We know this year is a tough one and want to acknowledge your hard work, perseverance, and courage. You show up each and every day for your students, working hard to make their school day as normal as possible and you don’t get recognized enough for how hard that is in the middle of a pandemic. You are doing a great job and are deeply appreciated. Thank you for all you do.

ANNOUNCING OUR NEW EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The purpose of this committee is to work on issues regarding Early Childhood Education, arrange workshops for all members, and develop resources focusing on early childhood topics.

The ECE Committee invites members from Early Childhood settings to join, including our current members from State Preschool, SPED PreK, current Transitional Kindergarten and Kindergarten classrooms, and those interested in the new Universal Transitional Kindergarten classes starting next year. Our committee chair is Kathleen Barbieto from Northchutt Elementary. The ECE Committee meets Virtually the first Monday of each month, our next meeting is March 7, 2022 at 3:30 PM. Please contact GGEA for more information!
President’s Message

Chúc mừng năm mới is a phrase associated with the Vietnamese Lunar New Year. 2022 is a year of the Water Tiger. The new year started on February 1st, 2022 and will end on January 21st, 2023. In China, the Tiger is known as the king of all beasts. The Tiger is a symbol of strength, exorcising evils, and braveness. Our school sites celebrated the new year in really fun and beautiful ways. I love it when I am invited and can attend school site events. In the past I’ve attended Halloween Parades, Turkey Trots, Read Across America, Cinco De Mayo and Lunar New Year.

This year I had the opportunity to attend McGarvin Intermediate’s Lunar New Year Celebration on January 28th. LaQuinta High School’s Lion Dance Group performed, as well as McGarvin’s Orchestra. There was a dance performance by the students. The brightly colored attire lent itself to the festive and upbeat celebration.

On February 1st, I attended Thomas Paine Elementary’s Lunar New Year Celebration. It’s always a joy to return to the site where I taught for 24 years and see former students and my fellow Panther teachers. The kindergarten classes performed their traditional Rice dance and I overhead first graders saying, “we’ve never done that before,” an effect of the pandemic. The traditional Lion dance was performed and the students excitedly fed the lion their red envelopes. The day ended by attending the GGUSD school board meeting and watching the Bolsa High School Lion Dance performance.

May the Lunar New Year bring you good health and prosperity.

Kelly Nolan
Executive Director Message

If you haven’t read the class size MOU for the 2022-23 school year, please do. We made great strides in reducing the class to teacher ratios and getting aide support for our combination classes. Our mission statement is, “An Association of educators who advocate for the well-being of our membership and the students we serve.” I think this MOU accomplishes just that.

This wouldn’t have been possible if our members didn’t come out in numbers to the school board and educate them on the impact the pandemic was having on our students academically as well as their socio-emotional health.

We were hitting a brick wall in our negotiations and these actions really helped the negotiations with the district. This is what it means to organize.

Paul Kim
GGEA Executive Director

Calendar of Events

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>03/01</td>
<td>Board of Directors</td>
<td>05/03</td>
<td>Board of Directors</td>
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<td>03/02</td>
<td>Read Across America</td>
<td>05/10</td>
<td>Segments</td>
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<td>03/08</td>
<td>Board of Directors</td>
<td>05/11</td>
<td>Day of the Teacher/School Nurse</td>
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<td>03/22</td>
<td>Rep Council</td>
<td>05/24</td>
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<td>04/05</td>
<td>Board of Directors</td>
<td>05/30</td>
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<td>04/11-15</td>
<td>Spring Break</td>
<td>06/01</td>
<td>Last Day of Classes</td>
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<td>04/26</td>
<td>Rep Council</td>
<td>06/02</td>
<td>Closing Date for Teachers</td>
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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 April 8, 2022. We can’t wait to hear from you!

A special welcome to our newest members!

Ariel Bogue  Tara Chapman  Mariel Cobian  Christina DePadua  Edgar Galan  Thalia Laguna  Lauren Tran

An association of educators who advocate for the well being of our membership and the students we serve.
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.

