



CTA Award-Winning Newsletter of the Garden Grove Education Association

ADVOCATE

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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!



Garden Grove Education Association

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GGEA Office

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."

Advocate Editorial Staff:

Willie Burghard, Sara McCarthy, Bridget Holdermann, Susan Kaylor

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!!



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.

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Calendar of Events

10/04	Board of Directors	11/11	Veteran's Day
10/11	Segments	11/15	Open Tuesday
10/18	Open Tuesday	11/21-25	Thanksgiving Recess
10/25	Rep Council	11/29	Rep Council
11/01	Board of Directors	12/06	Board of Director
11/04	Non-Student Day/Staff Dev.	12/13	Segments/Rep Council
11/08	Segments		



WWW.GGEA.ORG

Did you know your union has a website?



Garden Grove
Education Association

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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

CALL FOR ARTICLES AND IDEAS!

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 Edwardson
Darneanna Fallins-Pryor
Leah Ficeli
Katherine Flaherty
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Aren Garside
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Victor Lezo
Shepard Lowell
Adrian Martinez
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Kaitlyn McGranahan
Isabella Modaffari
Emily Mondragon
Aidan Nguyen
Whitney Ofori-Atta

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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



TK CORNER!

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

