder – LA Zoo  
5 2<sup>nd</sup> Gr. Park  
5 3<sup>rd</sup> Gr. Apple Valley Picnic  
5 Kinder – Lizard Wizard  
6 Last Day of School

## Spring Has Sprung at Gladstone!

by James Ellis, Gladstone Principal

Once we get back from spring break, Gladstone year's is quickly wrapping up! But there is a lot to do in the last two months of school. State Testing begins in late April and continues through the middle of May. Our Griffins have been working hard all year and now have an opportunity to show off all they have learned! Included in this newsletter are ways parents can help their students prepare for the state test.

As you know, 2013 marks Gladstone's 50<sup>th</sup> birthday! I hope you were able to join us for the birthday bash that took place on April 19<sup>th</sup>. The Gladstone PTA threw a wonderful Birthday Bash that included dinner for 500, a DJ to keep the evening moving, and games for kids. Most importantly, the Birthday Bash was a time for the Gladstone family to come together and celebrate all that we have accomplished. We had current students and faculty along with alumni and retirees sharing stories about what makes Gladstone the phenomenal school that it is.

If you weren't able to join us on the 19<sup>th</sup>, please plan to attend the Gladstone Open House on May 16<sup>th</sup>. Our students and staff want to give you a firsthand look at some highlights from the school year. Then, before we know it, the end of the year field trips will be happening, the 5<sup>th</sup> grade vs Staff softball game, and the end of the year awards assemblies will be here. Watch the Gladstone website for details on when and where everything is happening. If you haven't already done so, you can sign up for updates from our Google Calendar so you can keep track of everything that is going on.

It's been a terrific 2012-13 school year. Our students are another year older and wiser. It's hard to believe how quickly time is flying by. I want to take a moment to say thank you to all of our parents for their unending support of Gladstone. And special thanks to Chris Allen for putting together our newsletters this year. He helped us transition to an online newsletter that is not only eco-friendly but jam-packed with all that's going on at Gladstone. Have a terrific Spring, Griffins!

# Gladstone's

# 50<sup>th</sup>

## Birthday BASH!

On April 19<sup>th</sup>, Gladstone celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> year with a birthday party on the quad! The Gladstone PTA hosted the party with games for kids, free dinner, and a DJ. At the party, the contents of a Gladstone time capsule were presented – including letters from 4<sup>th</sup> graders telling about life at Gladstone today and letters from 5<sup>th</sup> graders predicting what life at Gladstone will be like 50 years from today. Special thanks to Gladstone PTA Parent **Megan Magallanes** for all of her work coordinating the event.

### **50<sup>th</sup> Birthday T-shirts still available!**

For \$10, you can get your child or yourself a Gladstone 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration T-shirt! They can be worn by the students on Sprit Days, too! Buy yours in the school office today!



## STUDENT COUNCIL CORNER



The next **KidsCan collections will take place on Friday, May 3**. Look for flyers distributed before this date to turn in with your donations. Contributors will be entered into raffle drawings for Student Store coupons and free items. Thank you for your donations and support.

“Twin Day” was the theme for **April’s Spirit Day on the 12<sup>th</sup>**. Students were encouraged to dress like one another. They dressed as twins and triplets. **May’s Spirit Day** will be a “College Spirit” theme. Students may wear any college or university shirt to show off their favorites. The April SPIRIT rally that follows morning recess involved a special competition to see which grade level brought in the most recyclables!

In May, as the final charitable event for this school year, Student Council will organize a **coin drive**. Pocket change will be collected in jars in all classrooms in an effort to provide **CHANGE for CANCER** research.

Those students interested in **running for office for the 2013-2014 school year** must attend an informational meeting in mid-May (TBA). The speech assembly and primary election will take place on Wednesday, May 22. The final election will be on Thursday, May 30. Only those promoting to 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade are eligible to run for office.

As we enter the final part of the school year, the Student Council advisors would like to give a big thank you to our officers and representatives who are doing a wonderful job! Together during our final meetings, we will determine the annual Student Council gift to the school which will be presented at the 3<sup>rd</sup> trimester awards assemblies.

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

*by Charlie Allen, PTA President*

We are nearing the end of the school year and it's been exciting and productive thus far. Gladstone's 50th birthday extravaganza will have been a huge success by the time you read this. Hope everyone made it to the event. PTA is involved in so many memorable activities that you could be part of if you wish. It's been a wonderful experience to serve as President the past two years. There are many opportunities for parents to share their time with our school and children. Please feel welcome to inquire with current PTA members to join the fun. See you all around campus.

## PTA Membership Spring Drive Help Us SHINE!

By Verenice Salazar, VP Membership

We are rolling out the Red Carpet one last time for our Spring PTA Membership Drive and hope we can count on you to join PTA and help us SHINE. For the 2012/2013 school year, we have a total of 423 PTA members, but we are shooting for a record of 500 members by the end of this school year. We need your help!

