



ADVOCATE

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Bell Teacher Gets Gift from Helpful Honda!

Special Education teacher Thuy Tran at Bell Intermediate School got the surprise of her life earlier this month. An entire assembly in her honor during which she was presented with new appliances for her classroom from the Helpful Honda People! Thuy teaches her students how to cook, clean, and fold laundry, as well as other everyday skills so they are able take care of themselves outside the classroom. The old appliances in Thuy's classroom dated back more than 20 years and the washing machine had started to leak.

As part of Teacher Appreciation Week, Helpful Honda celebrated teachers throughout Southern California. Thuy Tran was nominated by one of her aides and chosen for her hard work and the inspiration she provides to her students and colleagues both inside and outside the classroom. "I wanted Thuy to have the recognition that she deserves. She is a teacher that goes well beyond what a teacher does. She thinks about the whole student. What we've been going through, the kids have really had a hard time," said her aide, Christina Munger. That's why SoCal Honda Dealers and Helpful Honda gifted Thuy Tran new appliances for her classroom.

"She is the best teacher. She always teaches us everything. And my favorite subject math," said one of Thuy's students, Ayanna Rivera.



President's Message



What a year! Are we reaching the silver lining for education during this pandemic?! A silver lining is a sign of hope or a positive aspect in an otherwise negative situation. The phrase is often seen as part of the proverb *Every cloud has a silver lining*, meaning that there's hope or something good to be found in every bad situation.

All of our sites are back to teaching in-person in some form, whether it be an A/B schedule, Virtual Learning Academy, or hybrid. In the fall we are to resume full day in-person instruction, can this be seen as a silver lining?

No matter the current situation we are in, it is a time to thank those who are part of GGEA, for the support they've given throughout the 2020-2021 school year, to the office staff, our committees, our members, our site reps, our Board of Directors, and our Executive Director. We are all integral parts to GGEA.

Thank you to:

My Associate Staff – Susan Kaylor and Jenny Gonzalez, for your flexibility in transitioning from working at the office to working from home to back to working in the office and especially for your understanding as I navigated through uncharted waters.

Executive Director – Paul Kim, for the many hours advising both our Board of Directors and the Negotiations team through four MOUs and our recent Collective Bargaining Agreement. I look forward to working alongside you to build a stronger union.

Members & Association Reps – for your continued membership and union advocacy. As a site rep you are integral to the functioning of the Association. As a member you strengthen GGEA in being a strong unified body. This is why it is crucial to have representation at the site level.

Board of Directors – not only for your commitment to your elected position while working full time in the classroom and from home, but for the many extra meetings you've attended during this pandemic.

Committee Chairs – for taking on and continuing to take on the leadership role of your committee, along with planning around issues which promote our profession and advocate for our students. I hope you all enjoy your summer break and get all the rest and relaxation you deserve.

“If you could only sense how important you are to the lives of those you meet; how important you can be to the people you may never even dream of. There is something of yourself that you leave at every meeting with another person.” ~Mr. Rogers

Have a wonderful summer! Stay strong, safe, and healthy.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kelly Nolan". The signature is fluid and cursive.



A special welcome to our newest
GGEA members:

Mary Le
Chrystee Lopez
Rafael Marquez

We are so happy you are here!

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MESSAGE

We've just gone through the most tumultuous school year in recent memory. Through it all we made it work and got through it. I wanted to thank all the union members of the Garden Grove Education Association. You are the Union, it's not the GGEA office, it's you who make the Union work. I wanted to give a special shout out to our President and our Board of Directors. It seems like we have been in a state of emergency since March of last year and your Board has been reading, researching, meeting and deciding the course of action for your Union. Being on the Board is a volunteer position and through their leadership we have been able to stay the course, convey our perspective and protect our membership.



Kelly Nolan,
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Julie Vo, Elementary
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Morningside



Dancoise Clayborn,
Elementary Segment
Director, Wakeham



Dawn Floyd,
Elementary
Segment Director,
Clinton

Calendar of Events

06/02	Retirement Tribute
06/04	Installation Banquet
06/09	Last Day Students
06/10	Last Day Teachers
08/12	Teachers' First Day '21-22



CALL FOR ARTICLES!

