

AUGUST 2007

ISSUE 1

# The Glorietta Gab

## *A Message from the GPC Presidents*

The time to begin a new school year is now upon us and we're extremely excited!

Before we go too far, however, it is only appropriate that we introduce ourselves. We are the new Glorietta Parents' Club Co-Presidents, Tracy Ellman and Isabel Ehringer. Tracy has a son, Alex, who is in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade and son, David, at OIS. Isabel has a son, Finn, in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and two daughters, Logan and Auden in middle school. Like so many of you, we've volunteered at Glorietta in many different capacities since our children entered Kindergarten. Now, we're honored to take on our new roles with the GPC.

During the upcoming year, we will be focusing our efforts on several important items. First, is the development of a thoughtful long-term strategy which evolves our fundraising efforts and prioritizes our investments. We would like to ensure that parents have their input into the process and that our available funds are used for capital improvements and other meaningful expenditures that continue to support Glorietta's students, site plan, wonderful teachers and strong academic programs.

Second, is the possible replacement of the Gopher Club building. The current building has been in place since the mid 1960s and no longer meets the needs of our growing student body. We've formed a committee, lead by Glorietta parent Wes Ayers, who will analyze our options and provide us with their recommendations during the year.

Third, is the implementation of School Wires lead by GPC Communication VP, Joni Shwarts. Many of you may have already noticed the wonderful changes to our website! This new software, which has been implemented throughout the district, promises to change the way that we communicate at Glorietta. From information about your child's class work to reminders of your Gopher Gourmet volunteer schedule, you will now have the ability to receive email updates on many (soon all!) of the school's activities.

We would like to thank our principal, Penny Loetterle, for her tireless dedication to our children. Penny's efforts to maintain a small class size, provide training for teachers, and maintain strong communication with our parent community are just a few of her noted accomplishments. And, that's not all. Penny has been very busy over the summer as well. Please see Penny's message on the following page for important information on the many exciting developments at Glorietta.

As most of you know, the academic excellence and success of Glorietta School is in large part due to our parent community and your contributions of both time and money. We have many important fundraisers throughout the year; the most significant of which is the annual Glorietta Auction! This year's theme is Go"pher" the Gold! Please join us for a fun filled evening at the Claremont in Berkeley on February 23!

We welcome all of you to a new school year at Glorietta! Please feel free to stop by and chat with us during our office hours on Mondays from 8-10 am in the GPC office in the multi-purpose room. We encourage all of you to get involved and check out the volunteer opportunities at Registration Day on August 28. Looking forward to seeing all of you!

Isabel Ehringer  
isabelehringer@sbcglobal.net

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Tracy Ellman  
ellmans@yahoo.com



## *Principal's Message*



Dear Glorietta Parents and Families,

Welcome to the 2007-2008 school year. I hope everyone has had a restful relaxing summer and is ready for a new year. I remember as a child how the start of school really was the beginning of my new year. And that's still true! We have had some exciting changes happen at Glorietta over the summer break. First, I hope everyone has had a chance to examine and/or play on the new equipment on the lower playground. Aren't those rocks grand? The new equipment has generated a lot of enthusiasm and will certainly liven up the choice of activities for our third, fourth, and fifth grade students during their recess and lunch breaks.

The computer lab is another change. It has been relocated to room 21 and the wall between the library and the new lab opened up so there can be movement between the two rooms. Our goal is to create a true library/media space where students and teachers can move between technology and print resources.

The staff has been involved in many professional development activities over the summer. The district sponsored writers' workshop training the week after school was out. Two trainers from Teachers' College at Columbia University came out and worked with district teachers for a week in best practices in writing. The training was awesome and very well received. I know you'll hear more about it at Back to School Night. We had sixteen Glorietta teachers participate in the training! Additionally, two teachers have gone to Teachers' College for advanced writing training and another five have received training in reading in New York. Six more teachers have received similar reading training, courtesy of the San Ramon School District. We are very fortunate that our newly hired teachers have all received advanced training in teaching reading and writing.

