

# MVEA Advocate

*The Official Publication of the Moreno Valley Educators Association*

## MVEA: Working Together!

By Janet MacMillan, MVEA President

*The* state budget does not look good. MVEA is doing all it can to assure that whatever happens, the members know the good, the bad and the ugly about it. Most importantly, updated news will come to you through the Advocate, Bargaining Updates and In Betweens, as well as on the MVEA website - MVEAinfo.com. Please take the time to read these documents.

MVEA and the District will be back at the bargaining table this month. These will be difficult negotiations. During the past few months, MVEA has focused on involving members in the decision-making process through conversations and surveys as the negotiation process begins. Members' responses to surveys have helped to formulate the direction given to the Negotiations Team.

It is important that our message remain consistent.



When administrators ask you if you need new equipment, supplies or textbooks, there are questions that need to be asked. Among them:

- How much does the program, equipment or supply cost?
- Does the expenditure have an impact on the General budget?
- Could it result in a loss of positions and an increase in class size?

No new programs, textbooks or supplies should be purchased until the answer to these questions is "No."

The members of the MVEA committees working on budget committees and the Negotiations Team have spent hours of their own time analyzing the budget and preparing for negotiations. They are Harold Acord, Ann Adler, Erika Garcia, Jay Hannah, Judy Hynamen, Janet MacMillan, Connie Pruett, Roseanne Reynolds and Katherine Underwood.

Together we can be successful in protecting members' rights and providing a quality education for our students.

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We're on the web!  
MVEAinfo.com

# Desperate Times Call For Desperate Measures...

By Ann Adler, CTA Executive Director

*The* Association and the District met on February 18, 2010 to discuss/negotiate a SERP (Supplemental Employee Retirement Incentive). Yes, this is the second time in two years. No, an entity does not usually do this two times in a row. Will there be one next year-NO! Why do it?! First, it could save jobs for our newer employees. Second, it is still a savings as long as it is only our unit.

These truly are desperate times... The District is predicting a \$16 million deficit if the Governor's proposal is adopted. The Legislature is hashing that out now. But for how long? Supposedly until February 22, but in truth, and based on their past actions, it could be much longer.

Yes, these are desperate times... The District is using the "worst case scenario" to predict its deficit. Understandable from a business perspective, but what about the human element? The number that the District is using for the "hit" to their revenue limit is not even agreed to by the fiscal entities that assist with budgets. School Services, a management consulting firm that trains on the budget says the "hit" is \$201/ADA. CTA and the Department of Finance are saying the same thing. CASBO, the California Association of School Business Officials, is recommending that districts use whichever figure is more comfortable to their way of budgeting. That way a district can move the number up or down as more is known. The Riverside County Office of Education (RCOE) who monitors budgets has told districts to use the \$250 amount. The \$201 figure per ADA is a loss of more than \$6 million and the \$250 figure per ADA would be a loss of more than \$8 million to MVUSD. As you can see that could make a \$2 million difference to jobs, programs, and working conditions! One thing I should mention...In the Governor's proposal, this "hit" is for **administrative costs**, the money that it costs to administer programs.

There are some other concerns about the District's picture of the deficit. They are using 0% COLAs as recommended by CASBO and the County for 2010-11 and 2011-12 to make their 3 year projections. School Services recommends 1.8% for 2010-11 and 3.4% for 2011-12. This makes a difference in the final outcome and on paper; the District would have a positive budget certification if it used the higher COLAs. In truth, no one knows what the future COLAs will really be at this point in time.

There are also revenue increasing possibilities that are not in the District's assumptions. Some exam-

ples include enrollment which is up. If the enrollment stays constant through April when the District makes its report, it could generate a minimum of \$500,000 not expected for this year. The District's assumptions also do not include the State Stabilization Funds that CTA tells us are coming. The expectation is that Moreno Valley should receive approximately \$1.2 million from this source. Another way to generate revenue is not to expand programs. The MVUSD Board has not yet acted upon the Education Services proposed plan. MVEA would encourage that we not add to the deficit by expanding programs at this time. The cost will be more jobs or out of pocket payments such as salaries, budget cut (furlough) days and benefits. No matter what the final outcome, the news is grim, and **there will have to be more reductions**. After cutting \$62 million in the last 2 years, there is little to trim. The choices will come down to people (jobs), programs, and out of pocket (salaries, furloughs, etc.) costs.

