

# VILLAGE VOICE

www.globalvillageacademy.org

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Global Village Academy

403 S. Airport Blvd, Aurora, CO 80017

## WELCOME TO THE 2010-11 SCHOOL YEAR!

*A Message from  
Christina Burton—  
GVA Executive  
Principal*

Welcome to Global Village Academy as we enter our 4th year as a community. We look forward to working with your children, teaching them to be 21st century learners and global citizens.

There have been many exciting changes at the school for this year. With the addition of 8th grade GVA is now at capacity with a total enrollment of 655. We expanded the number of classroom by adding temporary modular units in the back of the building. In addition

to adding several new teachers to the staff, we have added another Special to the curriculum a Dance/Drama teacher.

Over the summer GVA established a partnership with the Embassy of Spain and is now recognized as an International Spanish Academy.

For the second year GVA will be participating in a cultural exchange program hosting two guest teachers from China. Louisa Yu and Yongxin Cao will be teaching 7th and 8th grade Mandarin.

GVA will add break-

fast to the food program beginning in late August. Also look for online ordering in the next few weeks to purchase uniforms through our website.

Please join me at the monthly Coffee with Christina on Friday August 13th at 8:15AM this is a forum for parents to share their thoughts.

It truly is amazing how far we have come. We believe that as partners together — students, parents, and educators — we can accomplish great things. Thank you for making GVA your school of choice.

## GVA IS NOW AN OFFICIAL INTERNATIONAL SPANISH ACADEMY

Global Village Academy has entered into partnership with the Embassy of Spain and is now formally recognized as an International Spanish Academy. During the 2010 summer, Christina Burton, GVA's Executive Principal met with representatives from the Spanish Embassy at the Pontifical University in Comillas, Spain to enter into a formal agreement with the Department of Education in Spain. The International Spanish Academies (ISA) constitute an educational program in English and Spanish through the collaboration of American and Canadian public schools and the Ministry of Education and Science of Spain. ISAs embody an integrated curriculum that will prepare the students to later participate in international programs of recognized prestige to complete their higher education degrees. The language of instruction is English and Spanish, with a strong emphasis on language immersion and fulfilling the following:

**Encourage** students' academic success in all subjects of the curriculum. **Educate** students in the values of multicultural education to foster international communication and respect among different cultures. **Train** students to express themselves and effectively communicate in English and Spanish in their personal relationships and in an academic setting. **Facilitate** and promote the access of students to prestigious centers of higher educations throughout the US, Spain/Europe and Latin America.

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### KEY DATES:

Aug. 13th - Coffee with Christina - 8:15AM

Aug. 17th - PTO Meeting - 6:30PM

Aug. 18th - Board of Trustees Meeting - 6:45PM

Aug. 18th—Cultural Partner Meeting—5:30PM

Aug. 27th - International Day - Chile

Sept. 2nd - Back to School Night 6:00PM

Sept. 6th - Labor Day - No School

Sept. 17th - Early Release Day -School out at 1:00PM

Sept. 18th - PTO Meeting - 10:30AM

Sept. 15th - Board of Trustees Meeting

Sept. 25th - International Day - Philippines

Oct. 8th - Teacher Work Day - No School

Oct. 15th - International Day - Puerto Rico

Oct. 19th - PTO Meeting - 6:30PM

Oct. 20th - Board of Trustees Meeting

Oct. 21-22 - Parent/Teacher Conf. - No School

Oct. 25 - 29 - Fall Break - No School

## GVA BOARD OF DIRECTORS – THE GOVERNANCE

Global Village Academy Board of Directors is the governing body of the school and as such, they delegate authority and responsibility for the day-to-day operations to the Executive Principal. The Board will, in conjunction with the Executive Principal, set clear operational and educational goals. Including those goals that are mandated by state and federal law by which the performance of the Executive Principal and the school will be measured. The Board is autonomous and no personnel from Aurora Public Schools are on the Board.

The Board meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 6:45PM at GVA.

