Businesses Donate Supplies to GGUSD Students

One of our own, Susana Prado, a GGEA teacher at Woodbury Elementary wanted to share some great news! She was in need of a new monitor when GGUSD started distance learning because her laptop was too small to have all the windows she needed open at one time. She also wanted a larger screen to view her students so they wouldn’t be tiny thumbnails on her laptop.

Susana told us what happened next, “I started calling local businesses for donations because our school did not have funds available to purchase new monitors. After hearing so many no's I finally got a yes from the Costco in Fountain Valley. Gil, the manager, kindly donated his own monitor that he no longer used. The following day I received a call from Dale, the manager at the Staples in Garden Grove near the GGEA office. He offered me a brand new monitor for my classroom too! Wow I was amazed! After almost giving up, I received not just one, but two monitor donations! Now I have a monitor where I can view my entire class in a large size and another monitor to keep other important windows open like taking attendance and viewing my students’ responses from PearDeck. My laptop can now be used to display my Elmo and I am so thankful. The manager from Staples also wanted me to share that they have a great rewards program for educators. Teachers can get up to 20% off on purchases and earn 20% back as well. When our students’ parents, or your friends and family make a purchase at Staples, they can go online, type the receipt number, and then select the teacher and school they want to earn 20% from their purchase.”

“Lastly, I was looking for math supplies for the math IMP lessons so my students could have them at home. Both Staples and the local Boys and Girls Club gave my students supplies. The Boys and Girls Club Center provided backpacks for my students and Staples provided supplies like markers, crayons, glue and folders for my students to use during distance learning.”

Susana would like to recognize the following incredible companies for their generous donations and say a big “Thank You!”

- Staples and Costco
- Boys and Girls Club Center of Garden Grove
- Officer Kris from Garden Grove Police Department
- Burlington Coat Factory from the Adopt-a-Classroom Program
President’s Message

In preparing to write my articles for The Advocate, I always like to look back to see what I wrote about the previous year. Keeping to this routine I did just that. Last year at this time I wrote about the importance of having a voice, especially within your union. This still rings true today. As Orange County recently went back into the purple tier, 17 of our schools still remained open and in person. This not only became a safety concern but a concern over the inequities having been created by opening in tiers. We were just about to go on Thanksgiving break and we needed to quickly come up with a plan. On December 1st that plan came to fruition and our members would have the opportunity to share their voices.

Over 130 cars showed up that evening in the district parking lot for GGEA’s Park and Protest, a quiet demonstration. I double masked up and began walking the parking lot reading the voices of my fellow educators: “Put the Unified Back into GGUSD, “Stop the Tiers”, “Unified & United”, “Equity in Education In Every Situation”, “Please Keep Us All Safe”, “Protect Our Teachers and Students!” and many more. These were teachers using their voices to show support and solidarity for those schools still open. While the outcome of our action didn’t achieve the closing of those 17 schools, it did achieve our members showing unity, strength in solidarity and support for their fellow educators and students that were at those 17 schools teaching in person. Would we have loved the school board to have changed their minds that evening and close all the remaining open schools, most definitely, but we know they did not.

As GGEA President, I can’t be prouder of our members for showing up and utilizing their voice. Stay strong, safe, and healthy.

Calendar of Events

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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 Feb 11, 2020. 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:
Susana Prado, Charlotte Hutchinson

Welcome NEW GGEA Members!

Evelyn Albarran
Nicole Jenkins
Lynn Nguyen
Holly Pizarro
Nathan Thomson
Pre-K Returns to In Person Learning!

While the students were only in person for a week, they sure did love every minute of their time in the classroom!
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 playing fetch and belly rubs, chances are you don’t have time to research and find an insurance plan that works for you.

That’s why CTA offers CTA-endorsed Disability and Life insurance plans from The Standard, making it easy for you to get quality coverage you can trust at group rates.

Snuggle up to your CTA Member Benefits!
For coverage as reliable as your best friend, turn to CTA-endorsed Disability and Life insurance plans.
Visit CTAMemberBenefits.org/TheStandard.
Reopening Walton Intermediate

Walton teachers and staff welcomed their little Wildcats back with an adorable lawn sign and cheering teachers! And yes, all staff members are six feet apart, don’t worry! 😊
Communication Tips for IEP Meetings

"The most important thing in communication is hearing what isn’t said."

- Peter Drucker

1. Put yourself in their shoes...

Even the most well meaning adult can feel defensive or become aggressive when discussing their child and their child’s education. Think about what it feels like to be them for a moment. How long have they been feeling frustrated? How might they feel about having a child with a disability? How might they feel if they don’t think their child is getting what they need?

2. Use the "revoicing strategy"

After listening to a complaint, gain clarification and understanding.

“So what you’re saying is…”

“Is that right?”

3. Use the "example strategy"

“Can you give me an example of this?” The example can help you determine next steps for action and response.

4. Show that you’re on the same team.

“How can we work together to make (student’s) experience the best possible?”

5. Take a time-out.

“I know we all want what is best for (student). Maybe we should take a five-minute break to cool down.”
6. Listen, listen, listen
OFTEN TIMES, PEOPLE JUST WANT TO BE HEARD. SUPPRESS THE URGE TO RESPOND AND LET PARENTS TALK OUT THEIR FRUSTRATION.

7. Dig deeper
"CAN YOU TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED THAT HAS LED YOU TO FEEL THIS WAY?"
THEN USE A STRATEGY LIKE 2, 3, OR 6.
Remember, empathy, listening, and patience can go a long way.

8. Pay attention to your own body language.
WHAT PERCEPTIONS ARE YOU GIVING WHEN YOU SIT AND LISTEN? ARE YOU LEANING BACK OR LEANING FORWARD? USE A COMFORTABLE FORWARD STANCE THAT SHOWS YOU ARE INTERESTED IN LISTENING TO THE PARENT.

9. Choose your battles
ASK YOURSELF, "IS THIS WORTH PUTTING ALL OF MY ENERGY INTO TO FIGHT?" IF A PARENT REQUEST IS UNREASONABLE, FIND SOME MIDDLE GROUND THAT BOTH PARTIES CAN AGREE TO THAT STILL BENEFIT THE CHILD. DON’T BE AFRAID TO SAY YES TO REASONABLE REQUESTS. REMEMBER, THE IEP IS MEANT TO HELP THE STUDENT.

10. Just Breathe
DEEP BREATHING HAS BEEN SHOWN TO EFFECTIVELY LOWER STRESS LEVELS.
2021 PAULA J. MONROE
CTA ESP of the Year Nominations!

Paula J. Monroe CTA ESP of the Year nominations will close on January 8, 2021.

To All Chapter Presidents with CTA ESP locals in their District:
Remember, any CTA member may nominate a CTA Education Support Professional for this honor!

Application process concerns? Questions?
Please email John Vigrass at:
jvigrass@citrusbeltuniserv.org
Applications will be sent in November

FAMILIES WELCOME

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