



Santa Ana
Educators' Association



www.sateach.org

Vol: 2 Issue: 5, Spring 2009

Day of Action – Pink Friday

A Note from the Editor

Thank you for making Pink Friday a success! More than 600 teachers, classified, administrators, parents and students braved the early morning to bring attention to the \$11 billion budget cuts facing California's public schools, colleges, and universities. Friday, March 13 was the deadline for school districts to issue pink slips. In Santa Ana, that means 530 of our colleagues have received these notices. Statewide, more than 27,165 have received pink slips and the number is growing.



Schools with 50% or more of their staff in attendance had pizza delivered that day for lunch. Congratulations – Chavez High School, Davis Elementary, Esqueda, Franklin, Harvey, MacArthur Intermediate, Mendez High School, Monte Vista, Remington, and Segerstrom High School. Way to Go!

The day would not be complete without recognizing the following people: Jim Rogers and Mike Stone, CTA Board Members, for attending our Pink Friday rallies. Rue Chijimatsu and her team (Sherri Alger, Toniette Blackburn, Karisa Botch, Billy Castanha, Eric Dills, Paul Hatton, Amy Mateo, Nicole McEwen, Scott Miller, Margaret Schwanke, and Ronda Wun) for cutting out nearly 1500 scarves. Thank You!

Even though we made headlines on KTLA, Telemundo 52 & 22, SAP News, and the OC Register, we're not out of the woods yet. We must continue to bring awareness to the issue. We encourage you to call or write your legislator, tell your friends and family, and/or wear your pink scarf every day until this economic crisis is over.



IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
• SAEA	Tel: 1714-542-6758 Fax: 1714-558-7333
• SAUSD	Personnel: 1714-558-5792 Benefits: 1714-558-5681
• SchoolsFirst Credit Union (OCTFCU)	Information: 1714-258-4000 Teller Phone: 1714-258-4100
• OC Dept of Ed	Tel: 1714-966-4000 Fax: 1714-662-3570
• Credentialing	Tel: 1888-921-2682

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Legislation Update

Propositions

CTA recommends
a YES vote on
May 19, 2009



Recognizing that all the ballot propositions are inextricably tied together and important to begin repaying some of the billions of dollars in cuts to public schools, as well as helping to protect students, education, health care and public safety programs from even deeper budget cuts, the California Teachers Association is supporting Propositions 1A-1F in the May 19 special election. The CTA State Council of Education, the union’s top governing body comprised of more than 800 democratically elected educators from across the state, voted overwhelmingly to support all six initiatives at its quarterly meeting in Los Angeles.

“Passing these initiatives will help restore critical funding needed for our students, schools and colleges,” said David A. Sanchez, president of the 340,000-member CTA. “The repayment of some of the money cut from education will allow local school districts to restore student programs, reduce class sizes and rehire educators who have been laid off. Many of these initiatives, especially Propositions 1A and B, are dependent on each other and if they fail, the state is back to square one in trying to balance the budget and our schools could face even deeper cuts.”

Propositions 1A and 1B would work together to repay public education \$9.3 billion. Proposition 1A is intended to put the brakes on the state budget roller coaster and prevent deep cuts in bad economic years. It requires the state to direct 3 percent of general fund revenues into a rainy day fund each year until the fund reaches 12.5 percent. Part of the money from this fund would be used to begin repaying some of the money cut from public schools and community colleges. Proposition 1B establishes a repayment plan to ensure schools are repaid the \$9.3 billion they are owed under the minimum school funding law. Proposition 1C will provide \$5 billion in new revenues to help close the budget deficit without raising taxes by allowing the lottery to add new games. Propositions 1D and 1E temporarily redirect money from tobacco taxes and the Mental Health Trust Fund to pay for children’s health care and other social services over the next two years. Proposition F prohibits state legislators, the governor and other state politicians from getting pay raises whenever the state budget is running a deficit.

Get the Evaluation You Want!

By Jennifer Isensee, Grievance Chair

If you’re being evaluated this year, the second formal observation and/or optional third formal observation will be occurring in upcoming weeks. Now is the time to review your Evaluation Plan and previously agreed upon observation date(s). According to the contract, Article 5.1.3.A, *During the course of the evaluation process, circumstances may change. You and your evaluator shall agree in writing to a revised schedule.* If you need to request a different observation date, do so in writing. It is recommended you wait 5 duty days and then ask your evaluator for a response if you have not received a revised observation date.