### The 2010-2011 Board of Directors are:

Kirk Loadman-Copeland - President

[kiclu@msn.com](mailto:kiclu@msn.com)

Cynthia Nesseth - Secretary/Treasurer

[cindynesseth@comcast.net](mailto:cindynesseth@comcast.net)

Chris Coble – Member

[cmcoble@comcast.net](mailto:cmcoble@comcast.net)

Fang Wang – Member

[fangwang101@hotmail.com](mailto:fangwang101@hotmail.com)

Gordon Miller – Member  
[gordon.miller@comcast.net](mailto:gordon.miller@comcast.net)

Shelly Humphreys - Member  
[s.a.humphreys@comcast.net](mailto:s.a.humphreys@comcast.net)

### The 2010 – 2011 BOD Sub-Committee Chairs are:

Ken Ramos, GVA School Advisory Committee Co-Chair  
[kramos39@hotmail.com](mailto:kramos39@hotmail.com)

Susie Sidwell, GVA School Advisory Committee Co-Chair  
[susiesidwell2002@yahoo.com](mailto:susiesidwell2002@yahoo.com)

Carol Loadman-Copeland – Marketing Committee Chair  
[cello1800@aol.com](mailto:cello1800@aol.com)

## CALLING ALL TECHIES

GVA is forming a Technology Committee to work on a three year Technology Plan. If you have a background or interest in IT and would like to participate on the committee, please contact: Dave Axtell at [daxtell@globalvillageacademy.org](mailto:daxtell@globalvillageacademy.org)

## GVA IS NOW AN OFFICIAL INTERNATIONAL SPANISH ACADEMY - Continued

Prepare the students for their professional development in an international context. Promote the participation of distinct groups and social sectors of the community in an integrative, educational project.

As part of the partnership, the Ministry of Education and Science of Spain makes the following resources and programs available to the ISAs:

- Access to double academic certification.
- Specialized visiting teachers
- Teacher exchange programs with Spain
- Language and Culture assistants
- Teacher training courses in Spanish universities
- Student exchanges
- Partnerships with Spanish schools
- Participation in a North American network of ISAs
- Didactic materials and resources



Christina Burton signing the ISA contract in July.

## STARTALK 2010

STARTALK Chinese Language Immersion training was held June 7– 25. Chinese immersion teachers came from all over the metro area. Thirty teachers participated in the training and 100 students enjoyed the week long camp.



## DRAMA & DANCE COMES TO GVA

### *A Message from Cythia Zaitz*

I am delighted to have joined Global Village Academy and would like to welcome your child to the new Drama and Dance program. I am in my seventh year of teaching: four in elementary schools and two at the university level. I graduated from Florida Atlantic University on August 4, 2009 with my Ph.D. in Comparative Studies: Fine and Performing Arts. On August 5, 2009 I got in the car with two wonderful cats, Minnie and Mooch, and drove across country to start a new chapter in Colorado. My Ph.D. is in interdisciplinary arts and while completing the degree I was privileged to teach

in the music, theatre, and dance departments. I also choreographed an original dance which was performed at Florida Atlantic University. I am certified at level three in Orff-Schulwerk, which is another interdisciplinary approach to teaching the arts. I have a Masters in Consciousness Studies from John F. Kennedy University in the San Francisco Bay area and a Bachelor of Arts in Drama from the University of California, Irvine. I studied with the Lehman Engel Musical Theatre Workshop, Lee Strasberg Theatre Institute, and the Groundlings Improvisational Comedy Workshop in Los Angeles, as well as at the Omega Institute for Holistic Studies in New York.



I have had the privilege of leading workshops in Creativity, Meditation, Drumming, and Life Purpose.

I am looking forward to getting to know you and your children this year. I love teaching and am excited about the opportunity to teach dances from around the world, as well as traditional American dances, dance history and appreciation, acting, theatre improvisation, and theatre history and appreciation.

### POSITIVE BEHAVIOR SUPPORT

This year GVA will continue our Positive Behavior Support (PBS) system in the classroom and Commons areas. Optimal learning occurs in a safe and orderly environment. It is our job as parents and educators to have high expectations for our children concerning their behaviors. We will work together so that each student can grow toward being a more prepared

and responsible citizen. Specific behavior expectations will be reviewed for each classroom and common area in the building. Our three school wide expectations will be reinforced by our staff members. More information will come home in the coming weeks regarding PBS. We ask parents to help us by reinforcing these positive behaviors, especially during arrival and dismissal. If we model respectful,

responsible, and ready to learn behaviors as parents and educators, our students will follow the model we are setting for them.

If you have any questions regarding Positive Behavior Support, please contact the Vice Principals, Kathy Duran, [kduran@globalvillageacademy.org](mailto:kduran@globalvillageacademy.org) or Cindy Lunsford at [clunsford@globalvillageacademy.org](mailto:clunsford@globalvillageacademy.org).