A new portable classroom has been installed behind the Art Portable. This will be home to Alison Bingham, our new fifth grade teacher, who comes to us highly recommended from OIS. Also joining the staff are two new teachers, Adriana Scalise in kindergarten and Michelle Bello in second. Charles Shannon will be joining the first grade team. Melissa Druding, who has taught at an International Baccalaureate school in Southern California will be part of the third grade team and Kate Riedell, who has moved here from Massachusetts, will be joining the fourth grade team. Other changes to our staff include Terry Schrittwieser joining Carol Levin in a job share in first grade. Tricia Newhart, who previously taught with Carol, is our district K-1 literacy coach. Emily Wyro has changed grade levels and will be teaching third grade. We've planned a staff retreat in August and feel confident that everyone will be ready and welcoming on the first day of school.

We are in need of instructional assistants to aid teachers at all grade levels. The hours are flexible and we will work with your schedules. If this is something you have thought of doing, now is a perfect time. If you would like to know more about the job or if you think this is something you would like to try, please, contact me.

Welcome back, welcome to a great new year. I'm excited and looking forward to working with you and your children.

Always,  
Penny

## *Calendar*

August 26 <sup>th</sup>	3-6 pm	Kindergarten Picnic
August 28 <sup>th</sup>	2-7 pm	Kick-off
August 29 <sup>th</sup>		First Day of School
August 29 <sup>th</sup>	8-8:30 am	Welcome Coffee w/ Penny
August 29 <sup>th</sup>		Deadline for Gopher Gourmet Orders
September 4 <sup>th</sup>		No School
September 11 <sup>th</sup>		Back to School Night
September 10 <sup>th</sup>		Gopher Gourmet Session 1 Begins
September 19 <sup>th</sup>		GPC General Meeting
October 13 <sup>th</sup>		Fun Fest
October 16 <sup>th</sup>		Penny's Book Club
February 23 <sup>rd</sup>		Glorietta Auction

## *Legislative Team News*

Are you interested in the big picture of how our schools are funded?

If so, sign up for the Las Trampas Legislative Team's e-news newsletter called "**Get Smart on Education**", which provides bimonthly straight-forward information specifically for the Lamorinda community on State funding issues and legislation which affect our local public schools. The Las Trampas Legislative Team meets monthly and includes representatives from each school in the Lamorinda area, k-12. (Anyone from our school community is welcome to attend.)

To sign-up for the "Get Smart" e-news, go to [www.lastrampaspta.org/legislation.html](http://www.lastrampaspta.org/legislation.html) and click on the sign-up box in the middle of the page. Look for the Get Smart Archives, for back issues of such relevant topics as "What does a Quality Education Cost? Why does your District get more than mine?" as well as articles on the '07-'08 State Budget, and the schools funding formula.

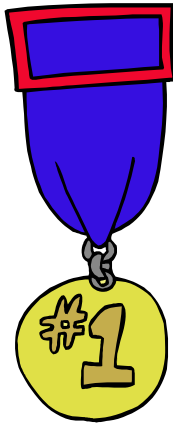
And back to the question of how our schools are funded, for '07-'08, the breakdown of our school district's budget is:

68% State funding, 2% Federal funding, and 30% local funding (which includes Parents Club, EFO, local parcel tax, and other local funding).

From the Las Trampas Legislative Team's Mission statement:

....."We strive to keep parents informed about vital state and federal education issues, assist parents in developing the tools and skills of effective education advocacy, encourage individual and collective participation in the democratic process, and vigorously advocate on issues that are of concern to local school communities."

Questions: Contact Sarah Butler, Glorietta's Legislative Representative at [sarahgbutler@hotmail.com](mailto:sarahgbutler@hotmail.com)



## *Gopher The Gold!*

Parents - show your school spirit and get ready to "Gopher The Gold" at this year's auction!

**What:** Glorietta's 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Auction

**When:** February 23, 2008

**Where:** Claremont Resort and Spa

**Time:** 5:00 PM

Welcome to the 2007-08 school year! The Gopher community is a strong, proud, group of families who expect nothing less than the best. Bronze, silver....only **GOLD** will do! Let's show our school spirit at the 2008 auction. Mark your calendars now.