Are any or all of the above terms and facts unfamiliar to you? If so, review the negotiated evaluation forms located in Appendix D (pages 111-115 of the 2007-08 contract.)

Be pro-active. Nothing begins a positive evaluation cycle like a pre-observation conference with your evaluator. Schedule an appointment to share your lesson plan with your evaluator. Ask if there is anything else you should include in your lesson. While this is an optional step, it allows you and your evaluator to discuss specifically what will be observed.

Ask your SAEA Site Rep for a copy of the SAEA Evaluation Checklist. This checklist has been included in the January, February and March Rep Council packets. The checklist will assist you in verifying all steps of the evaluation process have been conducted fairly and accurately following the contract.

If your evaluator has not completed an item on the checklist, indicate “no” on the checklist. Maintain a copy of the checklist and all formal observations and attachments.

The final evaluation must be completed on or before May 8, 2009. You must sign your Formal Evaluation on or before May 20, 2009. If your evaluation is below standard and you believe the steps of the evaluation process have been ignored, fax all documents to me at 558-7333 or you may place copies of all documents in the District mail to my attention. Please include your home/cell phone number and a personal e-mail address with your documents.

Being pro-active and initiating communication with your evaluator will assist you. Please contact me at jennisaea@hotmail.com if you have any questions.

Saddleback's Day of Silence

By Meg Robinson

On Friday, April 17th, many high school campuses will be commemorating the "Day of Silence", a day to use silence to bring attention to the verbal harassment and abuse that many of our gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender students face everyday. This movement began at the University of Virginia in 1996 with a mere 150 participants. In 2004, over 3,100 high schools participated. Last year, the Gay Straight Alliance at Saddleback High School spearheaded the effort in SAUSD. Over 50 students participated and showed their support for their fellow students. Saddleback hopes to double those participating this year. Students will also carry black balloons in support of those exposed to harassment.

Participants take a vow of silence for the day and wear or distribute "speaking cards" about anti-gay bias and ways for students to "break the silence" against anti-gay harassment. Saddleback will also incorporate anti-bullying and other kinds of verbal abuse.

This year's Day of Silence is dedicated to the memory of Lawrence King, the junior high student in Ventura County who was gunned down in the classroom by a classmate because he was gay. If you want more information, the web site for the Day of Silence is: <http://www.dayofsilence.org>.

Retiring? Join CTA-Retired Now!

CTA/NEA-Retired is a strong voice for education retirees in state and local policymaking. The organization works hard to protect and maintain your benefits:

- Working to repeal the unfair Government Pension Offset (GPO) and Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP)
- Opposing efforts to privatize Social Security
- Working to strengthen Medicare
- Advocating for Defined Benefit Pension Plans
- Protect and enhance State Teachers pension plans that come under attack

CTA/NEA-Retired devotes 100% of its time and resources to serve the combined interests of retired teachers, educators, college & university professors and educational support personnel. Retired members elect delegates from each region of the state to represent retirees' special needs on CTA's governing body, the State Council of Education. Retired members may also form local chapters, drawing members from a CTA chapter, UniServ or Service Center Council area. CTA/NEA-Retired is an active affiliate of NEA-Retired, and sends delegates to the annual NEA Representative Assembly each summer. Membership in CTA/NEA-Retired is unified, that is, when joining you will join both CTA/NEA-Retired and NEA-Retired. Log onto www.cta.org or call for instructions on how to join. Don't let your benefits end with retirement!

Earth Day – April 22, 2009

It's more than a trend – school greening is quickly becoming the method of choice for improving both the school learning environment and the community's environmental health. As you prepare for the Earth Day, consider what you can do to "go green":