### ENCORE ENRICHMENT CLASSES

Encore is GVA's after-school enrichment program offering a selection of classes to peak everyone's interest. The classes are fee based and run for one hour after-school from 3:35 to 4:35. This year Encore will have some new classes to pique everyone's interest. The first semester will

start the week of August 16th. Look for registration and scholarship forms on the GVA website at [www.globalvillageacademy.org](http://www.globalvillageacademy.org). For more information contact Renee Elofson at [jrelofson@hotmail.com](mailto:jrelofson@hotmail.com).



## PARENT COMMUNICATION

It is GVA’s policy to inform parents of what is happening at the school in a timely manner, with that in mind, GVA communicates with parents in several different ways to keep you informed. Information is sent home weekly in hard copy and is also available over the internet. It is important that GVA has a valid email address and phone number on file for your family so that you can receive information. If you do not have internet access at home, a computer with internet access is available for you to use at the school.

**HOMEWORK NOW -** Teachers use Homework Now to communicate with parents and students about what is happening in the classroom and what homework is due.

Parents should check the site on a weekly basis. Access Homework Now by logging on to the GVA website and clicking on the link at the left.

**CONSTANT CONTACT–** GVA uses Constant Contact emails to keep parents up to date with what is happening at GVA.

**VILLAGE VOICE -** The GVA bi-monthly newsletter has information from administration, upcoming events and recaps events that have taken place at the school. The Village Voice will be distributed in hard copy, to your student’s classroom, every other month and will go out electronically through Constant Contact.

**GVA YAHOO GROUP –** GVA has an open forum for parents to communicate. The Yahoo group is moderated by parents. You must first register before being allowed access to the group. Please go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/GVA-Villages> to register. This is another way to receive information and also exchange ideas with other parents.

**WEEKLY VILLAGE NEWS –** This is a weekly newsletter that is distributed to your student’s classroom. It outlines upcoming events in an easy to read bulleted format. The Weekly Village Newsletter is distributed in hard copy each Thursday and also electronically through Constant Contact..

**CONNECT - ED -** GVA has implemented a messaging service that will enable the school to personally communicate with parents about emergency situations, school events and other issues impacting your child. The system allows GVA to send messages to your family’s home, work, cell phone and email. GVA is able to reach every family within a hour. Please make sure that the front office has your family’s current phone and email address so that you will receive the most up to date information.

## GVA PARENT– TEACHER ORGANIZATION

The purpose of the GVA PTO is to support Global Village Academy administration, faculty, staff and families. Parents and faculty are encouraged to attend meetings and give input as to the direction of the organization.

**The 2010 – 2011 GVA PTO Executive Board are:**

Janell Gotier-Juanda – President  
gotierjanell@gmail.com

Charles Cummings -  
Vice President  
chaschristy@yahoo.com

Mary Walts – Secretary  
icewoman1985@aol.com

Dianne Landrum-Davis –  
Treasurer  
Diannelandrum1@msn.com

Christy Cummings – Chinese Village  
Ambassador  
chaschristy@yahoo.com

Regina Gomez—French Village  
Ambassador  
wildryry@msn.com

Erika Gomez—Spanish Village  
Ambassador

Luz Hernandez - Spanish Village  
Ambassador  
DK21HR@yahoo.com

**The 2010 - 2011 GVA PTO Sub-Committee Chairs are:**

Troy Williams—Fundraising Chair  
Troy.williams01@yahoo.com

Cheryl Parent—Events Chair  
crp1crp2@comcast.net

### PTO MEETING DATES:

Tuesday, August 17th - 6:30PM

Saturday, September 18th - 10:30AM

Tuesday, October 19th - 6:30PM

Saturday, November 20th - 10:30AM

Saturday, January 15th - 10:30AM

Tuesday, February 15th - 6:30PM

Saturday, March 19th - 10:30AM

Tuesday, April 19th - 6:30PM

Saturday, May 21st—10:30AM

## EXCITING CHANGES ARE ON HORIZON FOR GVA

According to Kirk Loadman-Copeland, President of GVA's Board of Directors, "This will be an exciting year. We will graduate our first class of eighth graders, we will put in an application to Adams 12 School District to open another school and we will begin construction on a permanent building for GVA Aurora."

Growing to full capacity into a K-8 school has put pressure on our existing building, which is why the Board is working very hard to attempt to build a second building on a parcel of land immediately to the west of our existing site. We have hired Slaterpaul Architects as the design firm and JHL Constructors as the Construction

Manager/General Contractor. While there are a few unknowns regarding the project going forward, we are very hopeful that it will proceed because it will provide additional space for the school."

