



THE GRIFFIN INSIDER

A Newsletter for the Families & Friends of Gladstone Elementary School

APR/MAY JUNE 2015

Spring Is Here!

by James Ellis

APRIL 2015

- 15 Citrus College 1st & 2nd
- 16 5th Gr. Science Day
- 23 Music in Motion
- 24 Kids Can Recycling

MAY 2015

- 5 Elementary Choir
- 12 SSC 5:15/PTA 6:30
- 14 Open House
- 18 Elementary Band Concert
- 25 **Non-Student Day**
Memorial Day
- 26 Perseverance Awards
- 28 5th Gr. Riley's Farms
- 29 Kids Can Recycling
- 29 Volunteer Parade

JUNE 2015

- 1 5th Gr. vs. Staff
Softball Game
- 2 Griffin Incentive Day
- 2 5th Grade Party
- 2 Kinder – LA Zoo
- 2 2nd Gr. – Park
- 2 Tri 3 Awards Assembly
- 2 Yearbook Distribution
- 2 SSC 5:15/PTA 6:30
- 3 Kinder-Lizard Wizard
- 3 3rd – Apple Valley Picnic
- 4 Tri 3 Awards Assembly
- 4 Last Day of School

Can you believe that Spring is here already!? The last two months of school are a fast paced and wonderful time of year. Your Griffins are busy at Gladstone, learning a little more every day and growing up right before our eyes!

Inevitably, state testing is upon us. Included in this newsletter are tips and strategies for helping your Griffin be ready to do their best on testing day. Also in that article is some information about the new SBAC assessments and a bit of Gladstone's philosophy on how to use state testing information. I hope you will take a moment to read the article. What we do know is that our results will be a result of teachers, students, and parents working together to help our students shine like the stars they are!

We just finished the second trimester, and once again we have a lot to celebrate. The awards assemblies were held in March when hundreds of Griffins were recognized for their outstanding work. Allow me to thank you, again, for your commitment to your Griffin's education. Parents play such a vital role in school success, and we would not be the school we are without you. Whether you are volunteering on campus in the classroom, attending an evening activity, or helping your Griffin with homework at home, know that you are appreciated for all you do. We cannot say it enough. Thank you.

I would like to cordially invite you to the Gladstone Open House coming up on May 14th. In the coming weeks, classrooms will not only be buzzing with testing preparation but with putting together displays for open house as well. The students love to show their moms, dads, grandparents, neighbors, and friends all they are doing. Please mark May 14th on your calendar and join us that evening for a celebration of the year that was!

June will be here before you know it, and with that comes the annual 5th grade vs Gladstone staff softball game. This year's game will be held on June 1st, with the last day of school on June 4th. This annual event is a student favorite. I wonder who will pull off the victory this year? Also on May 29th, we would like to recognize our volunteers on campus with a parade of classrooms. Parents get paraded around campus so every classroom may say thank you for your help throughout the school year. Please join us on Friday morning, so we can say thank you in person.

I hope you have a wonderful spring! I know we will at Gladstone! And remember, if anyone at Gladstone can ever be of assistance, we are simply a phone call, email, or visit away!

SBAC TESTING BEGINS APRIL 20th AT GLADSTONE

It's hard to believe that April 2015 is 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!

This year will be the second year of testing under our new Common Core State Standards. The assessments all students in California public schools take are from the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC). Last year was a field test, meaning no scores were reported to parents, school, districts or the media. They used last year's SBAC to make adjustments to this year's testing. This year will be somewhat of a field test as well. Recently, the State of California's Board of Education voted to provide feedback on the results but has chosen not to assign a school wide evaluation.

This means that SBAC scores from 2014-15 will be communicated to parents, schools, districts and the media; however, there will still not be any updates to the API scores – the scores you may recall from 2 years ago that give insight on how a school performs overall on state assessments. This is good news as schools can take the information reported and use it as one piece of information to guide curriculum and instruction decisions. While state testing is important, it will never give you a complete picture of a student's ability or a school's achievement. We will use the information from the SBAC and combine it with day-to-day observations of students, work samples, classroom assessments, parent input, and much more when making decisions about our curriculum and evaluating student progress.

As you can see, education in California and across the country is still in the midst of transition and change. Rest assured, Gladstone Elementary and the Bonita USD are working hard to educate our staff on the changes that are occurring in public education. We will continue to keep you, as parents, informed of the changes and expectations along the way. You have entrusted the education of your child to us at Gladstone, and we take that responsibility very seriously. Thank you for your continued support of our school. If you ever have any questions regarding your child, please do not hesitate to contact us so we can work together to make your child's elementary years an excellent foundation for future education and beyond.



Earth Day @ The Movies

In February, PTA voted to send the entire school to see the DisneyNature's Monkey Kingdom on Earth Day over at the Glendora AMC on Thursday, April 24th at 10 am. This will certainly be a good time had by all. As part of a reward for all the donations and support our students gave for the Pride Stride, the PTA decides to award all of the students with this movie event!

5th Grade Party!

The 5th Grade **#BeAHero** Party is on Tuesday, June 2, from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at the San Dimas Swim & Racquet Club. There will be swimming, games, a D.J., a photo booth, & lunch. It will be a lot of fun for our 5th graders! We'll need lots of parent volunteers to help out at the party. (Set-up will start at 7:30 a.m. & clean-up will hopefully be done by 3 p.m.- more details will follow.)

Also, if any parents would like to purchase their own **#BeAHero** T-shirt to wear to the party we still have adult sizes available for \$10. Please email Dena Willett at willettfive@yahoo.com with any questions.



