



THE GRIFFIN

INSIDER

A Newsletter for the Families & Friends of Gladstone Elementary School

JAN/FEB 2015

Welcome to 2015 Griffins!!

by James Ellis

JANUARY 2015

6 SSC 5:15/PTA 6:30

15 2nd Gr. Clay Day

19 Non-Student Day

MLK Holiday

21 2nd Gr. Family Night

22 Math Instruction

Parent Night

29 Science Expo Night

30 Kids Can Recycling

FEBRUARY 2015

3 SSC 5:15/PTA 6:30

3 BUSD Spelling Bee

9 Non-Student Day

President's Holiday

12 3rd Gr. Mt. Sac Trip

16 Non-Student Day

Lincoln's Birthday

19 Founder's Day

@ Lone Hill MS 6-7pm

27 Kinder Bug Lady visit

27 Kids Can Recycling

28 LA Science Olympiad

It's time to start another year at Gladstone Elementary, and we can't be more excited about what lies ahead! But before we look forward, let's look back on a fun filled December!

Our Gladstone choir and band had concerts that showcased all they have learned and featured songs from the holidays. Congrats to all our Griffin musicians and our directors, Mrs. Leyva and Mrs. Brightbill, for the terrific concerts at the new Bonita Center for the Arts. Additionally, our 1st graders under the direction of Mrs. Phipps, Mrs. Henspeter, Mr. Peterson, and Mrs. Ford had their annual holiday concert. We had a terrific turn out of more than 100 parents and family members to watch the show at Gladstone. The 5th graders had a terrific trek to Science Camp – although they just missed the snow this year. Our Science Camp Teachers this year were Mrs. Marquez, Mrs. Pang, Mrs. Vitale, and Mrs. Niacaris; we appreciate all they did to make camp a success. The PTA held their annual Book Fair so parents could grab last minute stocking stuffers. Let's give special thanks to PTA Parents Cindy Vasquez and Fawn Drake for leading their team to make the Book Fair a rousing success. Danielle Kusayanagi led even more parent volunteers in hosting the Annual PTA Gingerbread Night. This is a wonderful tradition at Gladstone that brings families together at school to be creative and enjoy the holiday season.

So now that you have made it through Winter Break, there is a lot to look forward to at Gladstone. Your Griffin can expect to get back down to business quickly in his or her classroom. Before we know it, Trimester 2 will wrap up at the end of February. There is still a lot to learn and fun to be had along the way! Parents, we hope you will join us for two nights at Gladstone coming up. First, we will have a Parent Night to review Math Instruction in our district and at Gladstone. We hope you will join us for an evening to learn more about our new math program and what your children can expect to learn in their years at Gladstone. This night will be on Thursday, January 22nd and looks to be an informative evening. Our second event will be the PTA Founder's Day Celebration. This annual events honors the birthday of PTA – one of the largest volunteer organizations in the nation – and gives us a chance to honor and recognize volunteers on our campus. The Gladstone choir will perform and we encourage all our families to come out and celebrate volunteering at school. Founder's Day will be held in the Multi-Purpose room at Lone Hill Middle School on Thursday, February 19th.

I hope you had a wonderful holiday with family and friends and you are having a wonderful start to the new year. It's customary for us to make a New Year's resolution, but I will admit that one of mine is the same year after year. First and foremost, I am thankful for the opportunity to work with a terrific group of students, staff, and families at Gladstone. And secondly, I resolve to make 2015 even better than the year before – so our Griffins can have a first class school experience. Have a great 2015, Griffins!!



ATTENTION ALL 5TH GRADE STUDENTS, PARENTS & TEACHERS!!

The Yearbook Committee needs your help! We will be showcasing a **Baby picture of each 5th grade student** in Gladstone's 2014-2015 school Yearbook!