If you're driven and ready to "Gopher" it, please contact either of your co-chairs, Laura Millham, [lbmill@comcast.net](mailto:lbmill@comcast.net), or Amy Berryhill, [amyberryhill@hotmail.com](mailto:amyberryhill@hotmail.com) to join the auction committee—or sign up at our table on registration day.



## *Fall Fundraising is All Wrapped Up!*

Our first fundraiser of the year is upon us! It is the Innisbrook Gift-Wrap Sale, and **Glorietta receives 50% of all purchases made!** If you are not familiar with Innisbrook, this is an opportunity to buy all of the wrapping paper you will need to carry you through the upcoming holidays, birthdays, bar mitzvahs, and "just because" days. Innisbrook offers not only high quality gift-wrap, but the catalog is also full of note cards, ribbons, candles, and chocolate goodies...perfect gifts for family, neighbors and office colleagues. Don't hold back!

Our sale will run September 17<sup>th</sup> through October 2<sup>nd</sup> and our goal is \$10,000 in profit for the GPC. This breaks down to approximately \$40 in sales per student. We will be distributing catalogs in your Sept. 14<sup>th</sup> Friday Folders, and orders will then be delivered directly to the classrooms in early November.

Need a sneak peek? Check out the website at [Innisbrook.com](http://Innisbrook.com). Or email any questions to [ghi@cadinnovations.com](mailto:ghi@cadinnovations.com) or [mlhom@comcast.net](mailto:mlhom@comcast.net).

That's a WRAP (for now...)!



## *Glorietta Needs You...to be a Room Parent!*

Looking for a way to get involved in your child's classroom while providing invaluable assistance to your child's teacher? Consider being a room parent! Sign up at Kick Off Day - call Ellen Zapalac (258-9681) or Kacy Richardson (254-8934) with questions!

## GOPHER GOURMET UPDATES

**\*\* MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup> IS THE FIRST DAY OF GOPHER GOURMET \*\***

Welcome back! I hope you had a wonderful, relaxing summer. We are ready for another great year at Gopher Gourmet.

I would like to welcome the 2007-08 Gopher Gourmet committee members: *Jennifer Rogers (Co Chair), Mindy Becker, Stephanie Davis, Amy Powell, Cathryn Coons, and Michael Donner (Daily Managers), Adam Nathanson (Email Notification), Sue Ellen Thomas (Volunteer Coordinator), Nancy Leung (Database), Mary Lynne Shivers (Asst. Treasurer), George Minowada (Bagel Delivery), and Stephanie Davis (Pantry Manager).*

There are still plenty of volunteer kitchen shifts left to fill. Please stop in the kitchen soon and sign up or email Sue Ellen Thomas at [swarte7@hotmail.com](mailto:swarte7@hotmail.com).

**Thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers! Our great lunch program could not exist without the dedication of our kitchen shift volunteers!**



### **G**OPHER GOURMET GOES GREEN!!!

In addition to the compostable plates we currently use (made from Bagasse, which is the fiber left from processing sugar cane), Gopher Gourmet will also begin using compostable utensils. We are looking into using smoothie and soup cups made from corn and potato starch that do not contain plastic or Styrofoam. These new items also compost in less than 90 days. We are doing our part to lessen our impact on the Earth and set good examples for our children. Now, in addition to "Gopher Gold" we have "Gopher Green"!

### **N**EW THINGS COMING TO GOPHER GOURMET IN SEPTEMBER

Gopher Gourmet is committed to providing interesting, yummy, nutritious meals for our children. We are pleased to announce two new vendors for the 2007-2008 school year: **Shelby's** and **Lava Pit**. Shelby's will be providing our Tuesday soup, sandwiches and breakfast burritos as well as Thursday's pasta. Lava Pit ([eatlavapit.com](http://eatlavapit.com)) will provide our Asian Fare on Fridays. Please let your children know that the corn dogs will definitely be added to the fall menu. (What you do not have to tell them is that they are a low fat chicken frank with a honey whole wheat crust that boasts 5 grams of fiber!) Garlic Parmesan Twists are also a new menu item on our traditional "Pizza Day". In addition, we are moving to a trimester system so that we can offer the children an additional chance to change their menu selection during the year. Now each session will be about 10 weeks instead of two much longer 17 week sessions.

