



Dr. Laura Schwalm, Superintendent

Garden Grove Unified School District

## Garden Park Elementary School

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Gary M. Gerstner, Principal

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### Principal's Message

In the education world, June has been known as the beginning of the end. Many schools on the west coast end their traditional school year sometime during the month of June. Garden Grove Unified School District will celebrate its last day of instruction on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. The last four weeks before the summer bell rings has been filled with academic and social activities that will put a smile on your face.

Our annual Open House will take place on Wednesday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>. As in the past, the evening will begin in the Multipurpose room where we will celebrate the academic accomplishments of many of our students. We will recognize the twenty-three students who were inducted into the Million Word Club and the two other students who read over 1,000,000 words before the end of the school year. In addition, we will recognize our nine Academic Pentathlon Team members, our two Spelling Bee winners, and our two Math Bee winners. After this brief celebration, the classroom doors will be open for our guests to visit. We encourage you to visit your child's classroom as well as the classrooms representing the grade your child will attend next year. We are confident you will be amazed at what your child has learned as well as what they will learn during the 2010/2011 school year.

Our Spring Concert will take place on Thursday, June 10<sup>th</sup> in the MPR. This concert will highlight a year's worth of chorus and instrumental practice. We will hear our students play some of their favorite instrumental songs as well as sing in perfect harmony.

Our amazing PTA has been preparing for their annual carnival event which will take place Saturday, June 19<sup>th</sup>. The Renaissance theme will be well represented by live Renaissance performers, live music, unbelievable food, crafters, and games for the kids. We look forward to this exciting event and hope you will join us at our Renaissance Fair.

Students actively participating in the Accelerated Reader incentive program have until June 14<sup>th</sup> to take reading quizzes that count toward third trimester reading awards. The strategic use of Accelerated Reader has encouraged our students to set high reading goals and achieve them. Over 25 students, 10% of our school population, have read over 1,000,000 words since September. Of those twenty-five students, twelve have read over 2,000,000 words. Posting their word count progress on our school website has created a quite a following. Many students and community members visit our Million Word Club page to monitor and celebrate our student's reading progress. It has been a wonderful journey to monitor, encourage, and celebrate our student's reading successes throughout the school year. I am constantly amazed at how much our students can achieve when we challenge them, believe in them, and expect their best.

Our third trimester academic awards assembly will be on Monday, June 21<sup>st</sup>, beginning at 12:45 p.m. It will take place after our Field Day and schoolwide lunch. The 6<sup>th</sup> graders will have their promotion as well as promotional activities on June 22<sup>nd</sup>. This day has been coordinated by the 6<sup>th</sup> grade promotion committee and promises to be a day to be remembered.

Wednesday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>, is our last day of school. Preordered yearbooks will be handed out shortly after school begins on this day. The day has been designed to give our students ample opportunities to gaze at the pictures and autograph yearbooks. School will end for all students at 12:40 p.m. We encourage all students to leave campus after school has ended and continue their celebration at home with their friends and family.

All-in-all, this has been an exciting and productive academic school year. Together we have built an educational and social foundation that will impact their future. Thank you for your continual endorsement of our academic programs as well as placing a high value on academic learning. Our children not only hear what we say but watch what we do. They will value what we value and do what we do. Your support and view of education is seen in the daily actions of your children. Thank you for putting a conscious priority on education. Enjoy your summer and we'll see you and your children in September.

Gary M. Gerstner  
Principal