Still, your Association is searching for all options. That is why we are looking at a second SERP with the District. That is why we are scrutinizing the budget and asking questions. That is why we are using all of our resources to make sure we have as clear a picture as possible of the State Budget proposal and District-projected expenditures. That is why your Association is surveying you on the hard questions. As of February 10, 2010, the District claimed it has not decided about layoffs and class size, but you can see that these are desperate times and the reductions will hurt. What can you do?

1. Encourage all students to be in class. The better the attendance is, the more money the District receives from the state. Design an Attendance incentive program at your site.
2. As employees, consider your absences, as well. Every time the District hires subs, it costs extra money. There is a District study that shows we could all do a better job of being at work unless we are truly sick (higher absence rates on Fridays and Mondays). All this adds to the expenditures by the District in a time when every penny counts.
3. Fill out your MVEA survey. Your team will do all it can to avoid cuts that hurt our unit, but if concessions are inevitable, MVEA needs to know to what our members will agree in order to keep the District solvent.

**Desperate times call for desperate measures. That says it all!**

# Student Absenteeism

By Kathy Parrish, MVEA Co-Director of Elementary

*As we* roll into March, I am sure you are all looking forward to making the most of your Spring Break before returning to school and starting California State Testing "crunch time." One of the issues we deal with on a daily/ weekly basis is student absenteeism. Although the District claims we have a 95% attendance rate, I am sure there are many of you dealing with this issue, as I am this year. Here are some great ideas from fellow teachers that may inspire your students to get to school:

- Spelling out phrases such as... "Perfect Attendance", "We Love Donuts", "Attendance Equals Achievement" then rewarding classes with parties of snow cones, popcorn, donuts...
- Classes being rewarded monthly with a roving attendance trophy and a new playground ball...



- Horace Mann has been coming around to schools and those students with 100% attendance for the Trimester have their name placed in a drawing for a free bicycle...
- Daily attendance raffle ticket with a weekly or monthly drawing for a reward...

I encourage you talk to your Principal, ELAC parents, PTA/PTO and even SSC for suggestions and donations. Food Services offers individual pizza lunches that you can pre-order. The pizza comes in a special box and there is typically a special dessert. This is especially helpful with students who qualify for free/ reduced lunch. Perhaps their peers will be motivated seeing them receive a special lunch...who knows, it might even be contagious!

Have a restful Spring Break and please contact me if you have questions, concerns or ideas for upcoming articles or events.

# Contract Training a Great Deal!

By Connie Pruett, MVEA Vice-President

*MVEA offered* a Contract Training to members after the Rep Council meeting in February. A "Round Robin" format was used to train members as well as Reps on the Contract language concerning the topics of Class Size, Evaluations, Grievances, Public Complaints, and Transfers. A Chinese dinner was served since the training went from 6:00 - 7:45 p.m.

Members of the MVEA Executive Board that were present were Harold Acord, Jose Alcala, Patricia Gomez, Janet MacMillan,

Peggy Murphy, Connie Pruett, Mike Sorter and our CTA Executive Director Ann Adler. Our thanks go out to all of those who stayed, or came, to learn more about our rights under our

Collective Bargaining Agreement. Another training will be held later this Spring.



# Let Your Voice Be Heard

By Patricia Gomez, MVEA Co-Director of Elementary

*As some* of you may know, the Collective Bargaining Team has already been hard at work for several weeks now trying to negotiate with the district as fairly and reasonably as possible. However, the Bargaining Support Committee is asking for more help in order to better represent all members. Some of you might be asking, "What can I do to help?" Well, the answer is - Be involved!

Many have already participated in focus group questions, responded to surveys, and sent emails with questions to MVEA Executive Board members and/or MVEA Union Reps. As we continue the negotiating process, it is imperative that we be as clear as possible with our messages. Be concise and specific with your administrators as to what your concerns are, what are the necessary tools you need in order to effectively teach, give ideas on where we can make further cuts, and so forth. We need ALL MVEA members from ALL sites to participate. By making your voice be heard, you will have given the bargaining team a clearer picture of what exactly to negotiate and what items to stand strong on.