**In order to assist us in this new system, it will be vital to get your orders in by the deadline of August 29<sup>th</sup>, the first day of school. PLEASE try to turn them in on kick-off day, or, if you are feeling really on top of things, mail them in now!**

See you in the kitchen in September!

Lori Strand and Jennifer Rogers, Gopher Gourmet Co-Chairs

## *Hospitality – Share Your Attitude of Gratitude!*



The Hospitality Group provides support to the Glorietta Parents Club by hosting a teacher and staff luncheon every month during the school year. The group also provides refreshments for the Parent's Club meetings and various events throughout the year.

Please stop by the Hospitality table on Welcome Back Day to sign up to contribute a dish for one (or more) of the luncheons! This is a fun way to say thank you for all the hard work the teachers and staff do for our children. Your support is greatly appreciated by all.

The Hospitality Crew this year is Kelli Hughs, Susan Murphy, Kacy Richardson, Christina Niehaus and Michelle Goldsmith



## *Hola. ¿Como estas?*

Glorietta's popular Spanish Language Program is back for its third year! This year the program will include the following classes: Introduction to Spanish (for Kindergarteners 4x per week), Beginning Spanish (for First Graders 4x per week), Intermediate Spanish (for 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> graders 4x per week), Advanced Spanish (for 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> graders 2x per week), and a Conversation Spanish class (for 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> graders 2x per week). The Glorietta program is academically based and includes a focus on pronunciation, grammar, reading and writing. Spanish culture is also incorporated into the curriculum. Assessments and regular progress reports are provided.

According to some studies, children up to the age of puberty learn languages much more easily and it's unlikely that anyone can acquire a native accent without being exposed to the language before that time. So, if you're interested in exposing your child to a foreign language now is the time to act!

For more information, please stop by our table during Kick-off on Tuesday, August 28, 2007. The dates for the first session are Monday, October 8, 2007 - Friday, February 8, 2007. Session two dates are Monday, February 11, 2007 - Friday, May 30, 2007. If you have any questions please contact Sue Partington at ([susan.partington@sbcglobal.net](mailto:susan.partington@sbcglobal.net)) or Ellie Fullman at ([efullman@pacbell.net](mailto:efullman@pacbell.net)).

## *Everyone should Think First!*



Do you want to volunteer in the classroom, get to know your child's peers, and have fun in the process? How about becoming a Think First parent volunteer? Think First is a program that teaches children empathy skills, impulse control, and anger management. Training is provided and the lessons are easy to follow. What better way to contribute to the Glorietta community?

Please look for the Think First table on Kick Off Day or contact Martine Vanderlaan, [martinevanderlaan@yahoo.com](mailto:martinevanderlaan@yahoo.com)

## *Nature Program - The Call of the Wild*



Volunteers are needed to be Nature Parents for the K-2 classes. No special knowledge or experience is necessary! The only requirements are enthusiasm, old shoes and about an hour of time each month (more or less). Nature Parents (ideally two per class) lead children in hands-on outdoor science activities and walks on Glorietta's nature trails. Binders with activities and the best selling "How to Teach Science Survival Guide for Glorietta Nature Parents" are provided. This is a great opportunity to spend some time with your child in outdoor activities that are fun to do and that help to enhance the K-2 science curriculum.

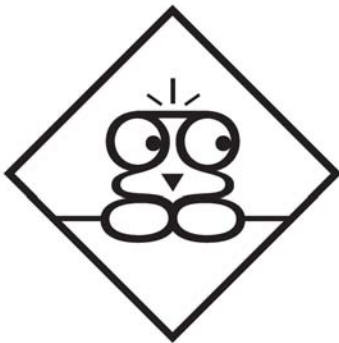
Please sign up to be a Nature Parent for your child's K, 1st or 2nd grade class! Sign up in your child's classroom on Back To School Night. Feel free to contact Deborah Penry, [Deborah\\_penry@yahoo.com](mailto:Deborah_penry@yahoo.com), with any questions..... and lace up those old shoes and get ready to explore!