Are you or your colleagues doing something fabulous at your school site? **We would love to hear about it!** The Advocate Team is looking for articles about YOU, our GGEA teachers and your students. We want to spread the word about the fantastic teaching, events, and successes happening at all the schools across our district. Please email your stories, articles, ideas, and photographs to ADVOCATE@ggea.org by **May 13, 2021**. We can't wait to hear from you!

JOIN our FACEBOOK group TODAY!

Join Us: Facebook members search for "Garden Grove Education Association" and ask to join the group. Allow our administrators 24-48 hours to accept your request.

This is a closed group for members of GGEA only and not open to the public. If you have any questions, send a message to the group administrators or ask your rep.



**Attorney available.*

For appointments please contact the GGEA office at 714-638-7480.

Advocate Editorial Staff:

Willie Burghard, Sara McCarthy, Kelly Nolan, Susan Kaylor

Contributors this Month:

WHO AWARD WINNERS

The "WHO" (We Honor Ours) Award is a means of saying thank you to chapter leaders throughout the state who have contributed at the local level in uniquely special and significant ways. GGEA would like to recognize two of our deserving members: Claire Erikson and Arquilla Howard.

Claire Erikson, a Special Education teacher in our district, has been a GGEA union member for 20 years. She has served as a Site Rep, Chair for the New Educator Committee, a member of the Special Education Committee and SpEd Task Force. She has also represented GGEA as a CTA State Council Delegate. Thank you and congratulations Claire!



Arquilla Howard, a Special Education teacher and a strong advocate for both our teachers and students. She is a site rep, a member of our Negotiations Team, our Special Education Committee, and our SpEd Task Force. She also had the most petition signatures in our local for the Schools and Communities First Campaign. Thank you and congratulations Arquilla!



Garden Grove Education Association

12966 Euclid Street, Ste. 100
Garden Grove, CA 92840

Phone: 714-638-7480

Fax: 714-638-9167

Website: www.ggea.org

Email: president@ggea.org

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(GGEA Office)

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Debi Coleman (Eisenhower)

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Nicole Ciccarelli-Lund (Lake)

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Julie Vo (Morningside)

Karyn Lui-Silverberg (Allen)

Dawn Floyd (Clinton)

Executive Director

Paul Kim
GGEA Office

WHAT IS THE IMAD AWARD??

The Human Rights Committee recognizes GGEA members who make a positive contribution outside of the classroom with the "I Make a Difference Award." This award is given to members who volunteer their time and energy to benefit the school community or the community at large. Past IMAD winners have been involved in working in local charities, after school tutoring projects, library reading programs, soup kitchens, charity runs and human rights endeavors.

Nominations can be submitted to the GGEA Human Rights Committee via our website online form (located on Human Rights Committee page at GGEA.org) or emailed to humanrights@ggea.org. Nominations can be submitted by a single member, by a group of members, or by the entire school staff. Please include the following in your nomination:

- The nominee's name, school and contact information
- His/her specific contribution (please provide details)
- Your name and contact information

Each month, the committee will honor an IMAD recipient at a Rep Council meeting and feature him/her in the *GGEA Advocate*.

NOMINATE A COLLEAGUE TODAY!!



We focus on what's important
so you can do the same.

Between teaching and working on your wellness goals, it might be challenging to find time to research insurance coverage that works for you.

Luckily, CTA offers CTA-endorsed Disability insurance from The Standard that covers you on and off the job. Disability insurance protects your paycheck with funds paid directly to you if an illness, injury, pregnancy, or childbirth prevent you from working.

