



THE GRIFFIN

INSIDER

A Newsletter for the Families & Friends of Gladstone Elementary School

DEC/JAN

13-14

DECEMBER 2013

- 10-13 5TH Gr. Science Camp
- 12 4th - Field Trip: California Science Center
- 16 Band Concert – LHMS
- 18 Choir Concert – Church of the Brethren
- 19 1st – Holiday Program
- 19 2nd - Multicultural Feast
- 19 Gingerbread Man Night
- 20 Kids Can Recycling

Winter Recess

Dec. 23 – Jan. 3

JANUARY 2014

- 7 SSC 5:15, PTA 6:30
- 14 District Spelling Bee
- 15 2nd – Clay Day
- 20 No School – MLK Day**
- 27 4th – Rancho Days
- 30 1st – Field Trip: Discovery Science Center
- 30 Science Expo Night
- 31 Kids Can Recycling

Principal's Report

by James Ellis

Happy Holidays, Griffins!! It's hard to believe that 2013 is nearly in the books. We have a lot to celebrate with the success from the school year so far. From new Common Core standards that guide instruction to new technology to teach with, the 2013-2014 school is shaping up to be a banner year at Gladstone Elementary.

Each and every day, there are countless moments that Griffins can be proud of. At Gladstone, kids are achieving milestones every day – counting to 50 for the first time, finishing their first book all by themselves, finally getting their multiplication tables down, writing their first 3 paragraph essay, making their first 3-point shot. The Gladstone staff cherishes the opportunity to share in creating these milestones for our students.

Beyond the core academic subjects, December is a time when students get to show off their artist sides as well. I hope you will join us at the Annual Holiday concert for band and choir. Together, more than seventy-five 4th and 5th grade students have chosen to study music. Mrs. Brightbill and Mrs. Leyva have created a music program that is an important piece in our student's growth. The Holiday concert is a time to show how much they have grown and to share holiday sentiments with our friends and families. Check the calendar and join us for the concerts if you can. And don't forget our annual Gingerbread night hosted by the PTA. Students and families share in making gingerbread men, and we may get a visit from a special guest as well!

Of course, once we get past the holidays, 2014 will be on our doorstep. A new year gives us all an opportunity to make a fresh start and get excited about what's to come! I hope the New Year will bring you many blessings! I look forward to what lies ahead and can't wait to see all that we achieve, together.

October Eat Out Night UPDATE

Gladstone had a very successful Let's Eat Out Night at McDonalds on October 22nd.

Thank you to all the Teachers & Staff that Volunteered at Let's Eat Out Night in October and all the Teacher's and Staff that came out to support this great event.

We raised a total of \$672.85 for PTA! Thank you!



Teacher's Corner with Mrs. Peterson, 1st Grade teacher

Holiday time is a time to remember the blessings of the past year and look forward to the excitement of a New Year. As a mom it was important to me to pass down family traditions to my children and also to start new ones to make lasting memories of my own. My favorite one took place on Christmas Eve one year.

I had just read the Christmas story to my kids and I realized in that moment of wonder that another story of a special birth needed to be told. My daughter is the oldest so I began by telling her about the events of the day she was born. I did this without revealing who the baby was that I was talking about. I told her how special this baby was to her mommy & daddy and how much they loved her. By this time she was bursting with questions about "who" this special baby was. I slowly revealed it to her using her full name. I will never forget the glow that covered her face as she realized that I was talking about her. She wanted to hear the story again and again.

This became part of our Christmas Eve tradition and was carried on to my son, as well, when he was born. This tradition was carried on for many years as my children grew but then, of course, the stories stopped as they became adults and moved on with their lives. I've wondered many times if the tradition would continue on or if it had seen its day. I received the answer to that question a few weeks ago when my daughter told me she thought it was time to tell her 4 year old that very special "story". My grammie's heart danced for joy as I envisioned the glow of his face and sparkle in his eyes as he hears the story of love.

It's never too late to start a tradition, to tell a story of love, or to give that special gift to a child. Wishing you all a joyous holiday season and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Second Grade Hoe Down

Gladstone's second grade students participated in their annual Hoe Down, Wednesday, November 6. The Hoe Down is an event that enriches and increases the students' understanding of their unit on economic concepts which includes food production and consumption. Students also learn about the roles of farmers, processors, and distributors. Long ago, communities celebrated a successful economic season with a harvest festival of games, food, and music. Gladstone students celebrate their own version of this harvest tradition with games, scarecrow sandwiches, and crafts. A fun day was had by all!

Gingerbread Man Night

On Thursday, December 19, from 6:00 until 8:00, Gladstone PTA will have Gingerbread Man night! Our annual tradition continues this year with fun for the whole family. The free event give kids a gingerbread man to decorate with frosting and candies. The fun happens in the Gladstone cafeteria.

Outside the cafeteria the 5th grade Party committee will be selling pizza by the slice and waters. The sales from Gingerbread night will help fund the end-of-the-year party for the exiting 5th grade class.

The Book Fair will also be available to everyone this night. The Book Fair runs all week, and the Buy One, Get One Free special will be going on.





STUDENT COUNCIL CORNER



Student Council has been busy! Our four officers spent a couple of hours away from Gladstone to attend a mini **leadership conference**. They got involved in fun collaborative activities and had conversations about school spirit and activities. They were even introduced to the art of poster-making!

Many students have contributed to the **KidsCan** collections so far. To date, more than \$300.00 has been earned from KidsCan. Future dates include December 20 and January 31. 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 "Celebrate the Holidays" in December and "Sport Jersey" Day in January. On Spirit Days, students get five minutes extra morning recess along with a fun spirit rally that follows.

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.

Our **canned food and toy drive** is underway! Non-perishable food and toys are being collected to help those who are less fortunate. Due to health and safety concerns, toy donations need to be new and unwrapped. The collected items will be distributed to families within the Gladstone community.

Donations will be accepted through Thursday, December 19.
Thank you in advance for your generous donations!



Help for the Philippines – In response to the Philippine's devastating Typhoon Haiyan, Student Council has placed collection jars for coins in each classroom. Your donations will help the children and families in the Philippines affected by the typhoon. While we may only be able to contribute a small amount compared to the extensive need, every little bit helps.

Happy holidays to all!



GLADSTONE



Pride Stride '13

Gladstone PTA would like to

Thank our corporate Sponsors

For \$12,035.51 in donations!

With your help we raised

\$46,258.53

for our school!

Level 4

San Dimas Community Hospital
Red Dragon Karate – Via Verde
TNT Martial Arts & Fitness

Level 2

Ace Hardware - San Dimas
Massage Envy – La Verne
JD Roofing – La Verne
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Level 3

Kohl's - Glendora

Level 1

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Mow Law Firm – Los Angeles
Rustico Imports- La Verne
San Dimas Pet Grooming- San Dimas
St. Josephine's Home- La Verne
Azusa Dialysis Center- Azusa

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