LA QUINTA STUDENT CREATES CANCER DETECTING TOOTHBRUSH

“James” Phuc Nguyen is a senior at La Quinta High School in GGUSD. He has been recognized globally for creating a toothbrush that detects cancer. James was inspired to create his cancer-detecting toothbrush after his grandmother died of brain cancer just seven months after his family arrived in the U.S. from Vietnam in 2019.

One day he was talking to his cousin about brushing his teeth and the thought popped in his head, “what if I put a microchip inside a toothbrush and so when people brush their teeth, the saliva would go through the toothbrush, go through the chip in the toothbrush and detect cancer?”

James was recognized as one of five finalists for college scholarships through a program called “Rise”, a global initiative which supports the next generation of change makers. Some of James’ teachers at La Quinta who have been supportive of James’ endeavors and who have spoken to media on his behalf include Stefan Dirghalli, Lawrence Lai, Matt Swaney, Shawn Hall, Kim Ngo and Cork Snider.

Cork Snider praised James for being one of the most impressive students he has worked with in 34 years. James has an amazing future ahead of him and we are looking forward to following this alumni’s continuing endeavors.
President’s Message

The nights are getting longer, the trees are losing their leaves, and many may find themselves longing for Spring. But there is work to do: attending meetings, lesson planning, grading papers, tests, and projects, and updating grades. Then there are also the preparations for our Winter break activities.

This can be a stressful time of year. It is important to remember to take care of ourselves. As educators, we often put our students needs and interests first. How many of you have taken the piece of fruit from your own breakfast or lunch to give to a hungry student? How many of you spend your own money to enhance the learning environment or lessons for your students? How many of you give up your duty-free lunch to provide a space for students? How many of you are offering interventions before and/or after school? How many of you are advising clubs on campus?

Remember to do something for yourself this season. Take a walk in the park without your earbuds, so you can hear the birds. While shopping for others, buy something for yourself – you deserve it. Take some time to engage in whatever activity or activities help to reduce your stress. (Have you checked out the course offerings provided by our very own GGUSD VAPA educators?)

I wish all of you a wonderful Winter break.
Enjoy – You Deserve It!

Bridget Holdermann – GGEA President
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.

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*Promotion valid Aug. 1, 2022 through Dec. 31, 2022. Subject to credit approval. SchoolsFirst FCU’s credit card program features a range of variable interest rates based on a variety of factors, including the applicant’s credit rating.
# Calendar of Events

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**WWW.GGEA.ORG**

Did you know your union has a website?

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**KEY FEATURES designed with YOU in mind:**

- Easy clickable contract
- Negotiations updates
- By laws & standing rules
- Insurance information
- Calendars
- CTA & NEA benefits
- AdNotes archive
- Advocate archive

SCAN QR CODE TO VISIT GGEA.ORG
One of my favorite expressions as Communications Chair is, “that there has to be an app for that” and I would like to recommend an app to help you organize a PreK/UTK classroom for efficiency.

PreK classrooms traditionally have a lot of manipulatives and learning centers that need labels with pictures/photos to assist children who are just learning to recognize letters and symbols. Labels help children locate classroom learning materials as well as know where to put items away when finished thus creating independence and self-reliance. Our preschool programs regularly replace and rearrange labels for various reasons such as flow, areas of interest of the children currently enrolled and wear and tear of daily use. The app I would like to recommend is LabelPics which was developed by the husband of a preschool teacher to assist her in the classroom. It is user friendly and simple to use, you can take pictures of items or screenshot from online catalogs as well as name items on label in various font sizes. The labels can be turned into a PDF and loaded onto your Google Drive and then cut to fit label pockets. I insert into label pockets purchased from classroom/office supply stores and you can also clear tape directly to buckets and shelves depending on preferences.
PANCAKES WITH SANTA!

Stanley Elementary had their 1st annual Pancakes with Santa this last Saturday, December 10th. It was hosted by Mrs. Balius, Stanley’s Principal, as well as the school PTA. Students and their families had lots of fun eating pancakes made by Mrs. Balius’ husband. Attendees decorated cookies, made crafts, heard stories read by Mrs. Santa, and had their pictures taken with Santa! Everyone had a great time and enjoyed the holiday cheer.
What is this?

The California Teachers Association (CTA) Instruction and Professional Development (IPD) department will be hosting a community of practice (CoP) for teachers who will be starting or continuing National Board Certification during the 2022-2023 school year. CoP sessions will be led by CTA members who are National Board Certified Teachers (NBCT) and will help participants access available resources, understand the certification process, and deeply engage the substance of National Board Certification.

What should I expect?

Each community of practice session will include an exploration of key concepts/topics, practical application activities, resource sharing, and question and answer sessions. Participants will also have access to a Canvas course with resources and modules developed by the Stanford National Board Resource Center and CTA NBCTs. Attend any or all! *All sessions are 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm*

<table>
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How do I register?

Scan the QR code or follow the link below to register for the Navigating National Board Community of Practice.  


Have questions? Adam Ebrahim | aebraham@cta.org
WELCOME NEW GGEA MEMBERS!

Nicole Barrios  
Stacey Burns  
Amanda Cook  
Joy Crispo  
Elaine DeLeon  
Ginger Derks  
Christopher Duong  
MariaJose Flores  
Claudia Gallegos  
Todd Geyer  
Nicole Gordon  
Jacqueline Gutierrez  
James Haslip  
Kate Kahalewai  
Timothy Mathiesen  
Stephanie Mai

Carrie Marquez  
Eric Kawahara  
Vy Lam  
Huascar Matias  
Christine Mattera  
Meagan McMillen Starritt  
Nicole Merkel  
Linh Nguyen  
Thuy Anh Nguyen  
Crystal Patterson  
Nancy Pham  
PhuongAnh Pham  
Allison Rawls  
Vance Richardson  
Jazmine Rivera  
Jinnie Shinn

Suzie Sung  
Annie Tran  
Emily Turner  
Andrew Winslow
SEND US YOUR ARTICLES!

WE HAVE A NEW GOOGLE FORM FOR ADVOCATE SUBMISSIONS.

The Advocate is GGEA’s monthly newsletter highlighting the fantastic teaching, events, and successes happening across our district.

SCAN THE QR CODE TO SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES AND PHOTOS!
LOOK FOR A LINK IN THE ADNOTES TOO!

GOOD NEWS!

TENTATIVE AGREEMENT RATIFIED!

Thank you for voting. Your voice and membership truly do matter. Please visit ggea.org to view the contract updates.

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We truly appreciate all that you do, at school, at home and in the community. We believe that our unique program has everything CTA Members could look for in auto and home insurance, with exclusive benefits not available to the general public, and at a value that surpasses all others.

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