

### OCT 2016 | VOL 1 - ISSUE 1



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#### SAVE THE DATE

#### STATE STANDARDS PARENT MEETING

**Ralston Intermediate School** 

Thursday, November 3 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

#### HIGH SCHOOL SHOWCASE OF BANDS

Bolsa Grande High School

Wednesday, November 16 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

### A Successful Start to the 2016-2017 School Year



Garden Grove Unified School District (GGUSD) welcomed back approximately 45,000 students on September 1, the first day of the 2016-2017 school year. The new year brings exciting new instructional programs, curriculum roll-outs, modernized school sites, increased access to technology, and community partnerships that all share the same goal of improving student success.

### Measure P

## Improving Schools: Air Conditioning, Safety Upgrades, and 21st-Century Learning.

On August 9, 2016, the GGUSD Board of Education voted to place Measure P, a \$311 million bond measure, on the November 8, 2016, ballot. If approved by local voters, Measure P would:

- Upgrade heating and cooling infrastructure and install air conditioning in the district's remaining non-air conditioned schools. Currently, 25 of GGUSD's 67 schools do not have air conditioning and classrooms reach temperatures of 90 degrees or higher during periods of excessively hot weather.
- Renovate athletic stadiums and make other athletic facility improvements. The district's athletic stadiums – at Garden Grove and Bolsa Grande high schools – were built in 1957-1958 and have never been upgraded.

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## Measure P (continued)

- Update classrooms, science labs, and instructional technology to support 21st-century instruction that prepares students for college and career success.
- Make seismic safety improvements, replace roofs, and update building electrical systems. Many of GGUSD schools are between 40 and 95 years old and the aging buildings are in need of critical safety improvements.

Measure P would cost an estimated \$34 per \$100,000 of assessed (non-market) property value or \$8 per month for the typical homeowner. Every penny would benefit GGUSD schools and cannot be used on administrator salaries. Independent Citizens Bond Oversight and annual audits would be required to ensure funds are spent as promised.



Fitz Intermediate School began the school year with a new look thanks to modernization improvements funded by Measure A – the district's first bond measure approved in 2010. Measure A paved the way for some schools to receive air conditioning and safety upgrades, but it was always known that the district's facility needs exceeded the funding capacity of Measure A. If approved on November 8, Measure P would ensure the remaining schools receive air conditioning.

In 2010, 63.8% of voters approved Measure A to fund the first phase of urgent classroom repairs and updates our schools needed at that time. GGUSD used \$250 million in Measure A funds to leverage approximately \$300 million in state and \$30 million in federal matching funds to upgrade schools at no additional cost to local taxpayers.

Measure A funds were used to make urgent safety and infrastructure improvements at some schools, including repairing or replacing plumbing and electrical systems, upgrading computer network systems, installing fire alarm and communications systems, and making our school campuses more accessible for students, staff, and visitors with disabilities. Each year since 2010, the GGUSD independent Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee has verified that all Measure A funds have been spent as promised. While Measure A provided much-needed funds to begin important safety repairs, it was always known that the facility needs at GGUSD's aging schools would exceed the funding available from Measure A and additional funding would be needed for the next phase of work.

### **Evidence of Academic Success**

#### Scores Improved Across All Grade Levels on State's SBAC Test.

GGUSD students demonstrated significant growth and exceeded state averages at all grade levels in both math and English on the state's Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments (SBAC) test!

This is the second year of results from the SBAC test which is administered as part of the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP).

An impressive 66 percent of GGUSD students met or exceeded standards in English Language Arts (ELA) in 11th grade and 54 percent of 3rd graders met or exceeded standards in math.



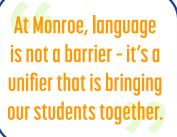
GGUSD scores on the 2016 SBAC improved across all grade levels from 2015. Students who met or exceeded standards grew from 38.7 percent to 45.6 percent in math and from 49.3 percent to 54.9 percent in English Language Arts.

