

# GOOD THINGS

*“Memories of our lives, of our works, and our deeds, will continue in others.” ~ Rosa Parks*

Gateway Community Charters  
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## From the Superintendent:

### **(Engage) GOOD THINGS:**

Your hard work and dedication is breathing life into the hopes and dreams of our students, their parents and others in our community! I would like to take this opportunity to express gratitude for the abundant “good things” going on in our schools: Last month I was honored to accept on behalf of the organization an award from the Sacramento Business Journal naming Gateway Community Charters as one of the “Best Places to Work” in the Sacramento region. It is due to your hard work and dedication that we were considered and awarded with large companies such as Comcast Cable, Hyatt Regency, and The Neillo Company. Your care and dedication continues to strengthen the success of our mission to provide high quality choice options within the greater Sacramento region. Thank you - each of you truly makes this a great place to work.

**- Dr. Cindy Petersen, Superintendent CEO**



*GCC Board President, Superintendent/CEO, CBAC Liaison, and GCC Cabinet members at Best Places to Work Event*

### **(Explore)**

#### **Gateway International School Renewal**

We definitely have a lot of good things happening at GIS! GIS had a great turnout for their charter renewal public hearing. On December 8<sup>th</sup>, the San Juan Board took action to renew GIS for a 5 year term!!! The IB program is moving forward and their application for TK-5th grade has been accepted by IB; dates have been confirmed for a verification visit in the spring.

### **(Communicate)**



#### **Facilities Update:**

The Facilities department is going strong and there is never a shortage of projects within the GCC organization. Since our last communication, we have completed the EPIC Playground, SAVA Clean Diesel Suite, the GIS playground, and COA Middle School/Futures have new paint on the campus. We have also been working hard on the new K-12 campus that will be breaking ground in the early spring with tasks such as; open bid meetings, registering the project with the state, awarding the project management contract and assigning an inspector of record. If you haven't been by the GCC Central Office yet, we've got new work stations on the main floor; the cubicles have been removed. This arrangement has been designed for a more open feel that will allow greater communication and collaboration within the departments. A lot has been happening and continues to happen, keep sending in the work request because we are always willing to serve the sites and assist in providing safe and comfortable learning environments for our students.

#### **Business Department Update:**



The Business Department has been working hard on multiple projects, most recently preparing the 1<sup>st</sup> interim budget. While their workspace was

being reconfigured, the team took some time to tour our school sites and visit the new EPIC playground.

### **News from the Human Resources Department:**

We would like to remind all employees to advise the GCC Human Resources department if you have any changes to your address as we will be mailing out W-2 information on January 30, 2016.

Also, we would like to remind you that the deadline for your opportunity to enroll in AFLAC and NAVIA is fast approaching. All enrollment information must be submitted to the HR department no later than December 18, 2015 for a January 1, 2016 effective date.

For all salaried employees that are paid at the end of the month that your December paycheck will be dated January 1, 2016 and not negotiable until that date.

***We wish you and your families a very HAPPY HOLIDAY and HAPPY NEW YEAR!!***

### **New Faces:**

We would like to welcome Brooke Porteous, Tamara Fernandes, Laura Barragan, and Cera Rapoza to the Central Office.

Brooke Porteous is the new Accounting Coordinator at the GCC. She has been working in the bookkeeping/accounting world for close to 15 years. Something you may not know about Brooke is that she is a twin. Her sister, Somer, actually just moved to the Sacramento area back in February. Brooke is originally from the small town of Redding where most of her family still lives. Her first child, if you haven't heard about her, is her Chihuahua 'Babygirl'. She is Brooke's partner in crime and will be 10 this upcoming February. Brooke also shares she has an amazing boyfriend that will be moving to the area early next year.

Tamara Fernandes joins the GCC after spending several years as a paralegal, preschool teacher, and school administrative assistant. She enjoys spending time with her husband, 2 daughters and myriad of furbabies. She volunteers extensively with her youngest daughter's charter school in Placer County and values the importance of school choice.

Laura Barragan states that she is excited to be part of such a great organization and is thrilled to be the new Human Resources Coordinator. For the last five years she was working at Natomas Charter School as the HR/Payroll Specialist. Under this role she was involved with the GCC payroll processing and benefit audit. She is looking forward to serving and meeting all of the GCC staff.

Cera Rapoza graduated from Sacramento State School of Nursing in 2014. Prior to coming to GCC, she worked on a Medical-Surgical floor in a long-term acute care hospital. She has always loved working with kids and states that she is very excited to begin this new chapter of her nursing career as a school nurse! Cera is blessed with a beautiful family. Cera and her husband have three daughters, one son, and one grand-daughter. She has lived in Elk Grove for 17 years and loves her community. She enjoys reading, listening to music, watching movies, baking, and working out at the gym. She also enjoys watching her children in their various sports on the weekends.

### **Happy Retirement:**

As some of you may have heard, Sue Robbins will be retiring from the GCC on December 18, 2015. Sue has been with the GCC from our beginning. We wish her the best in retirement as she reads, travels, and spends time with her family!

### ***(Empower)***

### **RESOURCE FOR TEACHERS!**

Looking for creative ideas to "spark" a passion for learning in your students? Visit RAFT and see what's new!!!



3136 Howard Street  
McClellan, CA 95652.

Visit [www.raftsac.org](http://www.raftsac.org) for hours and days open.

### **Gateway Community Charters Foundation:**

Support the Gateway Community Charters Foundation when you shop online at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com). Amazon will donate portion of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the Gateway Community Charters Foundation. To start, just go to <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/46-4130399>.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **Upcoming Events and Dates:**

**Dec. 15, 4:45 p.m.**

GCC Board Meeting, GCC Office

**Jan. 22, 3:00 p.m.**

CCCS/SAVA Mid-Year Graduation, SAVA Sim Center

**Feb. 8-12, All Day**

GCC Science and Engineering Fair, GCC Office

**Fri., May 6, 8:30 a.m.**

GCC Golf Tournament, Teal Bend

### ***(Launch)***

"The best preparation for tomorrow is doing your best today." - H. Jackson Brown, Jr.