PTA does not require you to volunteer or attend meetings, but does show your charity towards Gladstone Elementary. Membership dues are only \$6.00 per person. If you need a membership envelope, please ask your child's teacher or stop by the office to pick one up.

Not only does your PTA Membership go to support great programs at Gladstone, as an added incentive with each membership you will receive a free frozen yogurt from "Golden Spoon", a Buy One-Get-One Free pass to "LEGOLAND, "AQUARIUM of the Pacific" and more.

We had a friendly fall competition to see who would be the first class to reach 100% PTA Membership. The winners for lower grade were: Mrs. Bulick/Mrs. McClure class, and for the upper grade we had a tie with Mrs. Pang and Mr. Wong's class. As a reward they all received a "Personalized VIP Pass, Swag Bag and a Movie Premier".

For the remaining classes that did not win the fall contest, now have the chance to win in our spring contest. As a prize they will receive "Extra Celebrity (recess) Time". In which Mrs. Burton's class has already reached their 100% PTA Membership for our "spring goal".

Please do not let the curtain come down on you and miss the chance of become a PTA member today!



## Los Angeles County Science Fair

The Los Angeles County Science Olympiad Team from Gladstone came home with a Gold Medal from the annual county competition featuring dozens of elementary schools from all over LA County. The event took place at Occidental College on Feb 23, 2013. The competition events called Crime Busters, Rock Hound, the Tennis Ball Catapult, Zowie Metrics, and a straw bridge building completion.

## Bonita Unified Math Olympiad

The 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade Griffin Math Olympians represented Gladstone on Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> at Lone Hill Middle School. The 5<sup>th</sup> grade team from Gladstone placed 2<sup>nd</sup> among the 8 district elementary schools, and the 4<sup>th</sup> grade team placed 4<sup>th</sup>. The students competed in 3 sessions of competition, including two team contests that gives the students 2 multi-part questions to complete as a team, and then in the 3<sup>rd</sup> session, a short individual test was given. The teams were coached by Mrs. Blaes and Mrs. Marquez.



## Celebrate Reading Week

### March 25-29

Gladstone Griffins helped celebrate the joy of reading by participating in the many fun activities held during our annual Celebrate Reading Week. Hundreds of families visited the Scholastic Book Fair throughout the week to purchase their favorite selections. Having a new book helped pass the time without T.V. on Monday night. On Tuesday, over 200 people attended Young Authors' Night at Lone Hill to honor our Griffin authors and illustrators and listen to guest author, Lee Wardlaw. Ms. Wardlaw is a former teacher-turned author of 25 award-winning books. This talented author stayed on after the program to sign and chat with Gladstone's students. On Wednesday, Mrs. Gilbert-Jones, our librarian, and P.T.A. volunteers, Mrs. Starns and Mrs. Miano, opened the library and book fair for extended hours, giving families more reading opportunities. On Thursday, Gladstone was visited by more than 25 guest readers from the community. It's always fun to have someone new share their love of reading. That afternoon everyone relaxed under the shade of a tree for the popular, *Pop-Your-Top and Read* activity. The week ended with 2 lively performances by the *Imagination Machine* actors as they interpreted the creative stories submitted by our students. What a wonderful way to inspire the love of reading and writing. No wonder Gladstone has such excellent readers!

# *State Testing is here!*

## *Parents can help their students prepare of the CST Exams in April and May*

It's hard to believe that April 2013 is already here! It's been a fantastic year at Gladstone and Griffins in every classroom have learned so many things. It's during April and May that Griffins get to 'show off' just how much they have learned. State testing is an important event on campus, and parents can help students excel during their exams.

There are a few things that parents can do at home that do not even require opening a textbook. They are:

- Make sure your student get a good night's sleep before a testing day.
- On the morning of the exam, make sure your student has a good breakfast. Just like your car, your student needs fuel to run at his or her best.
- Display confidence with your student, but don't be too anxious. Let them know the test is important and that you know they will be try their best. Your confidence is contagious!

Once you are sure you got these suggestions squared away, it's never a bad idea to go over some test-taking strategies with your student. Here are a few tips to review with your Griffin:

- Remind your student to read each question completely so they understand the question. This is especially important for multiple choice questions – read every choice before selecting an answer.
- If your student comes to a problem that he or she doesn't know, skip it and come back later. All state tests through 5<sup>th</sup> grade are untimed, so they should get the 'easy ones' done first and come back to try later. There is plenty of time.
- Students worry that they will miss recess or lunch if they take too long. Not true! We will make arrangements to make sure they still get a break and time to eat. It is most important for students to take their time on the tests.

You have probably read in the paper about state testing and the API score that all public schools receive. And while it is true that these scores are important, it's also important not to place too much anxiety on your student's shoulders. The most important message you can give your student is: "**You are ready!**" Gladstone teachers have prepared them, the students have done the work, and they will be successful! If you have any questions about the state tests, there are many resources available. Contact your Griffin's teacher or Mr. Ellis for any information you may need.