



GLENRIDGE  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

# The Principal's Newsletter

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February 2, 2015

## From the Principal

"I wish it need not have happened in my time," said Frodo.  
"So do I," said Gandalf, "and so do all who live to see such times.  
But that is not for them to decide.  
All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us."  
• J.R.R. Tolkien, *The Fellowship of the Ring*

Dear Parents,

It was once shared with me that strong specialist teachers have the unique ability to transform school culture in so many positive ways. They after all, teach all children at all grade levels each week over time. Ms. Haydon has fully understood this responsibility and we, in turn, have been benefactors. Diana is masterful at helping others unwrap their creative talent through art. She also continues to be masterful at nurturing one's reflective side—in both the children and adults whom she has served. Please read the [attached letter](#) from Diana, in which she shares her plans to retire at the end of this school year. As a community, we will find special ways to celebrate and honor Ms. Haydon and her remarkable career over these next few months together.

February is a busy month in the life of any school and Valentine's Day offers a perfect time to take pause and share sweet sentiments with the people we love. Read on to learn more about our upcoming events and activities. I'll look forward to seeing you at Glenridge.

Yours,

Beth Scott

Principal

## Art Celebrates the Season (of Snow?!)

Who needs snow to build a snowman? Artists in K-5 have interpreted snowmen images in various mediums, and now these creations fill our hallways. Viewing them will be sure to put a smile on your face! They will be on display throughout the building for a couple of weeks.

## PTO Spotlight

The PTO would like to recognize the hard work that all of the students and families put into the Read-A-Thon this past November. [Click here](#) for spotlights on grade-level winners, as well as information on Cartridges for Kids, how to order your yearbook, the recent Box Top contest, and dates and times for many upcoming PTO-sponsored activities.

Please visit the [PTO website](#) to learn about upcoming meetings or to order from the Glenridge Spirit Store.

## Music News

Students are busy learning and making music in 2015! Kindergarten and first grade have been concentrating on expressive movement, rhythmic study through instrumentation and reading, and melodic direction. Second grade will be working on dynamics, recognizing cultural music styles and instrumentation through listening and movement. Third grade is learning tempo markings and instrumentation playing Orff instruments, singing and movement. Fourth grade has been performing ostinato's on the Orff instruments and singing to experience accompaniment and combining individual parts to compliment a musical piece. Fifth grade is concentrating on rhythmic study with the emphasis on syncopated rhythms.

Chorus will begin the first week of February. Please check [my website](#) for that schedule. I will resume email notifications for all parents.

We have a Cardinal date! The Chorus will be performing the National Anthem at the Cardinal game on Monday, April 27, at 7:15 p.m. We are excited! Please save the date for Glenridge Cardinal Night!

Sue Williams, Music Specialist

## In the Lab With Mr. Kearney

Thomas Edison once said, "Genius is two percent inspiration, 98 percent perspiration." In other words, find something that motivates you and work hard at it! All Glenridge students have the opportunity to be geniuses in their own right via the Science Fair on March 28. Remember those snazzy T-shirts that our fair participants proudly wore last year? The chance is here once more to show pride in hard work and scientific knowledge by becoming a science fair genius! [Register now!](#)

To learn about the many exciting things happening in science at each grade level, [click here](#).

Your assistance is appreciated in continuing to make science connections with your child outside of school. This is where true learning occurs. If you're looking for ways to enrich your child's scientific learning, please [click here](#) for FOSS extensions.

Brendan Kearney, Science Specialist

## Glenridge Math Open House Coming Soon

Please join us on Friday, Feb. 20, during your child's math class to experience math instruction by participating in a lesson alongside your child. For details on how you can take a hands-on approach to learning about our math program, [click here](#).

Gina McNamara, Math Specialist

## In the Library, aka Wonderopolis

This year's book classic is *Peter Pan*! We will look for differences between the book and movie at our Library Movie Night on Feb. 18. [Click here](#) for a full listing of upcoming library events, as well as a look at what each grade level is doing in the library.

