



# ACE ON TASK

## President's Message by Karen Houck

BY the time this comes out, some major issues should have been resolved at the March 12th School Board meeting. Before the meeting, we held a "Pink Friday" rally to draw attention to the funding for public education.



It is only through a coordinated effort with all of the stakeholders that we can make a difference. It can no longer be just the teachers or CTA who try to fix the problem. We have to work together with the school district and the other groups (CSEA and MAC) to form a coalition with parents and community members. We will be planning a number of events in the communities of Colton, Bloomington and Grand Terrace on April 18th to re-establish connections with parents who were with us during the last crisis. Together, we will be able to improve the quality of education in this state. If you know community leaders who would be willing to help, send us their contact information. We expected to see an early retirement package at the board meeting. If it is attractive enough, many of our

members might opt to retire early, thus creating a cost savings for the district and some vacancies. Thanks to all who attended and wore PINK!

**ZANGLE** training for teachers was held this month. Teachers from Elementary, Middle and High schools were there to offer input and requests for different features. All personnel who grade students will be using this on-line system. The district is planning to start with CHS, THMS, and 2 Elementary schools next fall. The rest of the schools will be added as fast as training allows.

David Thurston, Director of Information technology will be at our April Rep. Council meeting to answer questions regarding the system. Send them with your Rep and make sure your Reps report back to you.



**OUR** softball game against the district has been scheduled for May 3, 2009 at 1pm and our team is forming. Ryan Pacheco from BMS will be our coach. We have a number of players who are on teams and we expect a good showing. Mr. Downs assures me their team will win and keeps asking how many runs ahead they need to

be before we will forfeit. I asked him the same question. Even if you can't play, come cheer on our team as we defeat the District!



**POLO** Shirts are now in the office and are available for sale. The cost is \$15 for XS-XL sizes and \$17 for 2XL-4XL. They are men's sizes so plan accordingly when you request a shirt. The softball game will be a great opportunity for us to all wear our red shirts. Unfortunately, we will have many opportunities to wear red as we battle the budget over the next few years. Get your shirts now.

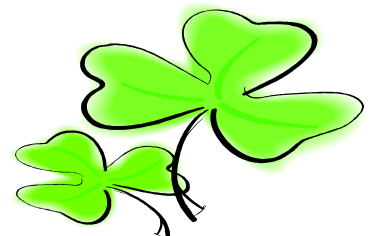
**READ** Across America was held throughout the district around March 2nd. Many students had the privilege of being read to by School Board members, District officials, Police and Fire officers, Community Leaders and other dignitaries. Several schools had special "Cat in the Hat" events worthy of press coverage. Thanks for all of your efforts to support life-long reading.

## Association of Colton Educators ACE/CTA/NEA

Volume 8  
March 2009

### ACE Executive Board

President	Karen Houck
Vice President	Robert Lemoine
Secretary	Rebekah Acord
Treasurer	Vacant
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



## Invest in Education by Irwin Schaffer

If you don't invest very much, then defeat doesn't hurt very much and winning isn't very exciting."

-Dick Vermeil.

My son had this posted in the wrestling room at BHS. I think of this in terms of my classroom. What do I invest? As with all of us, I have invested in my education, my time, my own money, and many other things. Everyone could add to the list.

Presently, education is under attack. We have to invest mostly our time. Time (wait) for the economy to turn around - that would be defeat that does hurt. We need to invest our time to contact our representatives in the state and federal government. We must take the time to inform friends and neighbors of consequences of an underfunded educational system. If we don't invest the time now we will lose in the future.

There is a minor victory, as reported in the California Educator. CTA along with the California School Boards Association and the Association of California Administrators obtained a preliminary injunction to halt the State Board of Education's requirement that all eighth-graders in California would have to take the Algebra I Exam.

## To RIF or not to RIF? by Bernadette Pedroza

As the March 15th deadline for Reduction In Force (RIF) notices draws near and the reality that approx. 26,000 RIF notices have already been sent statewide, we all must reflect upon the current economic situation that our state and school district finds itself in. There are many avenues that CJUSD can take. Fortunately, School Board Members took an early stand and have pledged to avoid layoffs and elimination of positions as much as possible. The School Board directed District management

to do this, as well as keeping these cuts as far away from the classroom as possible. The Association thanks the members of our School Board for its fiscal responsibility.

In desperate economic times such as these, every possible avenue for conserving money should be explored. If there must be a reduction of force, those RIFs should be proportionate throughout the rank and file, management, certificated, and classified as equally as possible. The "bumping process" should be done

fairly and in accordance with California law.

We will stand united with our unit members who receive RIF notices. The Association will continue to work to ensure that as many of the RIF notices that can be rescinded will be, and the rights of our unit members will not be ignored.

Join CJUSD employees on "Pink Thursday/Friday" as we wear pink (or red) in solidarity with our approx. 26,000 colleagues across California who will receive RIF notices.

## ELECTIONS ARE COMING! ELECTIONS ARE COMING!

No, not the special election that the Governor has called to help balance the budget!

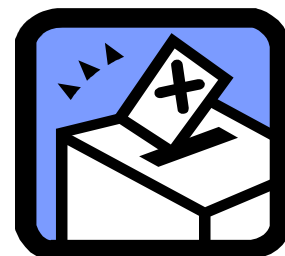
It is time for our annual ACE elections!