- 🌱 According to the EPA, 75% of the electricity used to power electronics is consumed when they are turned off. Have your class take turns being a weekly "energy monitor," making sure electronics are off and unplugged when not in use.
- 🌱 Start a recycling program at your site. Place a trashcan in your office or classroom to collect aluminum cans. Place a large receptacle near the copy machine to recycle copy paper and worksheets that you don't want to save.
- 🌱 Have your students live healthier lifestyles while helping the environment by organizing a "walking bus," a group of students who walk to school under the supervision of an adult.
- 🌱 Show your students how to pack a waste-free lunch for school using reusable containers (not juice boxes, plastic water bottles, or paper bags) and a cloth napkin. Don't waste food by packing more than you can eat!
- 🌱 Make a class project of measuring how much junk mail the school receives, and then contacting companies to remove the school from their mailing lists. Then measure again and see how much paper is being saved.
- 🌱 Talk to your school bus driver about reducing school bus idling. It increases particulates that are bad for children and wastes energy.
- 🌱 Don't print your email. Organize your email account by creating folders and file away your email. It's safe and waiting for you out there in cyberspace. You'll save trees and time.

Godinez Students Enter Art Contest

Students under the artistic direction of Helen Seigel, Visual Arts Teacher at Godinez, entered the 37th annual *Color It Orange Art Exhibit* recently in Laguna Beach. It was held at the Laguna College of Art & Design. Each year, approximately 6,000 pieces from public and private schools throughout Orange County are submitted with about 600 pieces juried into the exhibit. Nine pieces from Godinez Fundamental High School were included in the exhibit. Two of these received "Honorable Mention" recognition. Godinez students who had works exhibited this

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UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

“Teachers Managing Stress & Preventing Burnout”

April 16, 2009 3:30-5:30PM (Elementary)

April 23, 2009 3:30-5:30PM (Secondary)

SAEA Office

2107 N. Broadway, #305, Santa Ana

“Burnout” and “stress” are words well known to teachers. The educational reform movement has been slow to respond to the growing disillusionment among teachers. Dr. Yvonne Gold is a licensed psychotherapist and professor in the Teacher Education Department at CSULB. Dr. Gold has assisted hundreds of teachers around the world in dealing with the demands of the profession and everyday living. Buy Back Hours available with prior administrator approval. Please RSVP at 714-542-6758.

Change in the Workplace:

Moving Forward

May 6, 2009 4:00-5:00PM

SAEA Office

2107 N. Broadway, #305, Santa Ana

Learn to explore what a lay-off means to you; identify typical mental emotional and physical reactions; determine how to support each other; and identify coping strategies. Buy Back Hours available with prior administrator approval. Please RSVP at 714-542-6758.

Change in the Workplace: Respect & Positive Interaction in the Workplace

May 14, 2009 3:30-5:30PM

SAEA Office

2107 N. Broadway, #305, Santa Ana

Co-workers who demonstrate integrity and respect in their interactions help cultivate a positive and successful working environment. This program will introduce communication skills and other behaviors that promote respectful, open ways of relating, settling differences and working effectively as a team. Buy Back Hours available with prior administrator approval. Please RSVP at 714-542-6758.

OPEN Enrollment for FLEX 125 Medical Savings Account May/June, 2009

Please start thinking about setting aside time for enrolling in the FLEX 125 Medical Savings Account. If you are currently enrolled, you will need to re-enroll for the 2009/10 school year.

Godinez Art Exhibit (Continued):

Marlyne Guerrero (9th grade), Honorable Mention; Emmanuel Jimenez (11th grade), Honorable Mention; Pablo Campos (9th grade); Ruddy Castro (10th grade); Milagro Correas (9th grade); Luis Giles (11th grade); Luis Lopez (11th grade); Josie Ramirez (9th grade); and Andres Zapata (11th grade).

At the reception on Sunday, March 15, eight of the nine Godinez art students attended with their proud families. What a fantastic turnout!

An additional student, Arturo Barradas, volunteered to come to the reception and take photographs of the students beside their work, along with their families and art teacher. Great Job !



School Dates	2008/09
Spring Break	April 6-12, 2009
Memorial Day	May 25, 2009
Last Day of School	June 18, 2009
Final Duty Day	June 19, 2009

SAEA Board of Directors	(4PM)
	April 14
	May 12
	June 9

SAEA Rep Council Dates	(4PM)
	April 28
	May 26

Newsletter Dates	2008/09
<u>Publish</u>	<u>Submission Deadline</u>
June 8	June 1, 2009
September 4	August 28, 2009
November 6	October 30, 2009

Does SAEA have your UPDATED:	
Email Address?	Don't Miss Out!
Home Address?	Contact SAEA with
Phone Number?	your current INFO!
School Site?	