Jude Hagene, Library Specialist

## METC Conference and MCTM Contests

A group of Glenridge third-graders will be demonstrating robotics at a METC conference in February. [Click here](#) for a list of names, as well as a highlight of our own Sharon Slodounik, who will be recognized at METC as a Spotlight Educator.

Does your child like to make designs with geometric shapes? Any K-5 student may submit a [registration form](#) for the Missouri Council Teachers of Mathematics (MCTM) 2015 [Math and Art Contest](#).

A group of students will be representing Glenridge at the MCTM Math Counts Contest on Saturday, March 7. The qualifiers for the contest are:

Fourth Grade - David Liang, Robert Raine, Ester Wang and Graham Zucker (Jack Rosenthal will be the alternate.)

Fifth Grade - Tom Dupor, Abby Van Emden, Sonia Palamand and Jai Vallurupalli (Miguel Buitrago will be the alternate.)

## Kindergarten Enrollment for 2015-2016

To be eligible for kindergarten in the fall of 2015, a child must turn 5 on or before July 31, 2015. If your child is eligible to attend Glenridge Elementary, he or she needs to be registered in the following months. [All forms](#) required for official enrollment must be completed and submitted to the District's Administrative Center.

Voluntary transfer families who have children eligible for kindergarten must apply for registration through the Voluntary Interdistrict Choice Corporation (VICC) Office at (314) 721-8422.

For more information, be sure to attend [Kindergarten on the Horizon](#) at the Family Center on Monday, Feb. 9.

## MAP and Terra Nova Testing

This year our MAP testing for grades 3-5 will take place between the weeks of March 30-April 24, and the Terra Nova testing for grades 1-2 will take place between the weeks of March 30-May 15. Regular attendance throughout the testing window is important for your child's success and contributes to a more relaxed testing atmosphere. If your family has travel plans that will interrupt your child's attendance during testing, please let the school know so we can arrange make-up times for missed sections. If possible, please avoid scheduling doctor appointments during the window, as well. The exact testing schedule will be posted on the Glenridge website calendar ahead of time. Thank you for helping your child to feel supported during spring testing.

## Jump Rope for Heart

We have jumped right into Jump Rope for Heart! This year's events include: Wear Red day and Dress Like a PE Teacher day (for staff) on Feb. 6, a buddy jump rope in CLAYMO and the heart obstacle course in PE classes. Look for your child's information packet in his/her backpack to find ways to connect with your child and with the American Heart Association, as well as how to make donations to fund life-saving research for disease and stroke. This year's parent representative is Kerry Vetter.

Steve Hutson & Nicole Miller, PE

## Fifth-Graders, It's Time to Join the Band!

The middle school band directors are busy preparing for next year's class of new sixth-grade musicians. We look forward to meeting everyone and assisting with the choices and decisions involved in becoming a band member and selecting an instrument. In January, everyone should have received an informational letter with a pre-paid postcard. On the postcard there was a place for you to mark your preferred appointment time and location for mouthpiece testing and instrument fittings. During these appointments, students will have an opportunity to try all of the different mouthpieces of the band instruments to see which ones are the best "fit." There are three dates on the postcards that students and parents should be aware of in February that are vital to the process of joining band. They will be as follows:

- Feb. 2 from 3:30-6:30 p.m., Meramec
- Feb. 4 from 3:30-6:30 p.m., Glenridge
- Feb. 9 from 3:30-6:30 p.m., Captain

Parents may choose whichever time and location is most convenient. We hope everyone will take advantage of this opportunity to become a part of one of the biggest and coolest organizations in school! If you forgot to send in your postcard, just email Ms. Shenberger at [jennifershenberger@claytonschoools.net](mailto:jennifershenberger@claytonschoools.net) to set up a time. Further information as well as opportunities for the fifth-graders to hear some of the District's bands will be forwarded to you soon.

Jennifer Shenberger, Brass Specialist  
[jennifershenberger@claytonschoools.net](mailto:jennifershenberger@claytonschoools.net)  
Wydown Middle School, 314-854-6475

## Calendar

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

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