And the CTA-endorsed plan is the only plan that gives you access to CTA's Student Loan and Cancer Benefits for qualifying claims.*



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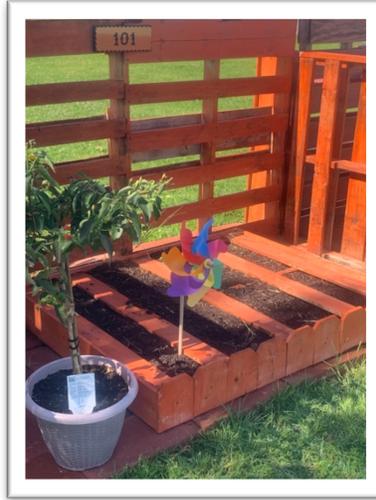
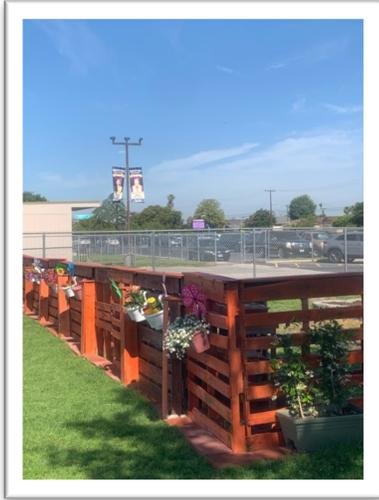


*Student Loan Benefit and Cancer Benefit are offered by CTA to eligible members on approved Disability claims who meet additional specific criteria. CTA provides these self-funded benefits, and The Standard acts only as the claims administrator of these benefits. Student Loan and Cancer Benefits are not provided under the Disability insurance policy.

For costs and further details of the coverage, including exclusions, benefit waiting periods, any reductions or limitations and the terms under which the policy may be continued in force, please contact Standard Insurance Company at 800.522.0406 (TTY). Standard Insurance Company, 1100 SW Sixth Avenue, Portland, OR 97204 GP190-LTD/S399/CTA.1 GP190-LIFE/S399/CTA.3 SI 21765-CTAvol (10/20)

STEM Garden Project at Clinton Corners

Willie Burghard and Jenny Clark received a CTA IFT grant in 2020 for an Outdoor STEM Garden project at Clinton Corners Family Campus. Unfortunately, the project was delayed due to the Covid 19 Quarantine but we are finally back on track and the garden is on its way to completion! We have a lot of work left to do and this is just the beginning of annual garden projects for our children and families. More pictures to follow in the fall!



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Multiple Winners!

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GGEA Scholarship Recipients

In May, the 2021 recipients of the Garden Grove Education Association Scholarships were announced. Scholarships went to graduating seniors from GGUSD high schools and graduating seniors who are children of GGEA members. All applicants were judged according to the following criteria: financial need, academic achievement, volunteer work and service to the community, and school activities. Additionally, the Arlene Pavey Scholarship is especially intended for an applicant with a passion to pursue a career in education.

The GGEA Scholarship Committee, Gerri Brown (Chair, GGHS), Bridget Lockhart (RAHS), Rene Murguia (SHS), Maura Ortega (Jordan Intermediate), and Hannah Jaspard (BGHS) spent countless hours reading scholarship applications before interviewing eleven semi-finalists.

The Scholarship Committee would like to thank all the teachers and other school personnel who took time to write recommendations for students. Each and every comment was read and appreciated by the Committee. As always, the Scholarship Committee had a challenging task in deciding on this year's recipients.



*Left to Right: Hannah, Rene, Maura, Bridget
Seated in Front: Gerri*



Bella Brannon, daughter of GGEA member Jennifer Brannon (Woodbury), is graduating from Ocean View High School. She was able to excel in her rigorous International Baccalaureate and AP classes and earn an impressive 4.7 GPA. She has chosen to continue her educational journey at the University of California, Los Angeles in the fall. Bella plans to pursue a double major in computer and political science. She found her dual passion after signing up for dual enrollment in a local community college in computer science and then immersing herself in local politics. Bella feels her majors will equip her to “code a new Political Data Information app ... that is more precise than the existing model.”

During the last four years, Bella has immersed herself in a variety of extracurricular activities. When she wasn't running for track and cross country, she could be found participating in Model United Nations, Engineering the Community, and Chess Club. In addition, Bella founded a chapter of Junior State of America, at Ocean View, to promote youth civic engagement. Under her leadership, the chapter won two gold awards, Chapter of the Year, and advocacy awards. Due to her work with JSA, she campaigned and was elected State Director of Activism.

