

## ACE Calendar January 2009

| Sun                 | Mon                 | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri                 | Sat                 |
|---------------------|---------------------|-----|-----|-----|---------------------|---------------------|
|                     |                     |     |     | 1   | 2                   | 3                   |
| 4                   | 5<br>School Resumes | 6   | 7   | 8   | 9                   | 10                  |
| 11                  | 12<br>Exec. Board   | 13  | 14  | 15  | 16                  | 17                  |
| 18                  | 19<br>Holiday       | 20  | 21  | 22  | 23<br>State Council | 24<br>State Council |
| 25<br>State Council | 26<br>Rep. Council  | 27  | 28  | 29  | 30                  | 31                  |

## Teacher for a Day

We had our planning meeting with the District to establish the purpose and expected outcomes of our Teacher for a Day program. The list of volunteers has been given to Human Resources, so if you are still interested, send me your name, grade level, subject matter and school site ASAP as the program will take place the week of February 16-20, 2009. Administrators are to choose someone off the list and decide on a full or half day. The teacher will prepare the lesson and have it available. If the Administrator wants to bring their own lesson for the day, that will be coordinated with the teacher. We hope this will be an annual event and that more will participate each year.



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## Member Benefits

Your membership in CTA entitles you to a number of additional benefits. TSA, a subsidiary of First Financial Credit Union, offers discounted tickets to a variety of Southern California entertainment venues. You can order advance tickets at a savings for Disneyland, Knott's Berry Farm, Legoland, Medieval Times Dinner and Tournament, Pirates Dinner Adventure, Movie Tickets (AMC Cinemas, Regal, Edwards, United Artist and Pacific Theaters), SeaWorld, Universal Studios Hollywood, San Diego Wild Animal Park and San Diego Zoo. Also available are See's Candy Gift Certificates. For a complete list of availability, prices, and service charges, call (800) 537-8491 or visit their website at [www.tsaspecialservices.com](http://www.tsaspecialservices.com)

## Special Events

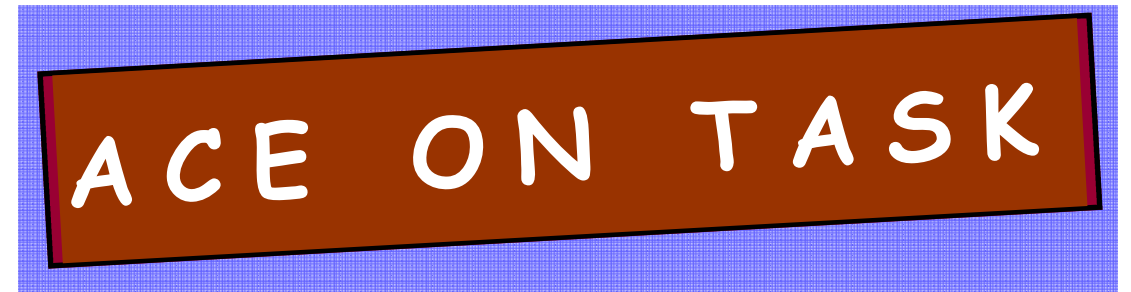
January 12: Exec Board Mtg  
 January 19: MLK Holiday  
 January 23-25: State Council in Los Angeles  
 January 26: Rep Council  
 February 6: CTA Scholarship deadlines

## School Board Update

Each quarter, we try to make contact with as many school board members as possible by the President and the Executive Board Liaisons. Meetings have occurred with Robert Armenta, Mel Albiso, David Zamora, Frank Ibarra, Marge Mendoza-Ware, and Kent Taylor. With the addition of Patt Haro, we will be scheduling a meeting with her soon. During these meetings, we discuss issues that are important to the Association to give the board our perspective and them the opportunity to ask questions without the district filter. They are very receptive to hearing first hand the concerns of the entire Association; i.e. grievances, site issues, budget concerns, school board decisions etc. They have also taken the time to listen to our directors explain what is happening at the three levels. In the near future, most of our discussions with the school board members will be focused around the anticipated budget cuts. We are committed to keeping those cuts as far away from the classroom as possible and maintaining the current benefits. If you have specific issues and concerns you would like addressed with the school board members, please contact the ACE office and we will add them to the next round of meetings.



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 Edited by: Karen Houck and Rebekah Acord and published once monthly for the Representative Council and its membership.



