



ACE ON TASK

President's Message by Karen Houck

Congratulations to Grand Terrace Elementary School for being named a California Distinguished School! There is a lot of good teaching going on throughout the district in spite of the recent difficulties with the district and the state. Way to go Grand Terrace!

We are honoring three retirees this year at the San Geronio WHO (We Honor Ours) Awards in a few weeks. Karen Leduc from Grand Terrace, Vici Haag from CMS and Diana Roman from Cooley Ranch. All three have been long-time ACE members and have held positions as site rep, Exec Board or UNISERV Board members. Please join ACE in congratulating them for their service to the Association.

For those of you who are already aware of the Huff bill, skip to the next paragraph. SB955 is coming up for a vote this year and it will destroy seniority rights and dramatically change the way RIF notices and non re-elect notices are handled. Under this bill, the non re-elect deadline is pushed

back to June 15th from March 15th. Additionally, it eliminates a RIF'd teacher's right to a hearing. The RIF notices based on seniority would be gone. Instead, it allows districts to base their decisions on performance based criteria. When it is time to rehire teachers, seniority is not considered either. Again it is based on performance evaluations. If this bill passes and becomes law, what is to prevent a district from laying off its' highest paid employees to save money? Nothing! You won't even have the right to due process and a hearing. Your site reps are bringing back a flyer with important information for you to get involved. Often we are asked why teachers need to be involved in politics, and SB955 (Huff) is a classic example. Protect your rights and take action now. There are a number of organizing activities going on centered around the May 13th school board meeting to rescind the RIF notices. We are working with the parents and community members to put pressure on the board. By now, you have seen our flyers and

know to wear BLACK on Friday, April 30th to support our RIF'd teachers at the hearing. They are being asked to wear PINK. We will be in BLACK again on May 13th when we expect the board to vote on the final lay off notices. Some of the parents are really motivated to get their children's teachers back and are out in the community passing out flyers and they have plans to picket school board members homes. If you see them out, show your support for their efforts to help us.

Dr. Gary Thomas spoke at Monday's rep council meeting and was well received. He is running for County Superintendent and has been endorsed by ACE. If you would like to help on his campaign, call and we will direct you to his staff.

The annual CJUSD health fair is on Wed. and I will be staffing the ACE table. Come by and say Hi and pick up a free goodie.

Association of Colton Educators ACE/CTA/NEA

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ACE Executive Board

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Cue Conference by John Chovan

On March 4, 5, and 6, I had the opportunity to attend the Computer Using Educator's (CUE) annual conference in Palm Springs. While there, I attended quite a few sessions and learned about a wide range of programs and tools that can help make teaching more efficient and effective. I was struck by how far behind Colton seems to be in terms of using technology in the classrooms. Many schools are fully equipped with SMART whiteboards and Learning Management programs that allow teachers to post calendars, handouts, note presentations, links, wikis, blogs, and a host of other interactive items all in one convenient web site. Be that as it may, there were some freebies available that are useful in the classroom and around school when working with colleagues. One program, called Jing www.jingproject.com allows users to create movies of the steps they

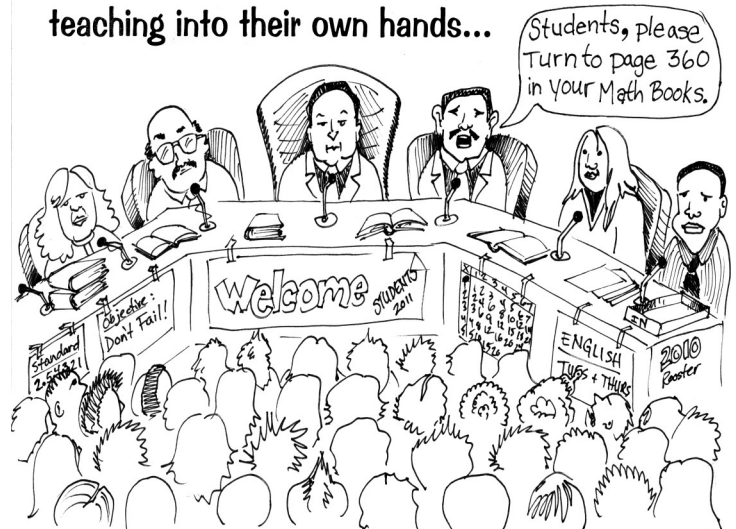
take when using various computer programs. This would be helpful to teachers who want to create video tutorials for their students on how to format a PowerPoint or to post Zangle instructions on a shared drive at a particular site. Another free program was Microsoft's Ribbon Hero <http://www.officelabs.com/ribbonhero>. The game allows students or users to play games and earn achievements while learning how to use the Office Suite. The only catch on this program is that it only works on Office versions 2007 or 2010. IT, can I get an update, please?!?! Finally, Moodle www.moodle.org is a program that allows teachers to set up a one-stop-shop for their students with an online learning course. Moodle is in competition with Blackboard, for those teachers who are familiar with it. To me, this seemed to be the most interesting program, but I was unable to

get much hands-on time with the program. Apparently you can get access to a free Moodle hosting through the CA K-12 High Speed Network <http://www.k12hsn.org/edzone/>, which many individual teachers are utilizing since many districts are behind the times in terms of their technology programs. Do any of our ACE members use Moodle? Or any of the other programs described here? If so, please contact me at jchovanjr@gmail.com and let us know what you like/dislike about the programs. Or, if you have an example of innovative uses of technology in your own classrooms, let me know that as well. Be warned, I may ask you to write an article for an upcoming issue of the ACE Newsletter! If you are a fan of using technology in the classroom, I highly suggest that you check out the CUE organization www.cue.org and plan on attending the 2011 conference.

