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# Giddens e-news

Week of Jan. 25, 2010

Giddens School provides an academically excellent curriculum enriched with a commitment to critical thinking and social responsibility. Staff and families create a community that nourishes diversity, sense of self and love of learning.

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## CALENDAR



**Wednesday, Jan. 27:**  
FSA Family Math Night,  
6-8pm

**Thursday, Jan. 28:**  
RKC Movie Premier!  
Student films will show  
at 3:30pm.

**Friday, Jan. 29:**  
Head Search finalist  
Robert Kogane at  
coffee with families,  
8-9am, North Room -  
Everyone Welcome to  
attend!

**Friday, Jan. 29:**  
Strategic Planning Input  
Survey Due! Please fill

## Dear Giddens Families and Friends,

Last week was a short but busy week. On Tuesday and Wednesday, Karen O'Meara Pullen, one of the finalists for our Head of School search, visited and talked with staff, parents, and board members. On Friday, Reba's class worked hard to put together a Bake Sale with all proceeds going to support earthquake victims in Haiti. They were able to raise about three hundred dollars from the first sale. They will continue to sell baked goods for the next two Tuesdays in the Gym, after school.

On Saturday, the school hosted another Admissions Open House. All of the teachers and many administrators, as well as several parent volunteers, were there to provide tours and answer questions. Thanks to all of you for attending!

As part of the Open House program, we had three students from the 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Grade class speak about their Giddens experience. They did a great job talking about reading, writing, math, and social responsibility. The teachers were very excited to talk to prospective parents about the work going on in their classrooms and the parents did a great job leading tours around the school. There were fifty potential new families in attendance! Many parents left feeling very enthusiastic about Giddens.

We did have a little trouble finding enough parents to help with the event. It is critical for us to have parents volunteer at the school. We encourage parents to help the school as a way of modeling volunteerism for the students. We also rely heavily on our volunteer program to provide us with extra support so that we can avoid the cost of hiring additional people. This keeps the tuition lower and the financial aid higher than many of our neighboring independent schools. If you have questions or would like to check on your volunteer hours, please contact Sheba.

This coming week will also be busy. On Wednesday, we have

out the survey [here](#)

**Tuesday, Feb. 2:**

Meet Head Search Finalist Carol A. Coram for coffee with families, 8-9am, North Room - Everyone welcome to attend!

**Wednesday, Feb. 3:**

Auction "Table Skipper" Meeting, 9a-10a in the Library



Join Our Mailing List!

**Family Math Night.** The evening is for families to come and learn about the math program from the students. The program will start in the Gym at 6 PM. If you would like to buy pizza, please arrive at 5:30. After a brief meeting, families will go to their students' classrooms where they will have the opportunity to play a variety of math games led by their students. After 45 minutes, students and families can visit other classrooms to see what they are doing. This should be a fun event for all!

**The Auction Procurement** is winding down. If you have any items to donate, please contact the Auction Committee or Janet Lotawa.

In the coming days, our school will also participate in a concert for the benefit of earthquake victims in Haiti. The concert will be held next month at Benaroya Hall. Please contact Craig for additional information regarding registration and rehearsal dates.

This week, you will have the opportunity to meet the second candidate for the Head of School position, me! I will be answering questions Friday in the North Room from 8 to 9 AM. All families are invited. The final candidate, Carol Coram, will be here next Tuesday, February 2, from 8 to 9 AM in the North Room. These opportunities are your chance to hear from the candidates and to then give the Head Search Committee your input.

I hope you have a great week. Take care.

Robert  
Interim Head

## SCHOOLWIDE ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE HEAD SEARCH COMMITTEE:

**Candidate-Community Forums:**

The first Candidate-Community Forum was held with Karen O'Meara Pullen on Wednesday, January 20 and the Committee wants to thank everyone who attended and is providing input. As shown below, our remaining two forums are coming up this week and next week, and Families are encouraged to participate in as many forums as possible.

**Candidate-Community Forums will be held in the North Room from 8 am - 9 am** on the following days:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Finalist</u>
Friday, January 29	Robert Kogane
Tuesday, February 2	Carol Coram

The links to the online surveys will be emailed to all participants soon after each of the candidate-community forums. Free morning RKC is available during this time, but please pre-register so that David Guzman can ensure there will be sufficient RKC staff scheduled.

### Online Input Surveys - Important Notice

An important fix has been made to the online surveys. The first few people who accessed them may have received an error message that "first name" and "last name" were required fields. **This has now been fixed, so providing your name with your online input is optional.**

My sincere apologies for any concern or confusion that this may have created. The intention was always to provide the option of anonymity to facilitate open and candid feedback. Consistent with that commitment, the input will be compiled by group, but all identifying information will be removed before it is provided to the Committee.