## President's Message by Karen Houck

As the state prepares for deep cuts to the budget, our colleagues up and down the state are assembling their budget committees to start making decisions on the potential cuts to the school budgets. We too are getting our group together to look at ways the District could save money. We know from past experience the District likes to keep more than the required amount in reserves and stashes away extra money in other accounts. These should be the first ones thoroughly examined. It would be premature to say this early in the process that a 3% raise is possible. We would all like to have the same raise the Superintendent just got, but not at the expense of programs or jobs. The Association is committed to getting the best possible benefits for our membership and will be involved in the decisions that are made. I have been meeting with School Board members and District Administration and we have to wait until the final numbers

come from the state to see where we truly are. Elementary Block Scheduling for next year has begun. We had our first meeting last week and the second one is scheduled for January. The purpose is to create blocks of time for each subject/activity that will be used to adjust current schedules to make sure that everyone has the same number of minutes. We found at our first meeting that what is published isn't always practiced. This will change next year. As a PI district in DAIT, we must make sure that our students receive a consistent level of curriculum regardless of the site. There are discrepancies throughout the district of several hours a day in instructional minutes. As an Association, we try to maintain an equitable work environment for all of our unit members and those at a PI year 5 school shouldn't have drastically different working conditions than those at a non-PI school. We need your help. If you know that your site is not

following the printed schedule, we need to know so we can fix it. We already found that one site is using the PE block for small reading groups. Please let your site rep. know or let me know if there is a problem with your schedule. Zangle is coming! The new student information system is in the final stages of development and the groups using it have given input to the IT dept. One thing to keep in mind, when we go completely online with attendance, grades, etc. there will be expectations of timeliness. The Association will be working with the District to insure fair expectations and reasonable timelines. Look for more updates in the newsletter and the communicator. We are also inviting David Thurston to a Rep. Council meeting in the spring. Send concerns or questions through your site rep.

## Association of Colton Educators ACE/CTA/NEA

Volume 5  
 December 2008

### ACE Executive Board

|                |                    |
|----------------|--------------------|
| President      | Karen Houck        |
| Vice President | Vacant             |
| Secretary      | Rebekah Acord      |
| Treasurer      | Robert Lemoine     |
| Elem Dir       | Bernadette Pedroza |
| Elem Dir       | Arlene Roper       |
| Elem Dir       | Steve Villa        |
| Elem Dir       | Linda Placencia    |
| Mid. Sch Dir   | LynnMary Toscano   |
| Mid. Sch Dir   | David Johnson      |
| Sr. High Dir   | Erwin Schaefer     |
| Sr. High Dir   | Marcella Cook      |
| PPS Dir        | Georgene Dixon     |
| State Council  | Paul Lucero        |
| State Council  | Rebekah Acord      |
| State Council  | Vacant             |

## ACE Office Staff Changes

Cindy Burg, our Administrative Assistant for the past few years, is reducing her hours to half-time in January so she can attend school full-time. We have hired Jessica Hernandez to be our full-time Administrative Assistant. Jessica was born and raised in Colton and feels privileged to work for ACE. She is happy to be a part of an organization that supports the CJUSD teachers. Stop by and welcome Jessica if you get the chance.



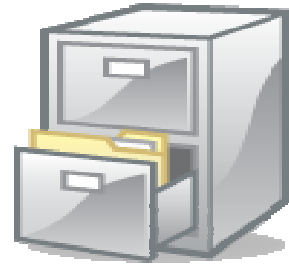
## PPS: Who We Are and What We Do by Georgene Dixon

As the new ACE PPS Director, I think my first official duty is to enlighten our unit members on who we are, where we can be found and what exactly we do for CJUSD. PPS, which stands for Pupil Personnel Services, is located in that big old building on the corner of Cedar and Orange in Bloomington. The support system for our students is housed within these walls. These services include: the Special Education Dept., Psychologists, Counselors, Speech

Therapists, Nurses, Adaptive PE staff and Curriculum Program Specialists. Our crack office staff keeps this machine running smoothly by scheduling all of the district's IEP meetings, entering student data, and maintaining Special Ed. student files and transcripts.

Our Program Specialists assist our teachers through trainings, consultation and technical sup-

port. All of these functions are overseen by our diligent director, Dr. Diane D'Agostino and our two Special Ed. coordinators, Janet Nickell and Sabro Foster.



## Wellness-A Way of Life! by Arlene Roper

Wellness—A Way of Life!