Tea parties. Story hour. Sing-a-longs. You’re likely too busy to research and find a Life insurance plan that works for you. That’s why CTA offers CTA-endorsed Life insurance from The Standard:

When you protect your loved ones with one of our plans, you also get instant access to Life Services Toolkit1 to help with estate planning, will preparation and more as well as Travel Assistance1 for travel-related emergencies.

Embrace the best parts of life with CTA Member Benefits!

For coverage as strong as the bonds you share, turn to CTA-endorsed Life insurance. Visit CTAMemberBenefits.org/Life.

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1 Travel Assistance and Life Services Toolkit are provided through an arrangement with service partners not affiliated with The Standard and are not insurance products.

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. Standard Insurance Company, 1100 SW Sixth Avenue, Portland, OR 97204. GP190-LIFE/S399/CTA3 SI 21765-CTAvol (8/21)
Hello Everyone,

There is no better way for me to spend my 75th birthday than with family and friends raising money to support research to cure pediatric cancer. I am excited to have you join me on Sunday, March 27th as I host my 14th annual team RUNNING WITH TODD at Irvine Valley College. Join me on the 5K Run/Walk or choose a 10K Run, Half Marathon, or 1K Kids Fun Run.

With gratitude and love,
Terry Shepard
cure.pcrf-kids.org/Terry

All proceeds benefit:

Scan to register/donate or visit

cure.pcrf-kids.org/Terry
A little flashback to December and Hour of Code. Our awesome rep, Anh Warren won an IFT grant and set up robotics for us at Rosita. Here are some pics of the robots and Hour of Code activities.
Be Sure to Get Your Union T-Shirts!

One way we can show solidarity and stand together as unified members is to wear our GGEA T-shirts on campus and out in the community. If you didn’t get your t-shirt two years ago, you’re in luck because we’ve ordered more! These t-shirts are soft and stylish, designed by our very own Advocate editor, Sara McCarthy!

If you did not order at one of your recent GGEA meetings, you can find a fillable order form as well as photos of the shirts on the GGEA website. Once your form is complete, please send it to jennyg@ggea.org. We will fill the order and send the shirts and copy of the order form through district mail!
Thursday March 3, 2022 – Virtual Maternity Workshop 3:30pm

GGEA Scholarships - **DUE DATE REMINDER**

- GGEA offers **seven** (7) scholarships to graduating seniors which are provided from the dues of GGEA members. They are offered in the following areas: **Garden Grove Unified School District Graduating Seniors (4)**, **Graduating Seniors of a Garden Grove Education Association (GGEA) member (2)**, and the Arlene Pavey Scholarship also offered to a graduating Senior of a Garden Grove Education Association (GGEA) member. A fillable application is also on the ggea.org website.

  - *Please note that applications are due by March 1st.*
  - [https://files.constantcontact.com/ea1a5c0d001/8fd04bc8-7721-4ca8-adc2-592e67b9cbee.pdf?rdr=true](https://files.constantcontact.com/ea1a5c0d001/8fd04bc8-7721-4ca8-adc2-592e67b9cbee.pdf?rdr=true)

**Day of the Teacher Poster Contest**

- GGEA’s Community Action Committee is announcing the 2021-2022 Day of the Teacher Poster Contest.
- This flyer should already be posted on your site’s GGEA bulletin board.
- The flyer contains all the necessary information regarding the details and submission of the poster.
- **Due Tuesday, March 22, 2022.**
  - [https://files.constantcontact.com/ea1a5c0d001/9bb960b4-dc20-4405-985f-84e319762736.png](https://files.constantcontact.com/ea1a5c0d001/9bb960b4-dc20-4405-985f-84e319762736.png)

**Retiring??**

- GGEA’s Retirement Committee started working on the **Retirement Tribute** back in September. Venues are booking up fast. The GG Community Center was already booked.
- The committee would like to have an idea on the number of future retirees (June 2022) in order to determine the size of the venue needed.
- If you are going to be retiring this year, GGEA would love to hear from you! Please call the GGEA office and let us know. We’re just taking a count for now. And early congrats on your upcoming retirement! 😊

**Items of Note!**

**WE APPRECIATE ALL YOU DO!**