



GLENRIDGE
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The Principal's Newsletter

Educate. Inspire. Empower.

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April 4, 2016

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From The Principal

Dear Parents,

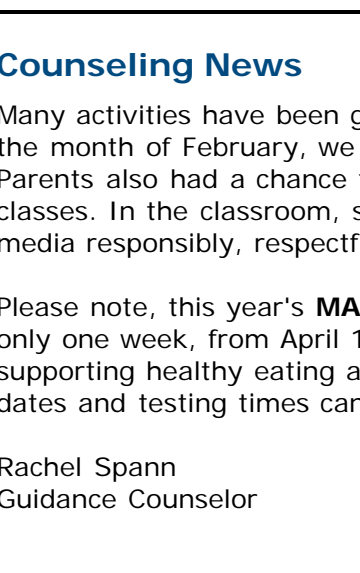
After 15 years as Music Teacher in the School District of Clayton and 31 years in the teaching profession, Sue Williams is opting to retire at the close of this school year. Please join me in wishing Ms. Williams our gratitude and well wishes as she wraps up a very successful and rewarding career. Sue's dedication to students and passion for music instruction has left an indelible mark on our fine school and with the hundreds of children that she has served over time.

We've established this spring newsletter as a way to share the learning experiences that your children have had, or will have, with the amazing specialist teachers at Glenridge Elementary School this second semester. Thanks for taking time to read their articles and explore their websites.

Thankfully yours,

Beth Scott
Principal

Art News



The month of February was such an exciting, experiential, and culturally inspiring month for Glenridge artists. As kindergarten artists finished their unit on China, Glenridge began an all-school celebration of African American History Month. Each grade level learned about an African American artist who inspired and challenged viewers to look into an art piece and see the reflection of the artist in the symbolic and meaningful imagery. Please take a look at the [Glenridge Art Webpage](#) to learn more in depth about who each grade level studied and the inspirational and empowering pieces about inclusivity that followed. As a sneak peak, here is a collage a third-grade artist created after learning about the artist Romare Bearden: "All The Same."

Amy Oliver, Art Specialist

Counseling News

Many activities have been going on in the school counselor world at Glenridge. During the month of February, we held a parent book club on the subject of cyber safety. Parents also had a chance to participate in another Love & Logic series of parenting classes. In the classroom, students engaged in important lessons on using digital media responsibly, respectfully and safely. Please [click here to read more](#).

Please note, this year's **MAP testing window** for grades three through five will be only one week, from April 18-22. Help your child have a successful week by supporting healthy eating and sleeping, as well as minimizing school absences. Exact dates and testing times can be found on the Glenridge [website calendar](#).

Rachel Spann
Guidance Counselor

Gifted News

It Takes a Village . . . a much-overused phrase, but it is true. It takes all of us adults at Glenridge working together to provide for the academic, social and emotional needs of children. The Glenridge community, the Clayton community, represents a culture of achievement. Successful, achieving parents are role models for their children. Their children attend school with children whose families also prize success and want the best for their child. When fifth-grade students receiving gifted services study a curriculum of identity unit, *Who Am I As a Gifted Learner?*, we literally find ourselves laughing at some of the one-page scenarios in *101 Success Secrets of the Gifted Individual*. Some of the success secrets highlight how lonely it can be to be gifted, or the possibility of being ostracized or perceived as "different" because of intellectual capacity. In Clayton, being "smart" is mainstream. There is a very large percentage of students who have a variety of interests, who are academically focused, who have a wealth of background knowledge, who ask questions and who want to learn more. And, within this village, there is diversity among those factors. The culture of achievement includes empathy, as well. We discuss the importance of taking another's perspective in our words or actions, and in understanding our responsibility in communicating and acting appropriately. We emphasize contributing to the learning community and being supportive of others. The Glenridge "village" works to support a caring community within a culture of achievement.

Sharon Slodounik
Gifted Specialist

Library News

Find out [what is coming up in the Glenridge library](#), including **Screen-Free Week from May 2-8** and the annual **Book Swap from May 16-19**, with events for the whole school. Also, take a look at the curriculum for each grade level.

