



ACE ON TASK

President's Message by Karen Houck

With the holidays rapidly approaching, we are faced with an over abundance of activities to complete. Many of our members found the time to attend the Colton Christmas Parade and we spent a Saturday morning with CSEA and Ingrid Munsterman (the sole MAC representative) on a beautifully decorated school bus. We passed out candy and assorted logo items to the hoards of eager children. The parade theme this year was "Christmas around the World" and our entry was titled "Books around the World" in support of the public libraries that closed recently in the city. Thanks to the ACE members who gave their time: Bernadette Pedroza and her nephew, John Chovan and Collette Taylor-Chovan with their son, Marcella Cook, Quentin Marley and his children, Debbie Cattano, LynnMary Toscano, and Patrick Munsterman. We also had help from our NEA partner Marcos Mata from Horace Mann.

The latest and almost final version of the calendar is available for feedback. It has been a challenge trying to compromise on a calendar that bridges 2 different populations with very set views on their schedules. On the one side we have the 4M

elementary who are used to 8 weeks of time off during the instructional year and on the other side we have traditional who are used to only 4 weeks off and a longer summer break. The goal was to align the two calendars and come up with something that both sides could live with. We have been hearing from the parents for years that they would like all of their children on the same calendar and especially this year with the economy forcing many of them to make difficult decisions with child care. When elementary are off track and secondary are in school, some parents took their older kids out of school to care for the younger ones. Why is this important to us? It affects the ADA which is the major funding source for the district. When ADA falls, we have less money. We already have less money to work with than previous years due to some financial decisions made by others and we don't need even less coming in to begin with because of lost ADA.

There are also a variety of curricular reasons for the new calendar. By having the secondary semester end before winter break, it allows for more focused learning and better retention of the material before final exams. High school students will also be able to take classes at the

community colleges for the winter quarter based on their first semester grades rather than waiting for the spring quarter. DAIT is encouraging us to move away from the targeted interventions during the off-track time and switch to an on-going intervention program.

As with any change, there are those of you who love the new calendar, and those who hate it and I have heard from all of you. We are trying to make decisions based on what is best for the kids and learning and the research lines up on both sides. Ultimately, we will make the decision based on what is educationally sound and fiscally responsible.

Race To The Top is still a priority for us. With the Assembly now offering a competing bill to the Senate version, we need your help. Your site reps are bringing you instructions on how to contact your lawmaker to urge support of the Assembly Bill x5 8 authored by Brownley.

The CTA website has an easy form letter for you to send. You can also create your own letter on the site and send to your state legislators.

Association of Colton Educators ACE/CTA/NEA

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ACE Executive Board

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An Interview with Mollie Gainey-Stanley by Karen Houck

A lot of questions have come up during the past year about the DAIT process and the provider, New Directions. I asked Assistant Superintendent of Education Services the following questions and here are her replies.

What is DAIT?

District Assistance and Intervention Team (DAIT) is a team of county office of education (COE) or other organizational leaders who provide targeted technical assistance and support to Program Improvement (PI) districts in Corrective Action (Year 3 of PI). The team works with the district to examine current practices at both the district and school levels; evaluate the effectiveness of those practices; identify and prioritize the district's major areas of need; develop and implement actions that target those needs; and, ultimately, help the district exit PI status.

Why do we need a DAIT provider?

California *Education Code* Section 52055.57 allows the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, with the approval of the State Board of Education, to require a local education agency in Program Improvement Year 3 to contract with a DAIT.

How was the provider selected?

The California Department of Education provides a list of organizations that are approved as District Assistance and Intervention (DAIT) providers. From that list, Colton Joint Unified School District identified several approved organizations and conducted interviews with them. The interview process was done in June 2008 by a team consisting of district administration, site administration, and representatives from both ACE and CSEA. The selection of *New Di-*

rections, Inc. was subsequently approved by the Board of Education.

What services does the provider give to the district?

The DAIT process begins with a comprehensive needs assessment and continues with the identification, prioritization, and implementation of actions that have the most potential to bring about dramatic improvements in district and school operations. The intention is that through the DAIT process, the district will make significant improvements in many areas. These areas include governance and leadership; alignment of curriculum, instruction, and assessment; data systems and achievement monitoring; alignment of human and fiscal resources with district goals; meaningful parent and community involvement, and targeted professional development for teachers and administrators. Through this process, it is the goal that student achievement will improve and the district will exit Program Improvement (PI) status.

How long do we have to have a provider?

The DAIT provider process continues if the district fails to make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) and remains in Program Improvement (PI).

How are consultants selected?