With these changes come a restructure of the Administration. Ms. Burton's title has now been changed to Executive Principal and she will devote more of her time to the long range planning of Global Village Academy. Two Vice Principals, Ms. Cindy Lunsford and Mrs. Kathy Duran have been hired this year to oversee the general day to day activities.

### MEET THE VICE PRINCIPALS

#### CINDY LUNSFORD

*When all is said and done, the only change that will make a difference is the transformation of the human heart. Peter Senge*



Greetings to all returning students and parents and a big welcome to all of our new ones. We're enjoying a rather warm, yet positively "sizzling", new year at GVA as we are growing as a community and organization. I am most honored to be part of that growth process as your Vice-Principal this year.

Last school year, I filled the role

of Literacy Coach and had an incredible experience mentoring teachers and providing literacy intervention for GVA students. After nearly thirty years as a literacy educator, I feel invigorated by the prospect of serving as an instructional leader here at GVA. My experiences as both an elementary and middle school literacy teacher and teacher coach have made this a smooth transition. I am here for the safety and continued academic success of all GVA students and am working closely with our 3<sup>rd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> graders. I look forward to strong relationships with parents as we work as a team to support our children.

At GVA, all of our students are focused on a cultural/literacy theme of "Identity Awareness" through *Voices* reading. Several of the past four years, I was privileged to work with Dr. Patrick Walker, the creator and founder of our *Voices* literacy program. As I traveled the country, I assisted many schools in implementation of this program and trained staff while truly internalizing both its purpose and message. The quote above speaks to my personal mission as an educator and the heart of my purpose here at a "one-of-a-kind" educational facility.

Here are just a few aspects of my identity: I earned a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Houston, a Master's from University of Phoenix, and am currently a doctoral student at Denver University. I am a mother of two grown sons and a very, very proud grandmother of a baby girl and soon, little boy. My southern-born father was a minister and my mother, a teacher, wife, and mother to me and my six siblings. I was born and raised in northern California and consider myself to be a southerner, as well. I love books, camping, fishing, and my cat, Cosmo. It is a pleasure to be here and I look forward to knowing your children and being a part of their growth as they are certainly a part of mine.

#### KATHY DURAN

I am very pleased to be joining the Global Village Academy administrative staff this year as Vice Principal. This is my twentieth year as an educator and I have taught every elementary grade in some capacity, including classroom teacher, Spanish immersion teacher, and FLES teacher (specials). I have also spent many years involved in the "world" of World Language learning. I have served as a district level curriculum specialist in Douglas County, as a state and regional representative

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## MEET THE VICE PRINCIPALS

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for NELL (National Network for Early Language Learning), as an active member of several World Language teaching and administrative associations, and as an instructional coach in Fairfax County, Virginia, training teachers in best practice in immersion strategies and also in technology integration in the classroom.

My teaching career began at an English immersion school in Bogotá, Colombia. I had the opportunity to be part of the core team that launched Colegio Hacienda Los Alcaparros which is now an established and respected K-12 school on a beautiful mountaintop above the city. I continued teaching and fell in love with teaching second languages. My own experience as a learner of language and culture helped to shape my career and influence my immersion teaching. I realized that my students were my best teachers when it came to learning Spanish and understanding and participating in Colombian culture.

I continued to teach in Colombia for three years during which time I met my husband, Jairo. We were married in Bogotá and then moved to the United States. I completed my Master's degree in Language, Literacy and Socio-cultural Studies at the University of New Mexico. More recently, I completed my Principal licensure program at the University of Phoenix here in Colorado.

I live in Littleton with my husband, two sons, Santiago (13) and Juan Pablo (9), and our yellow lab, Lucas. We enjoy camping, skiing, biking and just spending time at home together. We have lived in Colorado for four years and we are absolutely in awe of the Rocky Mountains! I am looking forward to getting to know the GVA community in the coming weeks. I am excited to be back in the "world" of world languages and cultures and to be a part of the mentoring and collaboration that I am able to take part in every day.



**KATHY DURAN**

Please feel free to come by and introduce yourself. I look forward to supporting students, teachers, and parents and making every day a great day of learning at GVA



### SPANISH CULTURAL NIGHT

Above is a combination of kindergarten and first grade students choreographed by Mrs. Maisonet performing Bomba y Plena from Puerto Rico.

### SPANISH CULTURAL NIGHT

Students performing in last school year's Spanish Cultural Night. Below are Ms. Madrid's 2nd graders performing the Danza de Los Viejitos Modernos from Mexico.