## *New School Year Lost and Found*



Start the year off right. Please write your last name on the label of that favorite jacket, sweater, etc. In case it ends up in the Lost and Found, it will be easier to return it to you. Ask your child to visit the Lost and Found area (by the GPC office) during lunch time to look for missing items. In an effort to keep that area organized, we will be donating unclaimed items more frequently than in the past. If you would like to help with washing or sorting the clothes for donations (great scout projects!!), please contact Maria Ochs at [jokipa@aol.com](mailto:jokipa@aol.com) or Ginny Waller at [vwaller@imzell.com](mailto:vwaller@imzell.com). Thanks and have a great school year!

## *Gopher Club - A Fun Place for Kids!*



The Gopher Club is Glorietta School's on-site Before and After School Childcare Program and is open for the 2007-2008 year starting with the first day of school.

The program is enthusiastically run by Director Paula Day and is a service provided by the Glorietta Parents Club in cooperation with the Orinda Union School District. The Gopher Club is dedicated to providing a program where safety always comes first with indoor and outdoor activities and events that are fun and educational. Some of the activities include arts and crafts, team sports, science and cooking projects and group games: all under the supervision of the Gopher Club staff. A monthly calendar is provided so that your child will know what activities and snacks are planned for each day.

If you are a new parent to Glorietta, please feel free to stop by to see the Gopher Club facilities and to meet our dedicated Director Paula and her wonderful staff. The Gopher Club room's telephone number is 254-1726. Hours are from 7:00am to 9:30am, and 1:10pm to 6:15pm each school day.

## *Attention Parents of All 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Aspiring Thespians*



Welcome back to all returning Glorietta families, and welcome to all new families! We are very excited to be the producers of this year's Glorietta Spring Musical. The Spring Musical is open to all 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders and is a wonderful Glorietta tradition that provides an unforgettable experience in stage craft and teamwork for all participants. Under Director Ron Pickett's expert leadership, our student actors transfix audiences and develop an appreciation for the performing arts.

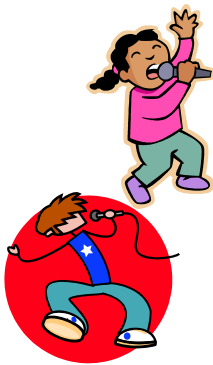
Auditions, which consist of singing a song (less than 2 minutes in length), will take place November 13, and all actor-participants must audition. These auditions are the tool used to determine the play selection and casting.

We will hold a "Kickoff Meeting" meeting in October (date to be announced in the Gabbette) for all students interested in participating in the play. This is a chance to learn what to expect during the audition, actor responsibilities, parent responsibilities, time commitments and what rehearsals entail.

New for this year, we are actively seeking parents who wish to provide creative input and leadership for the production of the musical as our "Production Team Executive Committee." If this interests you, please contact us right away.

### *Please mark these important dates in your calendar:*

Tues, November 13	Auditions
Fri, December 14	Posting of play selection and role assignments
Mon, December 17	Parent's Meeting (evening)
Tues, Dec. 18 & Thurs, Dec 20	First rehearsals
Fri, May 2 & Sat, May 3	Performances



We look forward to an amazing theatrical experience and a successful production!

Roxanne Brewer ([roxanneklb@yahoo.com](mailto:roxanneklb@yahoo.com)) and Natalie Wheeler ([ns.wheeler@gmail.com](mailto:ns.wheeler@gmail.com))

## *Lamorinda School Bus*



Have your kids take the bus this year! It's better for the environment and saves you time too! Check [lamorindaschoolbus.org](http://lamorindaschoolbus.org) for route and schedule information or contact [kelli-hughs@comcast.net](mailto:kelli-hughs@comcast.net).