Consultants are selected to provide specific support to schools that is designed to improve the instructional program for students. Title I schools who enter Program Improvement due to a failure to make the required academic progress under the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001, receive specific support in the form of technical assistance and professional development. As an example, when Wilson Elementary and Lincoln Ele-

mentary Schools entered Program Improvement (PI) Year 5 status, the Board of Education approved Action Learning Systems (ALS) to serve as a consultant/external entity to assist these schools.

Can the DAIT provider be a consultant?

Both consultants to assist individual schools under Program Improvement and DAIT providers, for a district, are state-approved, certified to provide intervention and support services to California's state-monitored schools. It is possible that a state-approved DAIT provider could also provide support to an individual school or schools. *Action Learning Systems, Inc.* is a state-approved DAIT provider and has also provided support to individual schools. *San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools* is also an approved DAIT provider, and was, in fact, one of the providers that the district team interviewed in the selection process. Additionally, *San Bernardino County Schools* has long been one of the "consultants," approved by the state, to work with our individual Title I schools that have entered Program Improvement, as a site, because they did not make adequate academic progress under the requirements of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act.

The DAIT process is district-wide emphasis designed to assist the district to exit Program Improvement, while consultant services are usually designed to assist a particular school or schools to exit Program Improvement.

Technology in the Classroom by John Chovan

My wife and I recently attended a technology seminar, which focused on some technologies that can be helpful in the classroom. Knowing that we are all busy, I wanted to highlight a few websites and programs that are interesting/practical enough to warrant a look at them. First off is **Microsoft Photostory 3** (<http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/using/digitalphotography/PhotoStory/default.mspx>). This program is built into most Windows machines and allows you to import a series of digital pictures into a storyboard, add music, transitions, and captions, and then save it as a Windows movie file that can be played to your students (or better yet created by them). **Microsoft Movie Maker** (<http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/downloads/updates/moviemaker2.mspx>) is also built into most Windows PCs and is basically Pho-

tostory 3, but in this case you can import pictures and certain video files into an editable video project. Google has an online Office Suite called **Google Documents** (<http://docs.google.com>), which is basically a free online version of Microsoft Office. A benefit of this service is that 1. It is FREE, 2. You can actually import most of your current Microsoft Office Documents into Google Documents and 3. So long as you have an internet connection, your documents are always available...no more carrying around multiple USB flash drives! **Wordle** (www.wordle.net), a free web service, allows you to enter text into their editor. Once entered the website looks for the most common words or phrases and creates a graphic that utilizes the most common words or phrases. These are

great for teachers to create thematic posters or for students to create study guides, cover pages, etc. Finally, we previewed **Glogster** (<http://edu.glogster.com/>), which is a web site that sort of acts like an online scrapbooking site for educational purposes. You can create interactive posters, include podcasts, and even set up links to student-created videos from sites like School Tube (www.schooltube.com). Hopefully, you will have time to check out some of these helpful programs and utilize them in your classrooms. If you have a program or website that you find particularly useful (especially Mac users...I didn't forget about you, I'm just not very familiar with Mac software), shoot us an email and let us know what it is and how you use it in your classroom! Happy Holidays!



HAVE A VERY SAFE AND HAPPY WINTER BREAK.

Medical Records in the 21st Century by Arlene Roper

One of the recent developments in health care reform has been the transitioning to electronic medical records. Many believe that electronic record keeping will prevent many errors, save a lot of money, make it easier for doctors to review medical history of patients and improve care. Kaiser has already moved to the new system and has shown that they are

saving money and have improved care. Many medical groups in Blue Shield (such as mine) have also begun moving to the new system. Recently I logged on to my doctor's website and logged in with a password the medical office provided me and checked on the test results from a few days before. Right away I knew exactly what my doctor

would be talking to me about on my next visit. So, if you haven't already, check into the online component of the new systems. If there is something you don't understand, ask your doctor to explain it. Being able to follow your own test results can empower you to take charge of your health care.

ACE Calendar January 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Happy New Year	2
3	4 Exec. Board	5	6	7	8 Contract Negotiations	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18 Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday	19	20	21	22	23
24	25 Rep. Council	26	27	28	29 Contract Negotiations	30 State Council
31 State Council						

Special Events

January 1: HAPPY NEW YEAR!

January 4: Executive Board Meeting

January 18: Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday

January 25: Representative Council Meeting

January 25-28: Finals week for secondary

January 29: No student day

January 29-31: State Council

School Board Members

We would just like to take this space to wish all of our School Board Members a Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah. May your holidays be filled with joy.

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

According to the contract, Article 14.2 states that "a teacher can suspend a student from class for the day of the suspension and the following day for any act that disrupts the education process."

These acts are listed in California Education Code Section 48900 and include numerous things. Make sure that you are NOT tolerating a student who is keeping 35 other students from learning!

ACE ON TASK is a publication of the Association of Colton Educators
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