



GLENRIDGE
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The Principal's Newsletter

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November 14, 2014

From the Principal

Dear Parents,

What a gift it is to serve the Glenridge community each day, where adults truly strive to be the very best for the children in our care.

This newsletter is dedicated to sharing your children's experiences with our amazing specialist teachers at Glenridge Elementary School. We are thankful to each of them for the expertise and care they offer each child. Music, Science, Math, Reading, Art, Spanish, PE, Counseling, Gifted, Library, EL and Technology ---each subject area's teacher has taken time to offer insights into their thoughtful work with your child. Glenridge children are indeed fortunate!

Read on and if you have any questions, give us a call!

Thankfully yours,

Beth Scott

Principal

Music News

The fall has been very busy for our students in music. Fifth grade will present the musical "Pinocchio" on the evening of Nov. 18 at 7 p.m. in the gym. Fourth-grade students have composed poems using dynamics for their fall project. Keystage one will be experiencing Native American music and dance during the month of November. The Glenridge Chorus has been rehearsing and will perform on Nov. 21 for Day of Choirs at 10:15 a.m. in the gym. The Chorus is also preparing pieces for our Holiday Sing which is scheduled for Dec. 19 at 9 a.m.

For more details on all of these groups, [click here](#).

Sue Williams, Music Specialist

In The Lab With Mr. Kearney

Many exciting things are happening in science at Glenridge. For grade-level details, [click here](#).

Don't forget about FOSS class pages! You can help make connections to your child's science experiences in many ways, including the FOSS class web pages that have been built for each grade level. Look for the student log-in sheet with information about accessing these pages. If you need more information, please let me know or contact your child's homeroom teacher. I hope you will find this to be a helpful resource to further your child's scientific understanding.

Brendan Kearney, Science Specialist

Green Team

The Glenridge Green Team has been hard at work since the start of the school year. Some of the projects we have been working on include fall/winter produce garden planting and harvesting, native Missouri prairie and rain garden supplementation, assisting with green efforts at the Taste of the World festival, and educating our student body about the many ways we can be "green" throughout each school day. Our goals that we are continuing to work on include the installation and maintenance of the bird houses and feeders that were built last year, along with a school-wide effort to recycle used ink cartridges and small electric appliances that no longer work. Be on the lookout for more information regarding this fundraising opportunity. Together, we can better the earth!

Brendan Kearney, Green Team Sponsor

News From the Library - AKA Wonderopolis

In the Glenridge Library students are busy asking and revising questions, searching for information in books, encyclopedias, digital databases and websites, looking for author's bias, evaluating sources, checking copyright and learning to paraphrase to avoid plagiarism. Children are also making sure to give credit for others' work, whether it is citing an image, telling the title and author of a book they used or creating a bibliography using EasyBib. We are community of researchers!

[Click here for the full article](#), as well as upcoming Glenridge Library events, including the Juggling Jeff Assembly, an author visit from Kate Klise ([order form attached](#)) and movie night.

The Mid-County Library in downtown Clayton will be holding book discussion groups for young readers on "[Knights of the Kitchen Table](#)" and "[Peter and the Starcatchers](#)."

Jude Hagene, Library Media Specialist

Spanish News

We kicked off the new school year with a school-wide celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month. Students from various grade levels had the opportunity to hear and learn from some of our community members about their own Hispanic culture. A big thank you goes out to Silvia Mutis for teaching our students several Latin dances. Also, we thank the Ramon family, Liliana Botero, the Rubin family and Sra. Bergstrom for their presentations. The students enjoyed hearing about food, sports, art and so much more.

At the end of Hispanic Heritage Month all students participated in a celebration in the gym led by the third grade through their presentation of Cantamos Americanos. Fifth-grade students Ariana Larena, Sofia Puerto and Miguel Buitrago presented their video that highlighted some of Glenridge's Hispanic community. [View the video and learn more about the month by visiting the Glenridge web page](#).

For information on the units covered in each grade level, [click here](#).

Gwen Kennerly, Spanish Specialist

In the Art Room

Art room routines are well established by this time of the year, allowing students independence as they explore materials and creative processes. Many basic skills have been introduced as well as procedural understanding for using and caring for art materials. To read about some of the highlights of this art exploration and view photos of student work to date this year, [click here](#).

Diana Haydon, Art Specialist

Technology Google Tools and the Hour of Code

Google Apps for Education (GAPE) is a suite of free, secure online tools that includes Presentations, Documents, Sites and more, and is available for our students and teachers to use. These tools are great for collaboration and communication no matter where our students are (school or home) or what device they're using, making it easier than ever for them to research, create and present information related to the curriculum. Over 40 million students, faculty, and staff in schools around the world have gone Google with Google Apps for Education. Even our young students at Glenridge are learning with real life tools that prepare them for a future of technology integration. Students can access their Google Apps via the [Glenridge website](#) under the Students drop down menu.

[Hour of Code coming the week of Dec. 8-14](#)

The Hour of Code is a global movement reaching tens of millions of students in 180+ countries. To learn more about it [click here](#). For a sneak preview, check out their website - hourofcode.com

Denise Stouffer, Technology Specialist

Gifted Services - Differentiation Strategies

There are differentiation strategies, or ways to adapt or adjust the curriculum for learners, that benefit all learners. [Click here](#) to read about some differentiation strategies that are crucial for gifted learners, whether or not a child has been formally identified for gifted services at this point of his or her development.

