AN INTRODUCTION TO OUR NEW GGEA PRESIDENT!

Congratulations Bridget!

Hello GGEA, my name is Bridget Holdermann and I’m your new president. I was born in Illinois and moved to California at the age of seven. Therefore, I’m able to claim GGUSD Homegrown status like many of our members. I attended Post and Carrillo Elementary, Irvine Intermediate, and graduated from La Quinta High School. Both my bachelor’s degree and teaching credential are from the University of California, Irvine. This year will be my 33rd as an employee of the GGUSD.

I spent the first 32 years of my career at McGarvin Intermediate teaching mathematics. During the early part of my career, I advocated for seventh graders wanting to take pre-algebra and succeeded. Throughout my career I’ve participated on math consults, attended numerous trainings, and tried to learn something new each year. During all that time I have been a member of GGEA. About 20 years ago I became a site representative. I was asked to join the bargaining team in 2008 and became bargaining chair in 2014. After joining the bargaining team, I wanted to become more involved. I started attending CTA conferences, CTA’s Summer Institute, 13 NEA/RAs, and recently CTA’s State Council.

My husband and I raised two sons. My eldest son is currently an enlisted member of the USAF stationed in England. My younger son is working while he tries to discover himself. I’m very proud of both. Although, they were not great students in high school, they are great human beings.

I’m looking forward to being your president and tackling the many issues you face. Whether that be instructional aide support, curriculum materials, health and welfare, wages, or just being heard. I have two specific goals: 1) Getting to each site before the end of March, and 2) Bringing “Read Across America” to the secondary level. I look forward to meeting each of you.
Eleven Paychecks! Oh My!

Member: “Eleven paychecks in the calendar year of 2023! Why?”

Association Leader: “Starting in 2016/2017 school year, teachers began their work year at the end of August, but still worked till the middle of June.”

Member: “Why did we start working in August? Other districts, like Huntington Beach, still start after Labor Day.”

Association Leader: “Based on a survey of association members, it was determined that an earlier start date in August would be beneficial to students?

Member: “What benefits to students are you referring to?”

Association Leader: “Athletic contests start in the middle of August; therefore, it is better for fall sports programs if the school year starts earlier. Also, all A.P. testing occurs in May and State Standardized testing in grades 3-11 occur between the end of April and the end of May. Teachers felt that many of the students thought the school year was over, even though a month of school remained. Starting earlier allowed teachers to cover more of the curriculum prior to A.P. or State testing. However, we did not agree to change the calendar drastically until all GGUSD schools had air conditioning.”

Member: “Why didn’t we switch to receiving checks August through May sooner?”

Association Leader: “During the 2022/2023 school year a teacher’s last working day is June 2. Therefore, teachers will receive their last of 10 paychecks for the 2022/2023 school year at the end of June. Which is the pay schedule we have been using since inception. Starting in the 2023/2024 school year a teacher’s last working day will be in May. Therefore, teachers will receive their first paycheck at the end of August 2023 and their last paycheck at the end of May 2024.”

Member: “But that’s only ten paychecks.”

Association Leader: “Correct. Ten paychecks for the school year of 2023/2024, but eleven paychecks in the calendar year 2023.”

Member: “How many paychecks will I receive in the calendar year 2024?”

Association Leader: “Ten. Only the 2023 calendar year will have eleven checks.”

Member: “How does that work? Does that mean I’m receiving an extra month of pay?”

Association Leader: “No, you are not receiving an extra month of pay. In the past we received four paychecks from September to December and six paychecks from January to June. Now you will receive five paychecks from August to December and five paychecks from January to May.”
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!!**

---

**WHAT IS THE IMAD AWARD??**

---

**Peace of Mind with Holiday Savings**

As you spend this holiday season celebrating with family and friends, take a few minutes to give yourself a little something extra...peace of mind.

**Auto and Home Insurance provided by California Casualty** gives you protection, value and service with a convenient holiday skip-payment option that’s perfect for this time of year.

Skip your payments in November & December or December & January.