In 6th and 8th grade math, GGUSD outperformed the county average. In 7th, 8th, and 11th grade ELA, GGUSD students met the countywide average of students who met or exceeded state standards.

## Going Global at Monroe Elementary School

District's First-Ever Dual Language Immersion Academy Off to a Great Start.







Board of Education Vice President Teri Rocco

GGUSD opened its first-ever Spanish Dual Language Immersion Academy at Monroe Elementary School on September 1. More than 170 transitional kindergarten, kindergarten, and first grade students are beginning their journeys to becoming bilingual, biliterate, and bicultural.

The Academy follows a 90:10 model with students learning in Spanish 90 percent of the time and English 10 percent of the time for transitional kindergarten through first grade, ultimately reaching 50 percent of each language by sixth grade.

GGUSD's Board of Education welcomed community leaders and parents to celebrate the successful start of the new school at a "Going Global Launch Party" on September 19. Mayor Bao Nguyen and State Senator Janet Nguyen presented the school with proclamations to recognize the importance of equipping students with the skills they need to thrive in a global society.

Principal César Loya highlighted the academic benefits of dual language instruction. Students in immersion programs often outperform their peers in English-only programs by intermediate school. Students also learn to use different parts of the brain and strengthen skills in problem solving and critical thinking.

### **GGUSD Ramps Up Anti-Bullying**

# Ten schools are participating in a school safety pilot program with WeTip, an anonymous crime and incident reporting hotline.

WeTip prides itself in being "the only totally anonymous crime hotline in the nation," and is staffed by trained professionals 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, 365 days per year. The organization is credited for helping school districts across the country stop catastrophic events before they occur.

WeTip takes calls on a wide array of safety issues like abuse, bullying, cyberbullying, drugs, guns, theft, violence, suicide, and more. GGUSD will promote the hotline as a resource to students and families in an effort to encourage people to come forward with tips that can help prevent threats to student safety.

Gilbert, Hazard, Hill, and Zeyen elementary schools, along with Bell, Irvine, and Jordan intermediate schools, will join La Quinta, Pacifica, and Santiago high schools as the first schools in the district to provide the WeTip Service.



Carrillo Elementary School held a Peace Day Celebration to help combat bullying and promote acts of kindness throughout their school.

### **Running Champions**

# Bolsa Grande Girls Cross Country team has been on quite a "run."

Since 2003, the Bolsa Grande Girls Cross Country team has won the Garden Grove League team championship eight times and had nine individual league champions. Equally as impressive, is the fact that they have been very competitive at the CIF level, advancing to CIF finals for eight years, once to the state championship as a team, and four times with individuals. All of this really has come into fruition because of hard work, dedication, and vision.



## **Text Yes**

### Connect with GGUSD and your school through text messaging.



The Garden Grove Unified School District and our schools use the SchoolMessenger communication system to deliver phone messages, emails, and text messages straight to your phone about important district and school events, holidays, safety alerts, and more. In order to receive text messages from the district and your child's school, you must provide permission to be contacted via text by opting-in. You can opt-in by sending a text message of "Y" or "yes" to our school district's short code number, 67587. Once you text "Yes" to 67587, you will receive a confirmation text message. If you don't receive a confirmation or you receive a text message that says "short codes are blocked," you should contact your cell phone provider and ask them to unlock short codes. Standard text messaging rates do apply.

Once you opt-in, you will begin to receive text messages with information from your child's school. Our school district wants to make communicating as easy as possible for our parents and text messaging is just one more way to do that. If your school does not have your most current mobile phone number on file, be sure to call the school office and ask to update your file.

## Garden Grove Unified School District Board of Education

The five Board of Education members are elected by voters of the district by trustee area to serve four-year terms.



President George West, Ed.D.



Vice President Teri Rocco



Bob Harden



Lan Quoc Nguyen, Esq.



Linda Reed







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