After she worked on a successful local City Council campaign, the elected leader said of Bella, “I would regularly forget Bella was a high school student. I've never seen a more civically minded young person. She is always kind, honest, and helpful. She is full of enthusiasm and has the highest level of integrity. Bella demonstrated leadership well beyond her years.” Her track coach summed up with, “Bella really is quite wonderful. She is an excellent student, athlete, and leader.” There is no doubt that Bella is destined for success!

Emily Marsh, daughter of GGEA member Julie Marsh and John Marsh, Director of K-12 Instruction, will be graduating from Marina High School in June. She will be spending her college years at the University of California, San Diego campus where she will be studying applied mathematics. Inspired by all of the teachers in her life, Emily wants her future to include mentoring young women who are interested in pursuing careers in STEM, which is an abundantly male-dominated field. She wants to focus on closing the gender gap in STEM-related fields.



Her teachers describe her as a collaborative student with a calming presence and a meticulous work ethic. Emily's desire for self-improvement demonstrates maturity beyond her years. She has challenged herself with rigorous academic courses and earned an impressive 4.61 GPA. As a four-year varsity basketball player and a member of the Science National Honor Society, National Honor Society, and Multicultural Club, it is clear that Emily is a very well-rounded student who will make her mark on the world. You have made your family, friends, and school community proud. We know you will do great things. Congratulations on earning the GGEA scholarship, Emily!



Tessa Musser has been a proud Rancho Alamitos Vaquera for four years, but come Fall this Simon Scholar and RAHS La Vaquera finalist will begin her college career as a Bruin at UCLA, where she will be studying computer science and biology to pursue her dream of being a neurosurgeon. Tessa plans to utilize artificial intelligence technology to develop tools that will revolutionize neurosurgery. Her passion for merging science and technology began with a Northrop Grumman STEM Consortium internship, where she began to see the powerful impact technology can have in the medical field.

As a high school student, Tessa's schedule has been packed with honors and AP courses, including being part of the Capstone Scholars program that emphasizes research. This busy young woman is also a three-sport varsity athlete (track, volleyball, basketball) and is involved in many clubs on campus like Model United Nations (MUN), Red Cross, and Key Club all while maintaining a 4.4 GPA. Her dedication to her education and motivation to succeed will pave the way for her future endeavors. GGEA is proud to award Tessa Musser with this scholarship!

Edwin Montalvo is graduating from La Quinta High School and has chosen to continue his educational career at the University of California, Los Angeles as biochemistry major. He will be on the pre-medical track; his ultimate goal is to become a physician and open a free clinic. During his time at La Quinta High School, Edwin was involved in numerous extracurricular activities and maintained a 4.61 GPA. He was the editor of the school newspaper, president of the Future Medical Leaders, Physics Club, and the senior leader on the Varsity Swimming and Water Polo teams. Outside of school, Edwin dedicated over 400 hours of his time to give back to his community. He consistently participated in the Bolsa Chica beach clean ups, KIWIN's carnival and marathon volunteer, Someone Cares Soup Kitchen volunteer, SAT tutor, and altar server. John Greek, Edwin's AP Physics and AP Chemistry teacher says, "Many of our students have gone on to add prestige to our nation's top Universities and I expect Edwin will continue this trend."

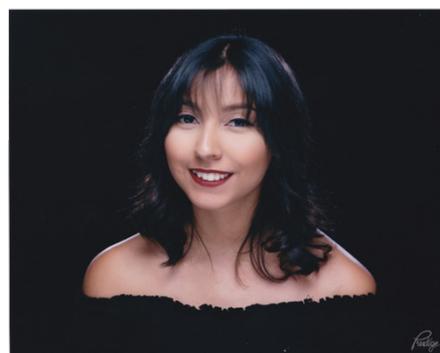




My-Thuan Ha-Hoang epitomizes the well-rounded high school student. She has played tennis all four years at Bolsa Grande High School, been the bassline section leader of Marching Band, plays the cello and large wind chimes, held officer positions in various clubs and organizations, and has devoted time outside of school to dance at her temple and walk dogs for the animal shelter. All this while taking thirteen AP and honors classes throughout high school that has earned her a 4.32 weighted GPA and seventh ranking in her graduating class of over five hundred students.