A recent Time Magazine article pointed out that our Health Care system has been set up to treat illnesses while very little is put into keeping people well. Are you aware of the Wellness programs that you can access through your District Health Care program? Both Kaiser and Blue Shield offer Wellness information on their

websites. Blue Shield has a program called Healthy Rewards that you sign up for and by simply logging in to the website weekly you can earn a monetary reward. Kaiser offers classes and seminars that you can attend. The Delta Dental program promotes Oral Health by requiring yearly visits to your dentist to maintain 100% coverage. If

you don't visit your dentist at least once a year your coverage can move all the way back down to 70%. All programs tell us that regular preventive care helps us avoid more serious illnesses. We all want to maintain the best health coverage possible in these days of increased costs. Including "wellness" as part of your lifestyle we help us all do that.

## Colton Parade by Steve Villa

On Saturday December 6<sup>th</sup> I had the opportunity to be part of the A.C.E. contingent that joined with members of CSEA and District personnel to celebrate the arrival of the Christmas season at the Colton Christmas Parade. We rode in what must be the district's newest and best school bus.



As the number fifteen entry in the parade, we joined sports teams, students, cheerleaders, horses, riders, civic groups and leaders on our procession down La Cadena Street. It was in a festive and appreciative atmosphere as we handed out the usual candy treats along with some snazzy, new ACE zipper pulls. I was amazed that I knew so many people in the crowd. My former and current students and their parents were scattered throughout the crowd.

After the Colton Parade, a smaller

group continued to the Bloomington Parade and we were sandwiched between the 4H float and the equestrians. Quite an experience. We again saw lots of students and tossed the zipper pulls to the kids.

If you have never been a part of the Colton or Bloomington Christmas Parades I hope you will get on the bus next year. I believe you will find the experience to be a heart-warming addition to your holiday experience.

Thanks to our bus driver, Carmen Lozola for keeping everyone safe!

## Has Teaching Math Changed Since 1912? by Marcella Cook

I was reading an article from NCTM (National Council on Teaching Mathematics) The original article was published in 1912 and republished in Dec. 2006/Jan. 2007. I will sight excerpts from the article.

"I have never yet heard of a high school teacher satisfied with the first-year pupil's knowledge of common fractions."

"Cancellation as such should be abolished; pupils use it on all occasions, everywhere, and are usually wrong."

"As a country, we are still hazy about how to widely implement teaching practices that enable students to ap-

ply their knowledge to new situations and multi-step tasks. (2006)"

Jennifer M. Bay-Williams said,

"As a parent / teacher I have a difficult time with our current one-size fits all mentality. I have 2 daughters they each walked and talked at different ages. Does that mean the one that walked later is not as intelligent? I truly believe that is what is happening today with 'No Child Left Behind.' If a student doesn't have the foundation for Algebra 1 in eighth grade, too bad, ready or not we're placing the student in Algebra 1. This child is not successful in Algebra 1, because

they did not have the necessary concepts, now he/she feels like a failure. They were not ready to process the information, just like child walks when they are ready. Do we discourage the child to stop walking because he/she failed the first time? No we keep cheering them on."

Teachers feel so pressured to cover all of their standards and to continue keep moving ahead even though the students could use some more practice. We must get ready for the all important state test. Are our students enjoying the learning process or are they thinking here we go again, another test?

## The Holiday Season by Robert Lemoine

With Thanksgiving come and gone, we have now officially entered the holiday season. Now whether you celebrate Christmas, Hanukah, or Kwanza, or don't celebrate a holy day at all, most of you will give a few gifts. Here is a wish list of my top ten gifts I would like from our District:

10. Respect
9. Don't deny every grievance filed
8. No more DAIT visits
7. A longer lunch
6. More time to plan for students
5. A *select few* administrators learn to act as professionals
4. District personnel continuing to keep principals in check
3. Christmas bonus
2. A 45 minute duty free prep period every day for every unit member
1. A raise equivalent to what the School Board gave our Superintendent



With this wish list, I must say that there are 10 things that I am thankful to the District and our School Board for doing over the past year.

10. Trying to keep all party members involved in any planning processes
9. Commitment to open communication
8. School Board members being very open and concerned with the Association's concerns
7. Having a job in these tough economic times
6. *Many* administrators acting pro-

fessionally and keeping unit member's interests in mind

5. Willingness to hear our side of a situation, even if there is no agreement
4. Acknowledgement of the outstanding work that our unit members do everyday
3. Keeping unprofessional employees accountable (certificated, classified, and management)
2. Concentrated effort to follow all EPCs
1. Supporting our unit members so that each student can be successful