GLADSTONE EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR

On April 9th, Gladstone announced our employees of the year for 2014-15, **Mrs. Nancy Simpson and Mrs. Beatrice Ayala!**

Ms. Bea is a special education instructional aide on campus working specifically with students with Autism. She has been in this role for more than 10 years. She has compassion and commitment for her students. She not only supports students' academics, but she also works hard to teach them to be good classmates and friends. She works closely with teachers across campus to insure each student in her care has the best school experience possible.

Mrs. Simpson has been a teacher at Gladstone for 12 years. As a kindergarten teacher, she sets the tone for her students' school careers – making the first year one never to forget! She is every student's biggest cheerleader, celebrating success and finding the joy of day to day moments in school. Students who had her in kindergarten will come back to visit when they are in middle and high school, a testament to how much students enjoy her, the impact she has on their lives, and how much she cares for students.

Please join us in congratulating our employees of the year, Mrs. Ayala and Mrs. Simpson!! We are so thankful for all they do at Gladstone!



ATTENTION GLADSTONE PARENTS

Please take a moment to complete our

[2015 PARENT/GUARDIAN SURVEY](#)

We would love to hear from you!

Griffins Celebrated Reading Week

March 23th-27th

Gladstone kicked off spring with another fun-filled week in celebration of reading. On Monday, P.T.A sponsored a Scholastic Book Fair which was open for Gladstone families until Friday. On Tuesday, during our annual Young Authors' Night at Lone Hill, award winning children's author, Caroline Arnold, presented her program on writing, incorporating many of her 150 books on nature. Six of her most recent books were on sale that night, as she stayed on to sign her copies. In addition, that night our young authors and illustrators were honored with their own copy of the *Griffin Tales*. Wednesday was a perfect sunny day for our *Pop Your Top and Read* activity. On Thursday morning 25 community volunteers attended a Guest Readers' reception before heading out to read in classrooms. Once again, this busy week culminated with the popular *Imagination Machine* assembly on Friday. Selected students had their creative stories brought to life with this talented group of actors. Is it any wonder Gladstone Griffins are such wonderful readers? Remember, readers make great leaders!

Celebrate Reading Week Coordinators:

Mrs. Blount, Mrs. Burton, Mrs. Gilbert-Jones, and Mrs. Turner



STUDENT COUNCIL CORNER



For three weeks during the month of February, our Griffins were asked to help support the **Leukemia and Lymphoma Society**. Student Council placed collection jars for **Pennies for Patients** in classrooms, and our school total far exceeded our initial goal! Thank you, Griffins, for making **BIG “change”** to help support lifesaving research and services for patients! In total, **\$2,347.74** was collected! Our spare change will definitely make a difference in the lives of others. Congratulations, Mrs. Ekstrand’s class, for raising the most per student and earning a pasta party from Olive Garden.

Many students have contributed to the **KidsCan** collections so far this school year. To date, more than \$400.00 has been earned from KidsCan. Future dates include April 24 and May 29. Those donating are entered into a raffle for coupons redeemable at the Student Store. Last month our first graders earned extra recess for bringing in the most! Keep saving aluminum cans and plastic bottles!

Our next **Spirit Day** will be “Super Hero” Day on April 24. On Spirit Days, students get five minutes extra morning recess followed by a fun spirit rally.

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.

Thanks in advance for your support!

Student Council Advisors,

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



To our Community Partners

Thank You!

For sponsoring Pride Stride 2014

We raised \$47,162.95

Level 4

San Dimas Community Hospital
Lazer Island
G2 Graphics
Red Dragon Karate

Level 3

Marshall's
Knott's Berry Farm

Level 2

Ace Hardware - San Dimas
Vicenti Lloyd & Stutzman
Sampa Brazilian Jiu Jitsu- Glendora
Massage Envy – La Verne/Glendora
JD Roofing
TNT Martial Arts- Glendora
Willett Insurance & Financial
San Dimas Youth Softball Assoc.
Alliance Environmental Group
San Dimas Pet Grooming

Golden Spoon- Glendora
Tech Power Computers
Frozen Ropes
Remax- Milly Muralles
Kaiser Permanente
Tile and Marble Source
Yogurtland – San Dimas
Subway – San Dimas
Magallanes Family
Mel's Carpet & Flooring

Level 1

WF Construction – La Verne
John Harrington Automotive
Red Devil Pizza – La Verne
Devesh N. Patel M.D.
Roady's Family Restaurant
The Gas Company- matching gift
Edison Company – matching gift

Bonita Jewelers
Bobbi Pins
Mow Law Firm

Baldelomar Family
Larrimore Family

Other Supporters

Dave & Buster's – Ontario
The Habit – San Dimas
Wal-Mart – Glendora
Sky Zone – Covina
Lewis Family Playhouse – Rancho Cucamonga
Castle Park
Chilli's – Glendora
In-N-Out Burgers
Starbucks- San Dimas
Los Angeles International Airport
Ontario International Airport
Robinson Family
James Ellis
Pang Family
Vitale Family

Sponsor List as of 10/12/14

**For more information on becoming a sponsor of our
2015 Pride Stride
please contact Sponsorship@GladstonePTA.org**

THANK YOU, DAWN JACKSON!

You have been an integral part in the development and production of the Gladstone Yearbook, and for the last three years you have helped even though your children no longer go to Gladstone! Your dedication to the students has provided something that will last the Gladstone families for a lifetime. Thank you!

Special thanks from the Editor:

Thank you to all the teachers, staff, PTA, and Principal Ellis for your support in putting each issue of the Griffin Insider together. This is my last year as a parent of a child at Gladstone, and it will also be the last newsletter. The ability to spread school information will allow us to send information to the parents in a much timelier fashion. Good night, Griffin Insider!

- Chris Allen

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Office Lunch Hours:

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

*minimally staffed
during lunch hours*

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PTA®**