[Jude Hagene](#)
Library Specialist

Math News

Argumentation and discourse are important for developing mathematically proficient students. Students must learn to convince each other of their ideas or prove their answers and their thinking. In order to be convincing, students must practice using precise language in their argumentation. Wow! What a life-skill for students. To read the full article, learn who represented Glenridge at MCTM, or try your hand at Sudoku, [please click here](#).

Gina McNamara
Math Specialist

Music News

Students have been busy learning and performing this spring semester. Kindergarten and first grade have continued learning notation, instrumentation and vocal intonation through listening, moving and playing. Fourth grade will begin their recorder unit in April. Their concentration has been focused on identifying notes on the treble clef staff and rhythm review. Students will progress through a packet of skill-building songs called *Recorder Karate*. As students master each song, they will receive a belt that ties to their recorder until they reach the black belt. Fifth grade just completed their composition unit. Students selected to work in groups or individually and were allowed to experiment with instruments to create their own musical piece. I am always amazed at the talent and creativity our students display during this unit!

There are many performances this semester. First grade will perform **"Goin' Buggy" on April 29**. Second grade already performed the musical "Hats" in February. The 4/5 Chorus will perform **"The Broadway Beat" on April 21 at 7 p.m.** Finally, **May 3 will be Cardinal night**, as the Glenridge chorus performs the National Anthem. It has been a fabulous year, and I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude for the support and love this community has displayed for our music program and me, personally. I will always treasure my years here with your beautiful children.

Sue Williams
Music Specialist

P.E./Health News

This year, our **Jump Rope for Heart** program raised more than \$9,000, which is over \$1,000 more than last year! Make sure to mark your calendars for our annual **Field Day, which will be held on Friday, May 20**. In P.E. class this semester, we are diving into our health curriculum by focusing on nutrition and making healthy choices. Please [visit the Health & Physical Education website](#) for grade-level curriculum highlights.

Steve Hutson
Nicole Miller
P.E. Specialists

Science News

There is a lot of science happening at our school. Please encourage your child to make connections with their learning outside of school, whether they are currently working with specific concepts, have in the past, or will be in the future. [Click here for details](#) on each grade level's curriculum this semester.

Go Green! The **Glenridge Green Team** will soon be back at work in the garden and continuing to develop sustainable strategies for being good stewards of our Earth. Be on the lookout for our environmentally friendly efforts and ideas for how you can help benefit our community with us...not just on **Earth Day (April 22, 2016)**, but every day!

Brendan Kearney
Science Specialist

Reading News

A common question most parents have is how they can support their child's reading at home. Here are some wonderful ideas from read-aloud books to reading, writing and vocabulary ideas to support literacy skills at home. Enjoy and happy reading!

[Click here](#) to read the full article on tips for reading success.

Katie Guyre, Reading Specialist
Kimberly Roach, Literacy Coach

Spanish News

This semester in Spanish, first grade will be learning about food, insects and animals. Second through fifth grades will spend the semester traveling - each grade will learn about the geography, food, flag and culture of a different country. To learn more about the curriculum for grades one through five for second semester, [please click here](#).

Gwen Kennerly
Spanish Specialist

ELL News

English Language Learners across the state of Missouri participated in the **ACCESS test** during the months of January and February; results will be shared in May. This summer, **ELL classes will be offered June 6-July 1**. English language academic support is designed for English Language Learners identified entering first through fifth grade who need the continuation of instruction during the summer to maintain and reinforce their skills. With summer around the corner, there are some useful tips you can use to encourage your young learners at home. [Click here for details](#) on all of these topics.

[Alejandra Bergstrom](#)
ELL Specialist

Welcome to MakerSpace

So what is a Makerspace? Makerspace is a great way to create an innovative learning space within our building environment that empowers our students to be problem solvers. They are encouraged to "make" and to create, evaluate and analyze solutions to problems. With the support of our PTO, a grant from the Clayton Education Foundation and a Professional Learning Grant, Glenridge has been able to outfit a space with materials and technology that lends itself to a Makerspace. Our Makerspace has a STEM focus (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) and is located near the third-grade wing. We are excited to explore what possibilities this space has for us! [Click here for photos](#) of students at work.

