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Principal

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Garden Park Elementary School

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Gary M. Gerstner,

Dear Parents,

March 2010

March is a marvelous month for the students, staff, and Garden Park community. Throughout the month of March we will discover two famous birthdays, realize we have been in school over 100 instructional days, celebrate the joys of reading, and share our academic progress at our parent/teacher conferences.

Theodor Seuss Geisel (Dr. Seuss) and Vincent Van Gogh were both born during the month of March. They both have had an impressive impact on society and within our school system. Dr. Seuss was a children's author who wrote many stories that have gripped our imaginations and sparked our interest in reading. Vincent Van Gogh was an artist who inspired many of us to step outside the box of traditional thinking and try new ways at looking at the world.

Reading for meaning and reading for fun are two activities we believe are important for our Garden Park students. In addition, learning about artists as well as practicing their styles of expression provides our students with a variety of ways to convey their feelings and the knowledge they have gained. With the unbridled support of our PTA, reading and art have been interwoven throughout the school year. Accelerated Reader (a web-based software program that tracks the reading progress of our students) and Art Masters (an art program that highlights prominent artists and their influential techniques) are just two of the many programs made possible because of our PTA. Their commitment to enriching and supporting your child's education is commendable.

As we march through this month of reading celebration, please note that the end of the 2nd trimester will be March 19th and Kindergarten registration begins the week of March 10th. If you know of anyone that has a kindergarten age child within the West Garden Grove area, please encourage them to come to the office and enroll their child. We are in the developmental stage of creating next year's classes and student numbers are very important during this process.

Lastly, Parent/Teacher Conferences begin March 25th and will conclude on April 1st. This is your opportunity to sit down with your child's teacher to review their report card, their current academic assessments, and discuss strategies to keep them on track for academic success.

It is my hope that the month of March will be filled with marvelous experiences in the areas of reading and artistic expression. Thank you for your continued support throughout your child's academic journey here at Garden Park Elementary School. We could not accomplish the things we do without the consistent and purposeful assistance from you, our generous PTA, and the teachers.

Best Wishes,

Mr. Gary M. Gerstner