

# The Glorietta Gab

## *A Message from the GPC Presidents*

The first trimester is behind us and we've been busily moving forward on the key items that we outlined at the beginning of the school year.

First is the development of a thoughtful strategy that prioritizes our investments and manages our expenditures. As a first step in this process our Treasurer, Geno Brager, revised our expense policy to include stronger oversight and accountability. We are pleased to say that the entire Board has stepped up and is working closely to ensure that they manage to the approved GPC budget. Many thanks to everyone on the Board for their efforts!

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. The committee, led by Glorietta parent Wes Ayers, has surveyed the students & parents, analyzed options and is now working with the district to develop a suitable plan for the long-term future of our Gopher Club. The committee will be presenting their findings and proposal to the GPC general membership during our regularly scheduled GPC meeting on Wednesday, January 16 at 7:00pm. A follow-up forum will also be held on Tuesday, January 22. Please join us to hear their recommendations and provide your input into what is sure to be the largest undertaking by the GPC in recent years.

Third is the implementation of School Wires lead by GPC Communication VP, Joni Binder Shwartz. We're excited to report that last month nearly 600 people visited our site 1,200 times. We also know that 87% of parents are clicking through the constant contact to read our weekly Gabette. WOW! This tremendous success with our electronic communication has re-energized our efforts as we move towards our goal to go paperless. That being said, soon all key information will be available on the web so check it out and check it often!

During this holiday season, we have many things for which to be thankful. We are thankful for our families and friends and also for our incredible Glorietta community. We would especially like to acknowledge the people behind our Fall Book Fair and Family Fun Night.

The Book Fair coordinated by Glorietta Parent Kathy Nyman and Glorietta's Librarian Liz Boss was a huge success. The Book Fair generated over \$8,000 for our school library. Thank you to Kathy, Liz and all of the parents that volunteered to setup, take down and work the cash register. We couldn't have done it without you!

We would also like to thank Suzanne Tom and her wonderful crew of parents for bringing us a memorable and truly FUN Family Fun Night. The kids (and parents!) loved the bingo and crafts and the cookie swap. A wonderful time was had by all!

We wish you all Happy Holidays and look forward to seeing you in the New Year!

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Tracy Ellman  
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**Go Gophers!!**

## *Principal's Message*



Dear Glorietta Parents,

Last month I explained the background of the Teachers College Reading Writing Project and the components of the reading and writing workshop. This month I would like to delve a little further into what we are doing at Glorietta to support the work of our teachers and students.

This year we welcomed five new classroom teachers. All our new teachers were trained in the workshop model and were able to immediately implement workshop teaching with their students. We purchased materials and supplies that brought every classroom to the level necessary to deliver instruction that will result in academic excellence. In addition, we purchased easels, rugs for the meeting area, and general classroom supplies for language arts and mathematics instruction. Our goal being to provide teachers with the materials they need to deliver exemplary instruction.

We also addressed all of our classroom libraries. The classroom library plays an important role in balanced literacy classrooms. Our teachers needed books at a variety of levels in order to provide "just right" books for every child. As teachers leveled their existing libraries and also assessed their incoming students, most teachers found they did not have adequate books to meet the individual needs of their students. In order to implement Readers Workshop, a teacher must have enough books at each level to support a student's volume and growth as a reader. We have spent considerable money buying books for classroom libraries this year and will need to continue to do so as more teachers adopt the workshop model and as we add genres and non-fiction titles to existing libraries.

We have also instituted a monthly school-wide read aloud. Each month I purchase every classroom teacher a picture book, chosen for a specific purpose such as theme, language, subject matter, or writer's craft. Teachers see the read-aloud modeled during a staff meeting and then during the month all students hear their teacher read the book to them. As they read, teachers "teach" elements of the book that students can then apply to their own reading or writing. With the school-wide read aloud, students come to know books and these books can be used for teaching purposes in every grade level.

Lastly, we have been able to bring trainers from Teachers College to Orinda to work with our teachers. Teachers were released for a day in December and will have another day in March to do grade level specific work with the trainer. This on-going professional development and support is an important component in our successful implementation of workshop teaching. My hope is that we will continue to be able to support this work by sending teachers to New York or San Ramon for training. This work is supported by our Glorietta site plan as well as the district's strategic priorities.

Happy Holidays,

Penny

## *Legislative Team News:*

Are you wondering how the looming budget crisis in California will affect our students? Did you know:

What percentage of our School District's funding (OUSD) are voluntary funds (including Parents Clubs, EFO, and the Parcel tax)?

What percentage of our District's funding is State Funding?

The answers are: 25% voluntary funding, (which is a very high percentage for a California public school district), and 70% State funding, which means yes, we are definitely very much affected by the State budget crisis. On **January 8<sup>th</sup>** the Governor will be presenting his proposed State budget, after which we will all have a better idea of what's ahead for school budgets this year. Stay tuned to the Legislative Team News.