Digital Copies Only Please

To ensure the correct name with the correct picture, please name the baby picture when you upload as followed

Student's **first and last name, as well as their teacher's name**

Submit a digital copy and upload to:

www.pictavocommunity.com

*Click Create account and use school ID:48700

** Create password

*** Upload photos

[Upload photo to 5th grade baby picture folder](#)

Please submit your baby pictures no later than

Friday, Jan 30th

If you have any questions, please contact:

Dawn Jackson or Tracy Robles

E-mail: gladstoneyearbook@gmail.com
or tracyhrobles@yahoo.com



Happy Birthday PTA!

Every year in February the PTA celebrates Founders Day. PTA members reflect and take pride in our many accomplishments and renew our commitment as a powerful voice for all children, and strong advocate for public education. We will honor and congratulate the many volunteers that make Gladstone School such a wonderful experience for our children.

Join us on February 19 at Lone Hill Middle School from 6-7:00pm. Your student can enter the cake decorating contest, enjoy a choir performance and refreshments. Look for a flier coming home soon!





STUDENT COUNCIL CORNER



Our **canned food and toy drive** throughout November and December was a success! Non-perishable food and toys were collected and distributed to families in need within the Gladstone community. Thank you for your generous donations!

Many students have contributed to the **KidsCan** collections so far. To date, more than \$300.00 has been earned from KidsCan. Future dates include January 30 and February 27. Those donating are entered into a raffle for coupons redeemable at the Student Store. Keep saving aluminum cans and plastic bottles!

Our next **Spirit Days** coincide with the KidsCan recycling dates. They include “Team Jersey” Day in January and “Twin” Day in February. On Spirit Days, students get five minutes extra morning recess along with a fun spirit rally that follows. The January rally will involve a special competition to see which grade level brings in the most recyclables ... start saving now!

The **Student Store** continues to be open every Tuesday and Thursday during first recess. Snacks and bottled water range from \$0.25 for \$0.75. Assorted school supplies are in the \$0.25 to \$2.00 range.

Valentine's Day grams will be **on sale starting Thursday, January 22!** To purchase, stop by the Student Store Tuesdays or Thursdays during morning recess. A drop box will be located in the front office for those wishing to drop off 'surprise' grams. **Sales end on Thursday, February 12**, so they can be delivered on the Friday before Valentine's Day. Look for a flyer with more details coming soon!

Thanks in advance for your support!

Student Council Advisors,

Mrs. M^cClure, Mrs. Vitale, and Mrs. Marquez

YOUR PRIDE STRIDE DONATIONS AT WORK

The Gladstone PTA is pleased to announce that donations to the school from the annual "I Walk for Tech" Pride Stride are being put to use early this year. In previous years the funds were spent at the end of the school year for items that would be used the following. This year we decided that it would be a great benefit to our students to get some use from the donations during the year, and for parents to see their donations at work!

The Gladstone PTA purchased twenty new iPads for use in the schools tech program, along with ten more bought with district funds. With this latest purchase, the 4th and 5th grade levels have iPads for each student in all the classes.

Although the iPads are delivered to these specific grade classes, they are shared amongst all the grade levels throughout the year. For example, in the 4th grade S.W.A.T. program (Students With an Aptitude for Teaching), select 4th graders share their knowledge, time, and iPads with students in the lower level grades. It's a great example of sharing and learning. Additionally, teachers from grades K – 3 can "check out" the iPads for classroom use when needed as well. So while the iPads live in the upper

grades, they are utilized by students from all grade levels.

Thanks to everyone at Gladstone who contributed to our Pride Stride fundraiser. In addition to providing assemblies, family nights, and field trips this year, we are also supporting our students use of educational technology. Together, we are making great things happen for all our Griffins!

Los Angeles County Science Olympiad

On Saturday, February 28th Gladstone Elementary will participate in the Los Angeles County Science Olympiad. This consists of events in all areas of Science. The Gladstone team will be a collection of 15 committed 4th and 5th grade students to come and represent our school. The students will meet at lunch and a few days after school as the day comes near. This is an annual event that the students enjoy participating in, and learn a lot along the way!



Exploring the World of Science