### Questions for Candidate-Community Forums

Thank you to everyone who took the time to submit questions for the Community-Candidate forums. We received over 20 suggestions ranging in topic from social justice and academics, communication style, and future plans for Giddens, among others. Andrew Rauch and Diana Sandoval consolidated them into a smaller set of questions that can be reasonably addressed during the hour-long forums. Each of the candidates is being asked the same set of questions at the Candidate-Community Forums, which also include a brief time at the end for questions that emerge out of the discussions.

If anyone has any questions or concerns about the surveys or other issues related to the process, please

feel free to contact me directly. And again, many thanks for your continued attention to and participation in this important endeavor.

Warmly,

Hania Younis  
Chair, Head Search Committee  
Trustee, Board of Trustees  
[hyounis@giddensschool.org](mailto:hyounis@giddensschool.org)  
[haniay@comcast.net](mailto:haniay@comcast.net)  
206-551-7066 (cell/voicemail)

### **Attention! New Deadline for Strategic Planning Survey!**

Please note, the deadline to complete the online strategic planning survey has been moved to **THIS Friday, January 29<sup>th</sup>**.

It was previously Friday Feb 5<sup>th</sup>. The decision to move up the deadline was done to accommodate remaining work required to complete the strategic plan during a month with mid-winter break. We have received 43 survey responses to-date - Thank You! Please fill out the survey if you haven't already. The survey is not mandatory but will provide valuable information to shape the final strategic plan.

Click [here](#) to complete the survey. Please contact Julie Edsforth ([jedsforth@giddensschool.org](mailto:jedsforth@giddensschool.org)) with any questions.

### **FAMILY MATH NIGHT is WEDNESDAY!**



**6-7:30 p.m. in the classrooms**

5:30-6: Cheese pizza in the gym, sold by the slice to benefit the 4th-5th grade spring trip.

Family Math Night, an all-school favorite, is Wednesday evening! Each class, from preschool through 5<sup>th</sup>, is bustling to prepare math games for students to play with their families. The interactive evening starts in your child's classroom. Your kids will teach you the games, and then accompany you to other classrooms to try out different math games - a fun way to see the next grade level's mathematics in action. Look for interactive happenings in the hallways, too. See below to preview some of Wednesday's activities. Don't miss the fun! Have your math passport stamped in each classroom! No need to cook - Come early for

pizza! (And here's a [link](#) to hear President Obama's State of the Union address when you get home.)

**Volunteer Call:** sign-making help needed (can be done at home Monday/Tuesday) and set-up helpers and greeters needed on Wednesday. Contact [Sheba](#) at 324-4847 x37. Pizza helpers needed, too - 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> families please contact [Shelly](#) at 206-551-9460. Thank you!

**Preview Sampling of Family Math Night activities:**

**Steve T's Preschool Class:** Exploring Manipulatives, Math Storytime, Pattern Strips, and Now How Many? (Preschool rooms will close at 7:00 so that preschool families can visit other classes and get to bed on time.)

**Selections from the 2/3 classes:** Cuisinaire Cover-Up, Pentomino Puzzle, and Probability Pull-Out.

**In the Hallways:** number line, data-collection graphs, crane stations, and math-drill calculator races!

**The Admissions Open House was a huge success!**

We had a great turn-out and families were very excited to see all of the wonderful things we are doing at Giddens! The Open House would not have been as successful if it weren't for our dedicated parent volunteers. Thank you to the following parents for being tour guides, bringing food, making packets, bringing flowers, etc:

Monica Bailey  
Steven Gray  
Keiko Hikino  
Sprout Hochberg  
Libby Page  
Stephanie Poole  
Neil Roseman  
Kelly Sheppard  
Monica Shih

John Stewart  
Sara Thompson  
Manka Varghese

I also want to thank our student speakers for their wonderful contribution: Pascal Blumenthal, Donovan Bown, and Indeya Feiloakitau.

And a very special thank you to Jenn Stewart for organizing, managing, and over-seeing the entire event!

#### **Admissions Calendar:**

**-Admissions applications for siblings are due February 5th.**

If you would like an application emailed or "snail mailed" to you, please contact [Christy Haven](#) at ext. 30 to receive one.

**-The deadline for turning in Financial Aid applications for next year has passed.** If you have questions, please contact [Christy Haven](#) at ext. 30.

#### **Giddens Island - 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Fundraising Auction UPDATE:**

**This Week:** It's not too late to procure for the auction! Procurement Deadline EXTENDED to January 29<sup>th</sup>! Look for your invite in the mail next week.