Meanwhile, to find out more about school funding read the e-newsletter, "**Get Smart**", from our Las Trampas Legislative Team at: [http://www.lastrampaspta.org/getsmart\\_dec07.html](http://www.lastrampaspta.org/getsmart_dec07.html) . The Las Trampas Legislative Team was formed to advocate for education more effectively at the State level. It includes representatives from all Lam-orinda Schools who meet monthly to discuss education funding beyond the local level, or the other 70% of the pie in Orinda's case.

Are you interested in being more involved, or a chance to better understand what needs to be done to improve our schools? **Come join us on the annual "Advocacy Day" bus trip to Sacramento on Feb. 27<sup>th</sup>**. This is your chance to stand up and be heard by our local legislators and to learn more about current issues from education experts. You can access a flyer to sign-up at: <http://www.lastrampaspta.org/Legislation.html>.

Or, join us for our next meeting on Wed., Jan 23<sup>rd</sup>, 7:00 pm at the Lafayette School District Office. We will be finalizing plans for the bus trip and sharing information about current legislative issues affecting education. For more info, contact Sarah Butler, Glorietta's Legislative Representative, at [sarahgbutler@hotmail.com](mailto:sarahgbutler@hotmail.com) .

## *Yearbook*



Please submit FunFest, Halloween and any class photos for yearbook consideration. Guidelines: please make sure the pictures are of Glorietta students at Glorietta school and digital. Photos need to be labeled with grade and student's last name (Smith Grade 4). This year's yearbook will be all color - make sure you submit your photos! Please drop off photo CDs in office in labeled box.



## GO "PHER" THE GOLD EARLY BIRD DRAWING - AND THE WINNERS ARE...

Thank you to everyone who turned in their Donation Forms in order to qualify for the Early Bird Drawing.. The following families were our big winners:

The Hemming Family has won dinner delivered to their home by Chef Carl of Savory Affairs,

The Lang Family has won a pair of Warrior tickets (including parking),

The Patton Family has won dinner prepared and delivered to them from Mindy Becker,

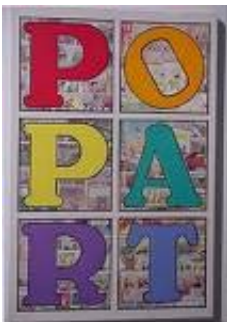
The Frechman Family has won an in home personal training session, courtesy of Cheryl Brewster,

The Chow Family has won a massage at Oakwood Athletic Club, and

The Hirst Family has won a bottle of Dom Perignon.

There's more good news from the Auction committee. We've looked at the numbers and at this time, we have nearly 50% participation in over half the classes! This is HUGE and puts us ahead of where we were last year at this time. As of this writing, Ms. Fast's and Ms. Sarah Johnson's classes lead the pack, with OVER 50% of families having already donated! Thank you all! Keep those donations coming!

We are looking for 100% participation this year. If you just don't know what to donate, and need some ideas, please don't forget to contact your classroom liaisons or Parent Donation co-chairs, Mindy Becker ([mindy@robertbecker.com](mailto:mindy@robertbecker.com)) or Cheryl Brewster ([anniesmommy2002@yahoo.com](mailto:anniesmommy2002@yahoo.com)). They are here to help!



## Art Corner

By: Susan Zib

Here's what's happening in the art studio:

**Grade one:** A booklet has been created for students by the OUSD art teachers called "It's All About Art". They studied color-mixing and used their hand painted paper to create collage fantasy animals.

**Grade two:** Students created a work sheet of lines and patterns then created a French curve design using color and pattern. We have just finished a seascape of oil pastels, using perspective to show distance.

**Grade three:** Students received their sketchbooks, supplied by the Orinda Arts Council, which they will have through fifth grade. We are now working on a project based on the color wheel.

**Grade four:** Fourth Graders practiced various shading techniques used in drawing and painting giving the illusion of a third dimension. They also created "Pop Art" drawings.

**Grade five:** Fifth graders worked on *one-point linear perspective* drawings of a city, and celebrated "The Day Of The Dead" by drawing the skeleton in a costume - integrating art, culture, and science.

Art work will come home after Open House allowing for district, library, and school displays. Please visit the OUSD offices, which currently display many of Glorietta's first and fourth grade artists.



## *The Mom That Reads the Books*

Here are two books on sports - one for the reluctant participant and one for the avid fan (but with a caveat).

In *The Million Dollar Kick* (Dan Gutman, 2001 Hyperion) Whisper hates all sports. Hitting, kicking, and throwing balls around a field seems to be a huge waste of time to her. Then, she wins a contest and has the chance to win a million dollars by kicking a goal against the local professional soccer superstar. One kick and if the ball goes in the net, Whisper wins. Upside, maybe win a million dollars. Downside, humiliate yourself on TV. Then, the soccer superstar tries to get Whisper to "throw" the Kick. And, the teasing from the sporty kids gets more intense.