State Council by Rebekah Acord

Lately, I have been feeling a little worn out. It seems that one attack after another on public education needs to be fielded. Today, I called my State Senator concerning the Huff Bill (SB 955). This latest legislation aims to take seniority rights away. It also would do away with a right to a hearing for teachers who have gotten a layoff notice. If and when laid off teachers are called back to teach, the district would not have to call back in order of seniority. I, personally, am offended that legislators who know absolutely nothing about education have our futures in their hands. We have dedicated our lives to our students and we are slapped in the face constantly. It is time for us to demand that they listen to us. We are, after all, the professionals! Please call your state and federal legislators and let them know how YOU feel! Call 1-888-202-2246 to be connected to your State Senator.

After they had forgotten how many teachers they had fired, the Board had to take teaching into their own hands...



Power by Steve Villa

While reading the L.A. Times last weekend I came upon an article by Sandy Banks regarding power, and how it unleashes changes in the brain. In the article she references the work of Deborah Gruenfeld, a Stanford business school professor who has spent the last ten years studying the psychological implications for those who find themselves in a position of power. Her research suggests that whether someone acquires political power, monetary, career, or social status, changes are unleashed in the brain that allow the power holder to feel free to release themselves from normal social standards.

The changes she refers to are apparently part chemical and part

character. When the influence of power overtakes character, the power holder stops taking other points of view into account and looks at others as tools to achieve his/her own goals. Very recently we have witnessed our district and the attorneys who advise it inflict emotional and mental cruelty upon our teachers. The district did this by sending laying-off notices to one hundred fifty-four teachers, and by attempting to incite a panic only a couple of hours before the three week break, by providing teachers with a bogus MOU - one that had not been approved by ACE but which conveyed the deceptive impression that it had been approved by ACE.

Don't worry, it's not all doom and gloom. Gruenfeld went on to tell the Times reporter that power can also have a positive impact. That positive influence comes from those whose power is derived from a responsibility for others' welfare. This positive power is held by parent and community groups, and teachers that comprise ACE.

In these troubled times, what the district needs right now is the clear-eyed crusader that can provide a reality check and moral compass. They need our Association and other stakeholders to say, "Hey, what are you thinking?"

Board Member Endorsements

At the Representative Council meeting on April 26th, your representatives voted to endorse the following for School Board Members:

Robert Armenta, Randall Cenicerros, Roger Kowalski

Please get involved to help ensure that these candidates are elected in this fall's election. We need strong candidates who will support teachers in these difficult times. Having a school board member who understands our needs is vital to our Association. There are numerous things you can do to help that involve just a little time and effort. Call the ACE Office (909) 825-0332.

Safeguard Dental Plan Changing by Arlene Roper

The District offers two dental plans for its employees. The majority of our members take Delta Dental's PPO plan. Some take the SafeGuard Dental Plan which is an HMO plan. The SafeGuard plan is changing to Delta Dental HMO as of July 1, 2010. This means if you have SafeGuard you may need to see a different dentist. If this applies to you, this may be a good time to change

plans. Although Delta Dental HMO is fully paid, Delta PPO is generally considered a better benefit. The first year you are on Delta PPO you pay 30% of costs, the second year it is 20%, third year is 10% and the fourth year is 0%. Coverage stays at that level up to \$2000 a calendar year as long as you make one visit to the Dentist a year. As with any

insurance plan, it is always a good idea to check out your options. Contact the benefit office at the District office for more information or go to the Health Fair Wednesday, April 28th and talk to the Delta Representative. Open enrollment begins on May 1, 2010.

ACE Calendar May 2010

Special Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 Exec Board	4	5	6 Alvord Rally	7 WHO Awards	8 San G Council
9	10	11	12	13 School Board mtg ACE Rally	14	15
16	17 Rep. Council	18	19	20	21 ACE Retirement	22 Exec Board Retreat
23	24 Alvord Colton Uniserv	25	26	27 School Board mtg	28	29
30	31 Memorial Day					

- May 3: Executive Board Mtg.
- May 6: Alvord Rally
- May 7: WHO Awards
- May 8: San G Service Center
- May 13: School Board Mtg.
- May 17: Rep Council Mtg.
- May 21: ACE Retirement Dinner
- May 22: Executive Board Retreat/Planning for 2010-2011
- May 24: Uniserv Mtg.
- May 27: School Board Mtg.
- May 31: Memorial Day Holiday

School Board

On April 27th, there will be a budget meeting involving members from the School Board, ACE, CSEA, and MAC. We will discuss the current budget situation in CJUSD. It is our hope that this meeting will include open, respectful dialogue about the current financial status of Colton District.

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 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

CONTRACT CORNER

Article 15: Grievance
If your rights are being violated, file a grievance. We have heard that, but what does it mean? How do I do that? The grievance process is clearly defined in Article 15 in our contract. There are timelines that MUST be followed. You can ask your site representative or look at this article if you have questions.

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