



Volume 21 No. 5

December, 2010

## Important

### Notice:

The MVEA Office will be closed December 20-December 31 for Winter Break. Regular office hours will resume on January 3, 2011

### Inside this issue:

December Pay	1
Important Dates	2
Educator of the Month	2



## State Budget Affects MVUSD

If you get your December pay check in December, you will be paid on Dec. 29<sup>th</sup> rather than on the last work day of December. The District came to MVEA with this request because of the delays in the payment of the allocations the state owes to the District. MVEA agreed with this change for this year only to ensure that there would be sufficient cash for the District to make payroll each month during the year.

Once again, state revenues have not met the projections included in the budget adopted by the legislature last September, only 2½ months ago. The Legislative Analyst Office (LAO) has announced that the state has a projected \$25 billion deficit, \$6 billion for 2010-11, and \$19 billion for 2011-12. This may jeopardize the adopted state budget which had restored \$250 per ADA for public education. In Moreno Valley Unified, the amount that was restored is approximately \$8.7 million. Nothing is changed as of now. The legislature will be meeting in December, and the January Preliminary State Budget will come out in mid-January. These two events may shed some light on whether the budget will hold or districts will again be scrambling to make cuts because the state made mid-year cuts. Your bargaining team continues to assess the state financial situation as it relates to MVUSD revenues and expenditures and budget cut (furlough) days, benefit costs and other issues that are being considered at the bargaining table.

## SEASON'S GREETINGS!



*Our best to you and yours.*

*Have a restful winter break and a prosperous New Year.*



*Janet MacMillan    Connie Pruett    Harold Acord*

*Ann Adler    Tom Weir    Peggy Murphy*

*Anne Prows    Cathy Fulgenzi    Mike Sorter*

*Danny Alvarez    Sharon Orme    Susan Cook*

*Juanita Quiroz    Omar Tinoco    Jose Alcala*



The **MVEAdvocate** is published by the Moreno Valley Educators Association. MVEA is associated with the California Teachers Association (CTA) and the National Educators Association (NEA).

MVEA is a member of the National Council of Urban Educators. Locally, MVEA is a member of the Moreno Valley Chamber of Commerce and the Moreno Valley Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. All unsigned articles reflect the official position of MVEA.



## Important Dates:

**December 20th– January 7th :** Winter Recess

**January 10th:** Return to School

**January 12th:** MVEA Exec Board, 4PM (MVEA Office)

**January 12 & 13 :** Special Executive Board Election

**January 17th:** Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day (**No School**)

**January 19th:** MVEA Rep. Council, 4PM (MV Conference Center)

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### MVEA Executive Board

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<b>NEA Board Rep. District 11</b>	Katherine Underwood

## MVEA Educator of the Month: Mary Arnold-Welch

Mary Arnold-Welch was recommended by her colleagues to be honored by the Moreno Valley Chamber of Commerce as the Educator of the Month. Mary chose teaching as a career when she was 6 and is still satisfied with her choice after a career that began in Texas and includes 22 years at Moreno Elementary School. She knows curriculum well and employs varied teaching strategies so that her students master what she teaches. They say that when they get stuck on something, she helps and shows that she is proud of them when they get it. They say that she listens to them and encourages them. Her principal, Jeff Jones, says she is a great teacher.

Mary has learned from her own experiences and from her students that learning involves more than just what happens in the classroom. Motivation and relevance are important. The Press Enterprise noted Mary's innovative and captivating strategies when she incorporated a lesson on Mardi Gras into the core curriculum. Mary has been instrumental in ensuring that students from Moreno take field trips to fairs so students can experience animal life in a hands-on, up close way. She has also spearheaded the school garden to give students the experience of planting and caring for flowers and vegetables. There is no money in the site budget for such activities so Mary has become a successful grant writer.

Mary has embraced the Professional Learning Community concept in which teachers learn from one another. Mary teaches other teachers. When Houghton Mifflin was the new reading program, she developed a PowerPoint to show others how to implement the program. She has presented this information at her site, district wide and at conferences. She worked with her colleagues on the Read 1 Million Pages and Read 2 Million Pages programs which built comprehension skills by providing students a fun reason to read and also earned the school two \$5,000 awards from the governor. She involved the Moreno staff in the Mustang Writers program so that now over half the students score at the proficient level on the state tests. When these programs were well established and successful, Mary moved on to working on a pyramid of interventions so that students received the extra help they needed as soon as they experienced difficulty with a concept.

Mary has been involved with leadership activities at all levels at Moreno from serving on the leadership team, to chairing the School Site Council, to filling in for the principal when he is away from the site. The students have always remained her focus in approaching these responsibilities.

Mary spends her free time with her family raising dogs, gardening, reading and taking road trips.

Congratulations Mary Arnold-Welch, a teacher who always does whatever it takes for the students at Moreno Elementary to be successful!