No doubt her hard work inside and outside of the classroom has helped her achieve her goal of attending her “dream school.” This Fall, My-Thuan will be headed to UCLA to major in Economics and minor in Business Accounting. Self-described as getting the “entrepreneurial spirit” from her parents, My-Thuan’s goal is to one day open a chain of pho restaurants and to help her father achieve his similar dream.

Samantha Michel is graduating from Santiago School and has chosen to continue her educational journey at the University of California, Berkeley. She is the winner of the Arlene Pavey scholarship for students planning a future in education. She plans on majoring in history. She discovered that history was her passion and sees herself as a storyteller who wants to inspire future generations of students. Samantha has many accomplishments under her belt. She has maintained an impressive 4.0 GPA while taking a plethora of AP and honors courses. Aside from excelling in academics, Samantha is a leader on campus involved in many extracurricular activities. She is the president of the Gender Sexuality Alliance Club as well as Young Senators. She is a strong leader who leads through kindness, empathy, and professionalism. Her entire high school career has been centered around community engagement work in an effort to create transformative change in her community and school. Samantha also volunteers with the LGBT Center of Orange County through which she creates resources for LGBTQ+ youth as well as facilitates various programs the center offers. She recognizes the importance of contributing and giving back to the community. She believes in inclusiveness and is a strong social justice advocate. She recognizes lack of empathy is a problem in our society today and works hard to create support systems that allows people’s voices to be heard. Her passion, dedication, and work ethic have made her a role model on campus. Samantha works diligently and aims to exceed the expectations that are set for a young woman of color. She knows that a college education will give her the knowledge and the tools she needs to succeed in life. She wants to create a better future for herself and her family.



Nanette Ta is described by her choir teacher at Bolsa Grande High School as “always looking for things to do and for ways to improve.” This is clearly shown when looking at the extensive list of clubs, activities, and volunteer work that Nanette does in school and throughout her community with VSA, PAWS, Tri-M Music Honors Society, Women’s League, Unicef, and Red Cross, to name a few. Her work, however, has not gone unnoticed as she has garnered many awards and recognition for her involvement. Yet, what she is most proud of is the work she has done in the community that has allowed her to use her English, Vietnamese, and Spanish speaking skills as these opportunities have helped her gain a deeper appreciation for all cultures. In the Fall, Nanette will be attending UC Davis to major in Asian American Studies before she embarks on her mission to be a passionate educator of culture, language, and appreciation of the diversity that she feels blessed to be part of.



The 7-12 VLA is finishing up it's very first year! And what a successful year it was! Pictured left to right are the program's founding teachers and administrators: Dr. Alicia Amin, Carolyn Powell, Diana Roman, Dan Kondrath, Sara McCarthy, Jenny Mueller, Larissa Weirich, and M'Liss Patterson



**Happy Summer from
your 7-12 Virtual Learning Academy
Phoenixes!**

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Extraordinary times can bring out the best in people. People like you, who have shown us all the meaning of dedication and community.

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IEP Facilitation Tips

IMPORTANT POINT!

Sometimes a few changes in our behavior can change the way others act and react.



Smile! It puts everyone at ease in a potentially tense situation. If you force yourself to feel the emotion and not just put on a show, this will relieve the stress and emotional burden of faking your emotions.



TIME- Always start the meeting by asking if anyone has a conflict with the time. This puts the pressure off people who might have to leave early and also allows for written permission to leave by parents and district of IEP team members.



AGENDA- An agenda can also help manage time conflicts. Post it up on the wall if you need to. This can be also useful for parents to know what to expect in the meeting. Ask the IEP team members, especially parents, if there is anything else they would like to add to the agenda before getting started.



RIGHTS- Make an effort to highlight a few key pieces of the procedural safeguards for parents. Just because you hand parents their rights, doesn't mean they always know them or may read them after the meeting. This also shows you're willing to be a partner with them.



TAKING NOTES- Ask another team member in advance to help take notes. The case manager should lead the meeting whenever possible. In the case of a triennial, ask the school psychologist to lead the meeting and offer to take the notes if you are the case manager. If you can, project the IEP as you type so that the process is transparent.

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Source: Karen Taylor, Instruction & Professional Development