At Glenridge, we are jointly committed and work diligently to provide an all day, every day environment responsive to student learning for all students. Integrating these strategies to differentiate the curriculum is a means to accomplish that goal.

Sharon Slodounik, Math Specialist

Counselor's Corner

[Click here](#) to read about the Life Skill Lessons taught to all Glenridge students, and to learn about the annual Peaceball that is created during the month of November.

Rachel Spann, Counselor

English Language Learners Corner

Fall parent-teacher conferences were a great opportunity for me to learn about the progress that our new and returning ELLs have made during the first two months of school. It's been a terrific beginning of a fantastic journey, where lots of meaningful learning has and is taking place daily in our school. Our newcomers feel very comfortable now and are able to navigate the school day in all of their different classes. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns about your child.

For detailed information about ELL services, International Coffees and the International Family Program, [click here](#). You can also get more information at the [ELL website](#).

Alejandra Bergstrom, ELL Specialist

Math News

For information about math around us, fact fluency and using math in cooking, [click here](#).

Gina McNamara, Math Specialist

P.E. & Health Update

The students have scored high throughout the beginning of the school year. We began by playing several weeks of initiative and recess games. Our K-5 students learned cooperation and problem solving skills, while achieving daily fitness goals. Our goal is to have our students moving 30 minutes a day during P.E., which is half of the daily recommendation by the American Heart Association.

The first quarter ended with a bang as our K-2 students participated in our Juggling Unit. K-5 students also enjoyed a school favorite during the Halloween holiday... the Halloween Obstacle Course. We look forward to the start of the second quarter as we kick things off with our K-5 bowling unit.

For the full article, [click here](#).

Steve Hutson & Nicole Miller, P.E. Specialists

Supporting Readers

As reading specialists, we emphasize the need for children of all ages to spend time with books, physically reading at home as well as at school. But how do we help children LOVE to read? How can we help foster that intrinsic passion and joy? The article "[7 Tips for Creating a Love of Reading in Young Kids](#)" offers some suggestions appropriate for children of all ages.

Happy Reading!

Katie Guyre and Kimberly Roach, Reading Specialists

Box Top Winners

We are pleased to announce our Box Top winners, listed below. Each student received a water bottle for their efforts! Thank you to all students who participated and helped support our school.

Kindergarten - Roshan Huchtagowder (KC)

First Grade - Emma Musiek (1Z)

Second Grade - Lucia Puerto (2E)

Third Grade - Sophia Simanowitz (3C)

Fourth Grade - Lily Kleinhenz (4H)

Fifth Grade - Sarah Heath (5G)

PTO Spotlight

Thank you to all volunteers, parents and teachers for helping make the Halloween Parties and the Great Pumpkin Parade so much fun for all of the students!

Thank you to those who made purchases from the Glenridge Spirit Store! If you would like to see some of the items from the Spirit Store, they are on display in the Oxford Drive foyer of the school.

The 2014 Read-A-Thon will run through Nov 21. The Read-a-Thon will reward student participation at every ability level in order to help students cultivate reading as a lifelong habit. Money raised will purchase new books for Glenridge's classrooms and library as well as a community library in-need, and depending on our success, contribute to other initiatives as well. If you would like to help with this year's Read-a-Thon, please contact Jessica Del Pilar at delpillarjessica@gmail.com.

Donations for the Thanksgiving Basket food drive are still being collected in bins around the school until Nov 21. Monetary donations for turkey vouchers can also be made online by [clicking here](#).

The Fourth Annual Clayton Elementary Schools Trivia Night will be held Saturday, Jan 31, 2015! Put it on your calendars because you won't want to miss it!

The Lip Sync and Talent Show will be on Friday, Feb. 6, 2015, starting at 7 pm. Start thinking about your song or talent you want to show off on stage. The registration form and more information will be coming, so save the date!

As always, everyone is welcome to attend the PTO meetings held the second Friday of each month from 8:45-10 a.m. We would love to see you there!

To access the Glenridge PTO website, [click here](#).

A Fit Kid

School District of Clayton students are invited to participate in a health and fitness program through A Fit Kid in which they work collaboratively with other students and a mentor from Saint Louis University (SLU) to achieve common fitness and nutrition goals. The SLU mentors supervise and assist children during weekly group and individual sessions, which are held at The Heights, located at 8001 Dale Avenue in Richmond Heights. For more information, [view the flier](#) or visit www.afitkid.com.

The Family Center

The Family Center is offering a variety of Parent Workshops this school year for parents with children from birth to 18 years old. The workshops offer a dedicated time to explore new ideas and tools for parenting and discuss questions and concerns related to the well-being of children and families.

We encourage you to sign up for one (or both!) of the upcoming workshops on our [flier](#). All workshops will be held at the Family Center, 301 N. Gay Avenue. Call the Family Center at 314-854-6900 for fee information and to register.

A Place at the Table

Wydown Middle School's StandUpToHunger Group is presenting a powerful film, "A Place at the Table," on Dec. 12 at 6:30 p.m. at WMS. The film shows us the reality of hunger in America and how it makes an impact on our schools and on our health care system, and how it brings down economic productivity. For a detailed flier, [click here](#).

Sarah Miller & Wydown StandUpToHunger Group

Calendar

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

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