With that said, here are some additional ways in which you can make a bigger difference. As a member of the Bargaining Support Committee, our team, as well as the Executive Board, urges you to be more involved during these critical times. On a local level, we ask that you attend School Board meetings at the District in groups,

spread the word even more amongst your school's community, regularly attend your site's union meetings, join any MVEA rallies, marches, or whole group meetings that may come up, fill out surveys or questionnaires that we may send out, and so on. On a broader spectrum - email or send letters to the Governor and state representatives, or even the President. Talk to family and friends about what is really going on. When sharing with people, provide them with first hand experiences as to how these cuts have directly affected your school, your classroom and your students. Explain to others how further cuts will only cause more of a detriment to our innocent students. Also, provide them with methods that will help the cause. Let us all be a part of the solution, because we cannot afford not to.

If we look back at last year, just remember how powerful it felt when so many of us over-filled the MVUSD Board room many a time or when we rallied for pink-slipped teachers. We need power in numbers. The public needs to see the faces of those that are being affected by the crisis. Otherwise, we become a figment of the imagination, instead of a reality of the real world.

**Make a difference...Be involved...  
Take a Stand...Be Heard!**

*"Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country."*

## Bargaining Update

By Harold Acord, MVEA Director of Contract Maintenance

# Read Across America Day—March 2nd

By Sharon Orme, MVEA Director of Instruction and Professional Development

*Tuesday*, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2010, will be “Read Across America” Day. “Read Across America” is a national day celebrating reading in honor of the birthday of Dr. Seuss. It's sponsored by the National Education Association and the California Teachers Association along with many of the country's leading literacy and youth groups to motivate children to read and generate new enthusiasm for reading.



Teachers and students all across the United States are going to participate in some kind of reading activity for students. Here in Moreno Valley, for the past several years we have

had High School and Middle School students walk to nearby Elementary sites and read to the students. Some schools have taken part in activities within their sites with upper grade students reading to the primary students. This year, com-

munity organizations are getting involved. At Edgemont Elementary, Altura Credit Union has planned to join in on the activities at that site. Whatever you are planning, I hope that an enjoyable day is had by everyone!

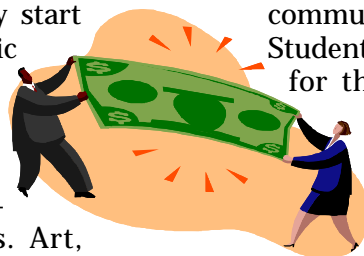
## Did you know?

- How the Grinch Stole Christmas evolved from a poem wrote in 1955 titled, “A Prayer for a Child.” Dr. Seuss wanted to put into words the true meaning of the holiday, a message about coming together as a community - not just giving gifts. This thought eventually developed into the picture book.
- Geisel (Dr. Seuss) says his greatest work was not one of his books; it was the Lion Wading Pool at the Wild Animal Park near San Diego. He donated it in 1973.
- Geisel never learned how to use a computer. He thought that CD-ROMs could be used to supplement reading and teaching, but he did not know how they worked. In 1994, four years after his death, Living Books began producing CD-ROMs of Dr. Seuss books.

# Start the Day for Students—March 4th

*March 4* 2010, will be a Statewide Day of Action for California's Students. Join your fellow staff members and District personnel as they start the day by making the public more aware of our students' plight.

In the last two years, \$17 billion was cut from California's schools and colleges. Art, music and PE programs were eliminated and more than 16,000 educators were laid off. And large California corporations enjoyed tax breaks. This year, in the wake of all these cuts, our students and schools are being threatened again. We can't let that happen.



We need your help in this urgent effort to speak out about the painful effects that budget cuts are having on our students, schools and communities. On March 4<sup>th</sup>, “Start the Day for Students” and be a part of the campaign to fight for the resources our students deserve. We must reform the state's tax structure and repeal the tax breaks handed out to large corporations. It's time everyone paid their fair share.

MVEA and your site reps will let you know how you can help at your site. We all know that education is essential to building a better California. Working together, we can make sure our students get the resources they need to succeed!