**Next Week:** Mark your Calendar for the **Table "Skipper"** meeting Wednesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> from 9-10am in the Giddens Library. Do you like to be the captain of the ship? Do you like to get your friends together for food, fun and to support a cause you believe in? Do you like to reach out to fellow parents to help make sure everyone in our community feels included? Then Giddens Island may be your final destination! We are recruiting Table Skippers (aka: Table Captains) to host tables for the event to make sure everyone from the school makes it on the boat to Giddens Island!

#### **RKC News:**

**-Choir Rehearsals for the Haiti Benefit Concert begin**

**Wednesday, January 27th!** Register [here](#) or with Bookman.

**-RKC sign-up sheets have been moved from the classrooms to the cubbies in the gym!** The clipboards are in a blue mailbox above the cubbies.

**-RKC is available during mid-winter break, Feb. 16-19** (school closed Feb. 15). Click [here](#) or on the Giddens home page for a registration form.

**Please note that mid-winter break does not have an option to sign up for individual days!**

**-Creative Dance for Preschool/Pre-K and for grades K-5 with Danny Herter:** Register [here](#) for your PS/PK students or [here](#) for your Primary student.

**-MAKE STUFF! After-School Class with Alicia Guinn this winter, Thursdays, 3:30-4:30, for grades 1-5:** Crafts are hip! In this class, we'll use our creativity to explore knitting, felting, sewing, and creating from recycled materials -- exciting tools for making fun stuff

like toys, clothes, puppets, and art. Click [here](#) or on the Giddens home page for a registration sheet.

**-Thursday, January 28<sup>th</sup>: RKC Movies!** Our movie makers worked hard last Fall on two original films, which we are proud to premier next Thursday at 4pm in the gym. Please stop by the gym at 3:30pm if you'd like to watch! There will be no drop-in charges for this day and the student filmmakers may drop-in for free.

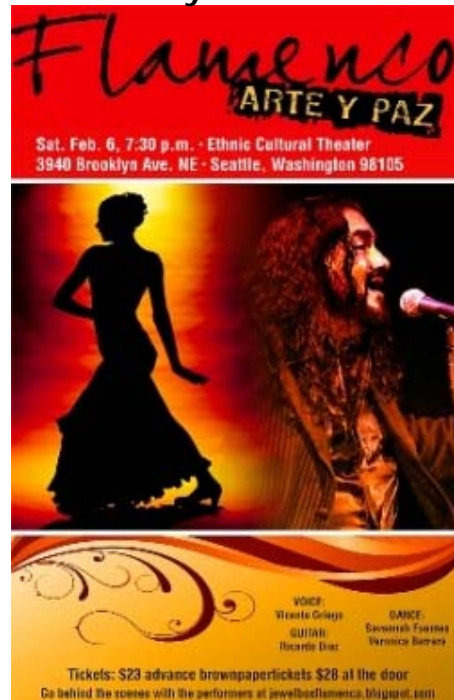
**Please be aware of the following RKC staff changes:** Christy Parry will be temporarily working with a primary grade class, so Bob Kelly will be filling in for her in Group 1. Britt Leggett will be out for a few weeks and a new substitute, Esther Bae, will be working in her spot with Group 2.

## Community Bulletin Board

*Flamenco, Arte Y Paz*

Saturday, Feb. 6<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 p.m., UW's [Ethnic Cultural Theatre](#)

All-ages show; special \$12 tickets for Giddens community



Giddens parent and flamenco dancer, Savannah Fuentes (Mayte's mom), invites Giddens families to attend *Flamenco, Arte Y Paz* for only \$12. For these specially-priced advance tickets, go to the [Brown Paper Tickets event page](#), enter code word "Giddens" and the \$12 option will appear. (General tickets are \$23.)

*Flamenco Arte Y Paz*, an evening of Spanish flamenco featuring the voice of Vicente Griego ("El Cartucho") of New Mexico, debuts in Seattle on February 6<sup>th</sup> at the Ethnic Cultural Theater.

Having devoted his life to the study of *cante flamenco*, the art of flamenco singing, Griego is one of the premier flamenco singers in the U.S. He will be joined by San Francisco guitarist Ricardo Diaz and local flamenco dancers, Savannah Fuentes and Veronica Barrera. The program is sponsored by the University of Washington's Department of Spanish and Portuguese studies. The show starts at 7:30 and is open to all ages. Advance tickets at [brownpapertickets.com](#). Remember to enter code

word "giddens" for your \$12 special rate.

Click [here](#) for pictures and bios of the artists, or [here](#) to see Vicente Griego in performance with dancer Fanny Ara. Flamenco singing is a rare art in the U.S. and he is one of the best!

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