Have you been wondering what you can do to help out in your union?

Have you been wanting to do your part?

Do you feel a calling to do something more to make your union stronger?

**NOW IS YOUR CHANCE!**



There are a number of positions to run for this year including Treasurer, Secretary, Elementary Director, Middle School Director, High School Director and PPS Director as well as State Council Rep. There are numerous benefits including a wonderful leadership experience, an in-depth insight as to how our union functions, and a stipend. Elections will be held in April, so make sure to turn in your Declaration of Candidacy by the deadline of April 10th. Contact your site rep or the ACE office for more information.

## Retirement Dinner by Georgene Dixon

**\*SAVE THE DATE\***  
**FRIDAY, MAY 29th**

*"One hundred years from now, it will not matter what my bank account was, how big my house was, or what kind of car I drove. But the world may be a little better, because I was important in the life of a child."*

- Forest Whitcraft

### FIRST ANNUAL ACE RETIREMENT DINNER

ACE will be hosting its first gala event honoring this year's retiring teachers on May 29<sup>th</sup> at Edwards Mansion in Redlands. The evening promises to be a dazzling one complete with a scrumptious buffet, lively entertainment and a few surprises.

Our theme for this year is "Puttin' on the Glitz". Cost is \$25.00 per person. Our retirees plus one will

be guests of ACE.

So, dust off your dancing shoes and start practicing your best moves, because this will be a night of celebration and camaraderie with your peers. Your site reps will be receiving information regarding ticket sales in the near future. Remember; mark your calendars...Friday, May 29<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm. See you then!!!



## Food for Thought by Robert Lemoine

I have six children. Someone once asked me, "How do you handle so many kids?" I responded, "Caffeine and patience, lots of patience!"

I believe that this philosophy applies to our classrooms even more so. I don't know how elementary school teachers deal with 30+ students in 4-6. I don't know how high school teachers deal with 36 "big kids" in their classes. For that matter, I don't know K-3 teachers even deal with 20 "little kids."

I do know that across the board, no matter what grade you teach, patience plays an absolutely vital role when educating students. We have to have patience when teaching students who "get it" right away and are anxious to move on to the next lesson. We have to be patient when teaching students who "don't get it right away" and let repetition help. We have to be patient even when we have tried and tried to teach a student and we have not seen any

fruits of our labors. That next time you say the exact same thing for the one hundredth time, your patience might pay off and the light might go on in that student's head.

So, apply some patience to your life. Be patient in your classroom and out of your classroom. Be patient in everything. You just might find that the patience you practice so many times during the school day can give you a lot of peace outside of the classroom.

## Benefits Audit During Open Enrollment by Arlene Roper

If you haven't already received notification you will soon of the upcoming Benefits Audit. During Open Enrollment ALL employees will be asked to go to the District office and update their records. You will verify information such as birth dates and phone numbers and dependents. You will be asked to bring certain paperwork

that will not be kept by the office. An audit of this sort is being done in a lot of public and private business in order to clean up records and make sure everyone that is supposed to be covered is. In a District with over 2000 employees, mistakes happen. An audit is a thorough way of finding

those mistakes. It can also help us when our renewals come up. Representatives from ACE, CSEA, and Management have met with the Benefits office to make sure confidentiality and all concerns are addressed. If you have questions or concerns please let us know or call Risk Management.

## ACE Calendar April 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6 Exec Board	7	8	9 NEA/RA Ballots Due	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18 Community Day
19	20 Rep Council	21	22	23	24 Region 4	25 Conf
26 Irvine	27 Ballots Due	28	29	30		

## Special Events

March 30 - April 3: Spring Break

April 9: NEA/RA Ballots Due

April 10: Declaration of Candidacy for ACE general election

April 18: Community Day

April 20: Candidate Forum

April 24-26: Region 4 Leadership Conference-Irvine

April 27: General Election Ballots due

## School Board Actions

Recently, your Executive Board ACE members have been meeting with School Board members one-on-one in an attempt to have open communication and more clearly articulate any concerns that we may have as a union. Thus far, these meetings have been excellent and some very positive results have come from opening communication in this way. By meeting with individuals, we can go into more details about concerns than we can at a Board meeting. Board members overall have been very receptive and willing to meet with us and listen to our ideas and concerns. If you have any concerns that you think warrant the attention of the School Board members, please feel free to inform your Site Representative or an Executive Board member so that we can better represent you.

## 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)

## Time Change

So the time change has occurred now. By the time you are reading this, we have gone through two weeks of "more daylight." Actually, for our students, it actually means less daylight. Students are walking to school in the dark. Students are waiting for buses in the dark. Even worse, students are sleeping later and waking up later, arriving to school tardy or just deciding to not show up to school at all!

So, along with all the challenges of actually teaching students at school, as a District, we have to deal with simply getting students to school for their free education! Some of these students just need a little encouragement to come to school.

Maybe a happy face, a compliment, a smile, even a bit of food might give those students that extra motivation to come to school everyday on time. Oh, and on those morning commutes, drive safely, because you know most of those students have their earbuds in their ears.



ACE ON TASK is a publication of the Association of Colton Educators  
190 W. H St #101 Colton, CA 92324 (909) 825-0332  
[aceteach@aol.com](mailto:aceteach@aol.com)

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