# CTA State Council/NEA Board of Directors Report

By Katherine Underwood, CTA State Council Rep to the Board

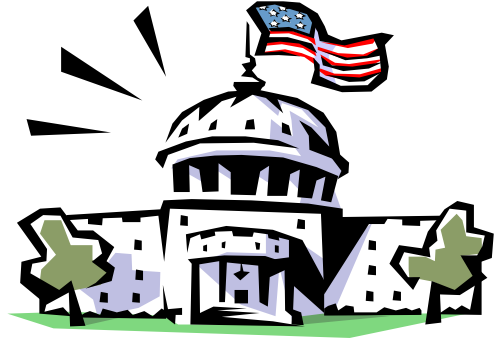
*At the* January California Teachers Association (CTA) State Council meeting, action was taken to support the following initiatives: **The Repeal Corporate Tax Loopholes Act** and **The Corporate Political Accountability Act**. Additionally, action was taken to oppose the following initiatives: **The Public Employee Paycheck Protection Act**, **The Public Employee Payroll Deduction Act**, and **The New Employees Benefits Reform Act**. All five initiatives are

presently in circulation. The first two would repeal corporate tax breaks passed by the Legislature in last year's budget agreement and require corporate executives to get stockholder approval before spending money on politics. State Council took action to oppose the "paycheck deception" measures called the Public Employee Paycheck Protection Act and the Public Employee Payroll Deduction Act for again trying to silence the voices of union

members – measures that California voters have already rejected twice, in 2005 and 1998. CTA also opposes the New Public Employees Benefits Reform Act for its attacks on the secure retirements of teachers, firefighters, police officers and other public employees, which will make it harder to recruit and retain quality educators in our schools.

For those who live in the 44<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, members of State Council are recommending Bill Hedrick for election to this congressional district. Bill is an educator who has shown strong support for the members of CTA as President of Rialto Teachers Association and a member of the Corona-Norco School Board.

Your CTA State Council representatives are: Harold Acord, Janet MacMillan, Connie Pruett, and Katherine Underwood.



Due to the snowstorms in Washington D. C., the National Education Association (NEA) Board meeting for February 11-13, 2010 was canceled. In place of the meeting the NEA Board conducted a conference call/webcast on February 13, 2010. The Board only discussed and voted on Action Items that could not be postponed until the April/May 2010 Board meeting. The actions included confirming the NEA dues amount for 2010-11 and set dates for the Board meetings for the years from 2012-2018. The Board also voted to accept the report of the committee that presented a Tiered Dues proposal without accepting the recommendations.

NEA is asking CTA members to participate in a survey about the impact of the Social Security provisions called Government Windfall Provision (GPO) and Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP). The GPO/WEP impacts those who earned money that was covered under Social Security and also participate in a state retirement system such as STRS. Your Site Representative was sent an e-mail with the link to the survey, which is included here: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/GQ76GHB>.

CTA and NEA are urging everyone in education to get involved in getting the word out about the importance of **Census 2010**. An accurate count is important to make sure the California gets its share of the Federal dollars. The census also establishes the number of congressional districts within a state. For lesson plans regarding the Census, go to [www.census.gov/schools](http://www.census.gov/schools) and click on the "Teachers" tab.

If you have any questions you can contact me at [kunderwood@mveainfo.com](mailto:kunderwood@mveainfo.com).

# Educator of the Month: Kim Jackson-Williams

By Janet MacMillan, MVEA President

*Kim* Jackson-Williams was honored as MVEA's January Educator of the month by the Moreno Valley Chamber of Commerce. She has a teaching and a counseling credential and for the past eleven years she has taught language arts and social studies to 6<sup>th</sup> graders at Vista Heights Middle School. She combines her proficiency at delivering the curriculum with her solid knowledge of what the middle school

and her students developed the "Extreme Commitment to Living Drug Free" as the theme for Red Ribbon week. The entire week focused on extreme sports. Skaters and BMX riders came out during lunch to demonstrate their talents. This was definitely an approach that would capture the attention of middle school students.

Kim provides her students with opportunities to give back to the community. During December, her Club Live organized the "Fill a Basket" project. Homerooms collected items to fill holiday baskets for struggling local families. Their "Pennies for Pasta" activity raised \$5,240 for the Leukemia/Lymphoma society. Vista Height's Club Live won the "Rookie of the Year" recognition for that achievement. Her students are just as involved with raising funds for relief in Haiti.