**GET YOUR QUOTE TODAY.**

1.866.268.1754

WeProtectEducators.com/Skip

---

CA Lic#0547343 ©2022 CCIA: Insurance not available in AK, HI, MA, MI, NY, WI. Coverages described are subject to availability and eligibility. Restrictions apply. See website for complete details. Gift card offer not available in AL, AR, FL, GA, IA, NC, ND, MD, MS, SC, TN, TX, UT and WV.
## Calendar of Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10/04</td>
<td>Board of Directors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/11</td>
<td>Segments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/18</td>
<td>Open Tuesday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/25</td>
<td>Rep Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/01</td>
<td>Board of Directors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/04</td>
<td>Non-Student Day/Staff Dev.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/08</td>
<td>Segments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/11</td>
<td>Veteran’s Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/15</td>
<td>Open Tuesday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/21-25</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Recess</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/29</td>
<td>Rep Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/06</td>
<td>Board of Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/13</td>
<td>Segments/Rep Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/08</td>
<td>Segments</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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, our TOSAs, our nurses, and our teacher librarians. We want to spread the word about the fantastic teaching, events, and successes happening at all the schools, in all the departments, and at all grade levels across our district. Please email your stories, articles, ideas, and photographs to ADVOCATE@ggea.org.

Along the same lines, if there is something you would like to see in the Advocate, specific information you’d like highlighted, or a topic you’d like us to address, please let us know. We want this newsletter to be useful for you and relevant to the work you do. It is our hope that as a member of GGEA, this publication represents you, is fun to read, and provides you with valuable resources and information. **We can’t wait to hear from you!**

**WELCOME NEW GGEA MEMBERS!**

Cathy Ambellan  
Christina Aranda  
Nicollette Avalos  
Yezmin Ayala  
Charles Ayers  
Cristina Bermudez  
Tyler Casalini  
Rosa Chang  
Jessica Chau  
Phary Chhoeun  
Teresa DeRosas  
Angelique Dickson  
Ashlie Duerr  
Crystal Duong  
Courtney Edmundson  
Darneanna Fallins-Pryor  
Leah Ficeli  
Katherine Flaherty  
Danielle Freeman  
Vanessa Garcia  
Julian Garrido-Figueroa  
Aren Garside  
Heather Green  
Karissa Hart  
Kimberly Holer  
Mackenzie Howard  
Brendan Kaylor  
Jacob Le  
Tuan Le  
Victor Lezo  
Shepard Lowell  
Adrian Martinez  
Michael Matossian  
Kaitlyn McGranahan  
Isabella Modaffari  
Emily Mondragon  
Aidan Nguyen  
Whitney Ofori-Atta  
Brittany Osborne  
Susana Perez  
Terri Peterson  
Elizabeth Petrella  
Kye Ramirez  
Megan Sanders  
Taylor Schmidt  
Trish Siow  
Maria Stanslow  
Jared Tanielu  
Lucia Trinh  
Alina Urias  
Susan Vang  
Timothy Vu  
Daniel Walsh  
Kenneth Wing  
Jennifer Wylie  
Nattaly Zavalza
This year UTK classes were introduced to elementary schools across the district. The TK Corner is our new column to highlight and share TK instructional ideas! This first contribution is from our Communication Committee’s very own Willie Burghard. She states, “Play dough is your friend with young children. I have used this recipe with students for 40 years!”

Kool-Aid Play Dough Recipe

**Ingredients:**
- 2.5 cups of flour
- ½ cup of salt
- 2 pkg. of Kool-Aid
- ¼ cup of vegetable oil
- 2 cups boiling water

**Instructions:**
- Mix all dry ingredients (flour, salt, Kool-Aid) in a large bowl.
- Add vegetable oil and 2 cups of boiling water into the dry ingredients.
- Stir everything together until well mixed. Let it cool and knead on a floured surface until it is the consistency of play dough.
- Cherry and Grape flavored Kool-Aid make the best colors and have the best scents. You can add a few drops of food coloring to any flavor to brighten.

**Play dough can be used for the following:**

1) Play therapy especially at the beginning of the school year.
2) Measurement
3) Cutting practice
4) Fine motor strengthening
5) Position word concepts
6) Letter shapes/building
7) Shapes