



GLENRIDGE  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

# The Principal's Newsletter

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October 1, 2014

## From the Principal

Dear Parents,

Benjamin Carson was born in Detroit, Mich. His mother, Sonya, had dropped out of school in the third grade and married when she was only 13. When Benjamin Carson was 8, his parents divorced, and Mrs. Carson was left to raise Benjamin and his older brother, Curtis, on her own. She worked at two, sometimes three, jobs at a time to provide for her boys.

Benjamin and his brother fell further and further behind in school. In fifth grade, Carson was at the bottom of his class. His classmates called him "dummy," and he developed a violent, uncontrollable temper.

When Mrs. Carson saw Benjamin's failing grades, she became determined to turn her sons' lives around. She sharply limited the boys' television watching and refused to let them outside to play until they had finished their homework each day. She required them to read two library books a week and to give her written reports on their reading even though, with her own poor education, she could barely read what they had written.

Within a few weeks, Carson astonished his classmates by identifying rock samples his teacher had brought to class. He recognized them from one of the books he had read. "It was at that moment that I realized I wasn't stupid," he recalled later. Carson continued to amaze his classmates with his new-found knowledge; and within a year, he was at the top of his class.

Today Dr. Benjamin Carson is director of pediatric neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins Hospital and the first person to successfully separate conjoined twins connected at the head. The choices Benjamin's mother made helped him for his life beyond her home and well into his future.

Preparing our children for the future requires us to be our best as parents and as teachers. Glenridge teachers strive to implement researched best practices for reading and writing instruction. Visit the curriculum portion of the District website to find that the School District of Clayton supports literacy achievement through an integrated study of reading and writing, a passionate appreciation of the power of language, and a sensitive approach to the diverse world around us. Literacy instruction in Glenridge classrooms is highly congruent with the findings of the National Reading Panel who share the following beliefs:

- Good readers construct meaning.
- Teaching comprehension strategies works.
- Providing good literature is essential.
- Reading aloud is key.
- Cooperative learning improves comprehension.
- Student discussions are important.
- Classrooms should be listening communities.

Dr. Benjamin Carson was blessed with a mother who knew that her sons would not succeed in life without the ability to read. Glenridge teachers are dedicated to implementing well researched, best instructional practices to ensure that our students successfully comprehend expected reading material at each grade level.

As parents, you can support your child as a reader by setting guidelines that limit TV watching/video gaming and promote reading each and every day. Study after study shows that children who read each night usually gain years of knowledge and accelerated academic success over those who do not read. Reading success will impact your child in all subject areas throughout life. Your influence has tremendous potential as we help each child work above and beyond.

I look forward to seeing you at parent/teacher conferences this month, and therefore encourage you to read on to gather tips for a successful conference experience.

Together, we are a team! Together, we can achieve greatness for the children in our care.

[Click here for a Parent-Teacher Conference Tip Sheet](#)

Yours,

Beth Scott  
Principal

## Welcome to Wonderopolis, aka the Glenridge Library

The Glenridge Library is a place of wonder, where children can try to satisfy their natural curiosity about life! Sometimes an assigned topic will have students searching for a book, an encyclopedia or a website, but more and more it is the child who picks the topic and brainstorms their own questions which set the stage for discovery. [Click here to read the full article](#).

## In the Lab with Mr. Kearney

You may have heard a new term being used in your child's vocabulary: sciencing. This is the word used in the Glenridge Science Lab for students and teachers actively doing science. That's right, science can now be used as a verb! Well, at least we can have fun with it, right? Fun is what we find ourselves having as we learn and work together in the lab. [Click here to read the full article](#) and [learn more about the Next Generation Science Standards](#).

## English Language Program

The Glenridge ELL Program welcomes you and your child. We hope that your time with us will be rewarding and enjoyable. In the past, students who have joined Glenridge with little or no knowledge of English have adjusted well to our school, made friends and learned English while continuing their educational development. We are so fortunate to have students from many different countries. Children from China, Colombia, Cuba, Brazil, France, Hungary, India, Italy, Korea, Mexico, Nigeria, Russia and Singapore fill our schoolhouse with rich and diverse cultures. [Click here to read the full article](#).

## PTO Spotlight

Thank you to everyone for coming to the Book Fair and Ice Cream Social! All proceeds from the Book Fair will go towards enhancing and expanding our classroom libraries.

