

**A Newsletter for GUSD Parents and Community**

*Copies of this letter in Armenian, Spanish or Korean are available upon request at the school office.*

**Struggling and the Common Core**

The Common Core is framed by four important ideas: communication, collaboration, creativity and critical thinking. These are life-long skills for decision-making and problem solving. When we think about these skills in “real-world” scenarios, the key issue is time for mastery to be achieved.

All students will need time to master these four skills. And mastery does not come overnight – it comes through trials, missteps, and learning from our mistakes. Often the lesson we are teaching our kids is how to pick themselves up and keep going. Think about the refined skills of a painter, musician



or an elite athlete. They use practice and mistakes to improve their technique every time they pick up a paint brush, sit down with their instrument or use their equipment. The more students practice how they think, the better they'll get at learning to persevere and to deal with frustration.

And while we can't practice for them, we can sit beside them and encourage, cheer and assist them to develop their problem-solving and perseverance. We can help them develop into independent people.

**A Few Phrases and Questions to Help Your Student with 21st Century Learning**

When Your Student Says...	Encourage them by saying . . .	You are Helping your Student Build:
I don't understand this.	What resources or skills do you have that can help you?	Perseverance/ Critical Thinking
This is hard! I can't do this.	What have you tried so far? What do you know that can help you?	Creativity
How can there be more than ONE answer?	Because there is more than one strategy/approach to solve a problem/answer a question.	Critical Thinking/Creativity
Why do I have to explain ALL my answers ALL the time?	It's important to practice communicating your thoughts & how you think.	Communication

**Teacher as Resource:  
What to Ask**

Remember one of your best resources is the school site! Contact teachers directly for additional information and resources to help your student succeed.

Dates to Remember May 2015	
5 Board of Education Meeting	14 Monte Vista ES Open House, 6:30 p.m.
6 Marshal ES Open House, 6:30 p.m.	16 Rosemont Bowl, 5 p.m.
7 Character & Ethics Awards Ceremony	19 Board of Education Meeting
7 Mountain Avenue ES Open House, 6 p.m.	21 Mann ES Open House, 6:30 p.m.
7 R.D. White ES Open House, 6 p.m.	27 Hoover HS Senior Award Recognition Ceremony, 6:30 p.m.
7 Jefferson ES Open House, 6:30 p.m.	28 College View Promotion Ceremony, 10 a.m.
12 Board of Education Meeting (Recognitions only)	28 Mountain Avenue ES Promotion Ceremony, 6 p.m.
13 Keppel ES Open House, 6:30 p.m.	29 Fremont ES Promotion Ceremony, 5:30 p.m.
14 La Crescenta ES Open House, 5:30 p.m.	29 Kepel ES Promotion Ceremony, 6 p.m.
14 Balboa ES Open House, 6 p.m.	
14 Lincoln ES Open House, 6 p.m.	

**Questions? Contact Dr. Sebastian Puccio at [spuccio@gusd.net](mailto:spuccio@gusd.net) or (818)241-3111, ext. 218.**

**THE GORRER REPORT**

**Board of Education**