Through the problems she faces, Whisper learns that when trying something new, you've got to work through a phase of feeling awkward and unskilled. Also, she learns that finding your natural skills is part of growing up. Sounds preachy here, but the book is a good read.

For college basketball fans, *Last Shot* (John Feinstein, Yearling, 2005) is a mystery that holds interest. Readers might particularly enjoy the give and take about actual teams and the introduction to sports media.

Eighth grader Stevie Thomas' dream has come true. Through a writing contest, he has won tickets to the NCAA finals AND he gets a press pass to have a behind-the-scenes view, Stevie is in heaven until he and his co-winner, Susan Carol, overhear an adult blackmailing the star point guard for one of the teams. The point guard must lose the final game or the team will be stripped of its wins and the head coach (also the player's father) fired amid scandal. Stevie and Susan Carol have 48 hours to find evidence to clear the player.

The caveat about this book is that the characters (kids and parents) have a consistent habit of lying. The kids lie to their parents, the chaperones and anyone from whom they need information. There are no consequences to the lying. The message is that the ends justify the means.

Please email me with any sports stories your kids have enjoyed!  
themomthatreadsthebooks@gmail.com



## *Kudos*

The Hospitality Crew would like to thank the following for providing the "Sweet Treats" for the Glorietta staff: Mindy Becker, Maria Zigenis, Kim Younger, Janine Evans, Monique Jasper, Caterina Sponzilli, Tami Mullins, Prem Bajaj, Jamie Smith, Elizabeth Sanli, Jennifer Rogers, and Nancy Leung. Everyone really enjoyed the treats. Thank you again.

## *Lost & Found*

Thank you to Cheryl McNair for painstakingly returning misplaced but labeled items to their owners each week. Thank you to Nancy English for washing and sorting the many unclaimed items and donating them. Thank you to Nolan, for bringing the lost items he finds throughout campus to the central location in the Multi Purpose room. Please check the Lost and Found rack regularly.

## Gopher Club News

Happy Holiday Season to everyone! We hope all of our Gopher Club families enjoy their holidays! Gopher Staff is looking forward to the New Year with fun new crafts, games, and activities! A huge thank you goes out to all the families for their generosity in giving to the staff gift fund. On behalf of all of us, thank you for making our holidays extra special. Hope you all have a wonderful Winter break. See you next year!!

**Gopher Club Thank You's:** DePaschalis family for contributing towards Art supplies for Gopher Club. The Davis family for Puppets and a stage to go with them! The kids are having a great time putting on puppet shows. The Shiver family for art supplies. The Wong family for the Whiffle balls & bats. To the many teachers who donate various games books and other goodies. Please know that all donations are greatly appreciated, and we make every attempt to give credit where credit is due. A special thanks to Frank Schillinger for being there when I need him for computer support. And cheers to the Gopher Club staff, Kathy, Matthew, Angela, Brenda, Derek, Janine, & Kristin. You are awesome!!!

**After School Classes:** It has been our experience that very few teachers come to collect students with a class roster in hand. Children are often caught up in playing games or sometimes simply do not want to go. We extend our best efforts to help gather students for the many classes they attend after school. Please remind your children that they can really help by coming when called.

**Parents and Teachers FYI:** For liability reasons we cannot allow children on the play structure, and adjacent areas (blacktop & grass) whether supervised or not unless signed into Gopher Club.

**Thanksgiving 2007:** *Gopher Club Kids are thankful for ...* Christian Schillinger: "My LEGOS". Audrey Gates: "My guinea pigs & pet fish". Louie Kangeter: "Lords Ice Cream Parlor, candy and all that sweet stuff, and I am very, very, very, very, thankful for Gopher Club". Mackenzie Mancheno: "All the food God gives us."

Paula  
254-1726



## DONATE TO EFO BEFORE YEAR-END TO RECEIVE A 2007 TAX DEDUCTION

The mission of EFO is to build upon a tradition of strong community support for educational excellence in Orinda's schools by providing financial support for quality programs and enrichment opportunities which directly benefit students in all grades, K-12. As the end of the year approaches, if you have not yet made a contribution, we ask you to support the Orinda schools and give to the Educational Foundation of Orinda (EFO).

Your gift this year is very important to us. Your support helps our Orinda schools remain among the top performing schools in California. **You may give online at [www.orindaefo.org](http://www.orindaefo.org) or mail your donation to EFO, 21-C Orinda Way, #123, Orinda, CA 94563.**

*Don't forget you can support EFO by buying your tree at the Orinda Christmas Tree lot. Visit [www.orindachristmastreelot.com](http://www.orindachristmastreelot.com) for more information.*

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# Happy New Year