The annual Taste of the World was a huge success again this year! Thank you to all of our volunteer chefs and to everyone who came to savor the flavors of this unique, international community dinner.

We've got spirit, yes we do! We've got spirit, how about you? The Glenridge Spirit Store is now open! Shop for shirts, jackets, water bottles, car magnets, key chains, hats and much more. You can access the spirit store by visiting the [PTO website](#).

The next PTO meeting will be on Friday, Oct. 10, from 8:45-10 a.m. Everyone is welcome to attend.

## Parenting Workshops at the Family Center

The Family Center offers a variety of programs designed to support the growth and development of children and their families. Here are a few upcoming classes and workshops for parents.

- Toddler Music: Fridays, Sept. 26-Oct. 24; 11:10-11:50 a.m.
- Nurture Through Nature: Fridays, Sept. 26-Dec. 12; 1:15-2:30 p.m.
- Scream Free Parenting: Thursdays, Oct. 2-30; 9:30-11 a.m.
- Stop Procrastinating!: Tuesdays, Oct. 21-Nov. 4; 9:30-11 a.m.
- Let's Put On An Evening Opera!: Tuesdays, Oct. 21-Nov. 11; 6-7 p.m.

[Click here for a listing of current workshops](#)

## News From the Nurse

To those of you who are new to Glenridge, welcome! And, to those of you who are returning, welcome back! At the beginning of each school year, I ask that parents review the guidelines concerning student illnesses - [which you can read here](#). These guidelines were developed to protect the children and staff from communicable illnesses and infectious diseases. Please follow the guidelines, and if your child has a contagious diseases or has been exposed to one (chicken pox, strep throat or fifth's disease), please contact MaryEllen Kennedy at (314) 854-6200.

Also, there will be a hearing screening on Oct. 13 for current students in kindergarten, first, third and fifth grade and new students in second and fourth grade.

## Changes to Contact Information

In case of an emergency, we need to be able to reach you quickly. If you have a change of email or phone number, please contact the main office at (314) 854-6200. If you have an address change, you must complete a [new enrollment application](#) and return it to the District office. It is imperative that the office and nurse's office have all updated contact information for your child. Thank you.

## Early Pick-Ups, Tardies and Absences

If it is necessary to pick up your child from school during the day, please come directly to the main office and your child will be notified. Teachers cannot release a student unless contacted by the main office, and children can only be released through the office. Please check in with either Ms. Hoffman or Mrs. Todd, and complete the sign-in/out sheet for your child.

If your child will be arriving late or will be absent for the day, please call the main office at (314) 854-6200, or send an email to [staceyhoffman@claytonschools.net](mailto:staceyhoffman@claytonschools.net). If we do not hear from you, expect a call from us. We want ensure your child is safe.

## Before & After School Supervision

The first school bell rings at 8:30 a.m. for students to line up to enter the building. The school day officially begins at 8:40 a.m. and dismisses at 3:30 p.m. (kindergarten at 3:25 p.m.). Supervision on the playground is provided beginning at 8:20 a.m. It is a parent's responsibility to remain with their child if he/she arrives before 8:20 a.m.

If you need before-school child care, please contact Holly Leiker, director of Glenridge Children's Center, at (314) 862-1466 or [click here](#) for a GCC registration packet and additional information.

## Breakfast & Lunch Information

Chartwell's food service prices for this year are: milk \$0.60, breakfast \$2 and lunch \$3. You can make cash or check deposits to your child's lunch account in the main office (checks made payable to The School District of Clayton). Please note that your child may not use cash in the lunch line.

You may also go to the District website and register for [MyLunchMoney.com](#) in order to make credit card deposits online. You will need to obtain your child's ID number in order to enroll.

## School Dress Code

School clothing should be functional and reflect the attitude of students toward their job - learning. Play clothes, such as halter tops and short shorts, should be reserved for those play activities other than school. School personnel have confidence in the judgement of our parents in the selection of clothing that is appropriate for school. Dresses or skirts hinder activity on the playground and in the gym. Tennis shoes are required for daily physical education classes. As cold weather arrives, children should be layered in warm clothing, as all students spend a part of most days in outside play at recess.

## Missouri Central Bus Riders

Parents of Voluntary Transfer Students are asked to please let the office know early in the day if their child will not ride the bus home. Each child is checked on to the bus at 3:30 p.m. It is so important to communicate this information to the main office by calling (314) 843-6200. We cannot detain a bus full of children while seeking information. Thank you for your cooperation.

## Calendar

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

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