Denise Stouffer
Technology Specialist

WMS Presents Give Back Night

Wydown Middle School is sponsoring a family-friendly night of fun! Join us for GIVE BACK NIGHT on **Thursday, April 28, 2016, from 5-8 p.m.** There will be a multitude of games, booths and activities geared toward kids of all ages! Our middle school students have been very busy planning events to include Clayton's elementary school students! The evening also includes a remarkable raffle and delicious barbeque. Watch for more information to come regarding ticket purchases and activities. The proceeds from Wydown's GIVE BACK NIGHT will benefit Friends of Kids with Cancer. Friends of Kids with Cancer's mission is helping kids with cancer be a kid! They are an advocate for these special kids and provide them and their families with recreational, educational and emotional support needed throughout the long hours of chemotherapy, illness and isolation. Mark your calendars now, and plan to join us for a fabulous family-friendly night while supporting a very worthwhile cause! See you there!

PTO Update

The PTO would like to thank all of our wonderful volunteers who take their time and energy to make the Glenridge community events a highlight of the school year. We have several big events left, like the **Strawberry Festival** and **Field Day**, that still need volunteers. Check out the [PTO website](#) for more information.

All of the **Growing Glenridge Giving Tree** items have been purchased for each grade level, and the PTO continues to work on the Staff Lounge and Makerspace. Make sure you visit the Makerspace to see the new tables, chairs and Lego wall. The space looks amazing and the kids love getting creative! The Staff Lounge has received a few new touches and will soon be updated with new tables, chairs, ceiling and lighting! The staff is thrilled to know that a complete makeover is in the works! We are continuing to fundraise to complete these two projects. To make a contribution, please visit the PTO website to [make a donation](#) through our Funds for Excellence Program.

Thank you for your support! The PTO appreciates all the time, energy and monetary contributions from our fantastic Glenridge families!

Glenridge PTO

Student Accomplishments & Honors

GLENRIDGE CHESS TEAM NOTCHES FOURTH STRAIGHT VICTORY
On March 5, the Glenridge Chess Team stunned the gateway chess league by posting their fourth straight first-place finish in as many tournaments. Employing great tactics and strategy, the team dominated the competition from start to finish in the five-round tournament. Please congratulate these students for an outstanding performance. Glenridge team members are Tyler He and Thomas Wei.

AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION
Our school raised \$9,186.76 for the American Heart Association during the month of February. Edward Kagan (5B) was our top fundraiser, bringing in \$501. This is the THIRD year in a row that he has been our top fundraiser... each year earning more than \$400.

Successful Scientists

The Clayton Elementary Science Fair on Saturday, March 12, was a success! A great time was had by all. It was so awesome to see the many Glenridge families celebrating science, even those that didn't submit a project. Thank you so much to all students who participated, and to their parents who supported the scientific endeavors. Fifty-one students from Glenridge made a total of 44 projects. Of those projects, 16 have been selected to represent our school at the Greater St. Louis Science Fair at Queeny Park in April. Kudos to these winners, we are all very proud!

The creators of those projects are:
First Grade: Greta G., Connor R., Ellen D., Lila S., Danielle A. and Emily W.
Second Grade: Blake L., Ben H. and Emma M.
Third Grade: Nico V., Lucas H., Lance S., Caroline C. and Stella P.
Fourth Grade: Chloe L., Rachel L., Lucia d. P. and Maryn K.
Fifth Grade: Sonali D. and Sonya K.

Brendan Kearney
Science Specialist

Are you moving or transferring?

Registration information for the 2016-2017 school year is very important for Glenridge. We are updating our records to determine the families who will be returning/attending next year. **If your child will not be returning to Glenridge for the 2016-2017 school year**, please fill out [the attached form](#) and return it to the main office as soon as possible. Thank you!

Kindergarten Enrollment for 2016-2017

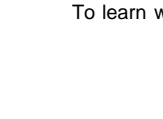
To be eligible for kindergarten in the fall of 2016, your child must turn five years old on or before July 31, 2016. If your child is eligible, please register as soon as possible. All [enrollment forms](#) can be found at our website and must be completed and submitted to the District Administrative Center. Once you enroll, please take a look at the [upcoming events for incoming kindergartners](#) and their families. For further assistance, please contact Stacey Bonds at (314) 854-6031.

Calendar

[View Glenridge Elementary's upcoming events and activities.](#)

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