Kim's colleagues say that she is talented and energetic. Her principal, Mark Hasson, reports that she represents everything that is good about the teaching profession.

Kim has a life away from school. She spends her free time going to movies with her family and she makes tie blankets for the Riverside County Medical Center located in Moreno Valley.

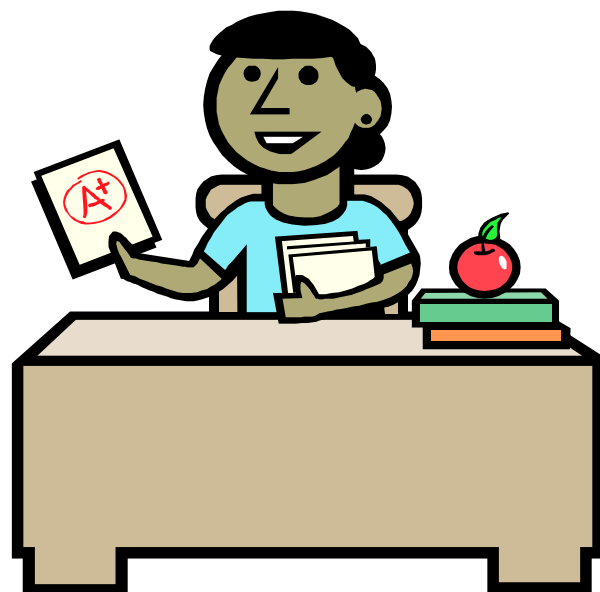
Congratulations to Kim Jackson-Williams, a teacher who makes a difference at Vista Heights Middle School and in the city of Moreno Valley!



students are like from a social emotion perspective. The District has recognized her expertise and assigned her as a mentor to new teachers. She is successful at this because of her humble attitude that leads new teachers to believe they are teaching her just as much as they are learning from her.

Kim teaches, and her students learn, all the curriculum required for them to master the 6<sup>th</sup> grade standards. Her students work hard. But Kim knows that middle school students really want to have fun. She extends herself beyond the classroom to provide all students at Vista Heights with opportunities to socialize and learn about community interactions.

Kim is the advisor for Club Live. The purpose of the program is to get students involved in promoting a drug free life style. At Vista Heights, Kim



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*Moreno Valley Educators Association is an organization of professionals which serves as a powerful **voice** communicating the needs of Educators and students to the district, parents, and community in order to establish a **positive** school environment and build **quality educational programs**. The Association will continue to **protect the rights** of Educators, and thereby students, **by promoting equity and human rights**.*








***Important Dates:***

- **March 2** Read Across America-Dr. Seuss Day
- **March 3** Executive Board meeting @ 4:00
- **March 4** Start the Day for Students
- **March 9** School Board meeting @ 7:00
- **March 10** Rep. Council meeting @ 4:00
- **March 22—April 2** Spring Recess



**March 2010**



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2  <i>Dr. Seuss Day</i>	3  <i>Exec. Board</i>	4  <i>Start for Students</i>	5	6
7	8	9  <i>School Board</i>	10  <i>Rep Council</i>	11	12	13
14  <i>Spring Forward!</i>	15	16	17  <i>St. Patrick's</i>	18	19	20 <i>Spring Recess</i>
21 <i>Spring Recess</i>	22 <i>Spring Recess</i>	23 <i>Spring Recess</i>	24 <i>Spring Recess</i>	25 <i>Spring Recess</i>	26 <i>Spring Recess</i>	27 <i>Spring Recess</i>
28 <i>Spring Recess</i>	29 <i>Spring Recess</i>	30 <i>Spring Recess</i>	31 <i>Spring Recess</i>	<i>Spring Recess</i>	<i>Spring Recess</i>	<i>Spring Recess</i>

**MVEA Executive Board:**

<b>President</b>	Janet MacMillan	<b>Co-Director of Elementary</b>	Patricia Gómez
<b>Vice-President</b>	Connie Pruett	<b>Co-Director of Elementary</b>	Kathy Parrish
<b>Secretary</b>	Peggy Murphy	<b>Director of Middle School</b>	Mike Sorter
<b>Treasurer</b>	Tom Weir	<b>Director of High School</b>	Juanita Quiroz
<b>Executive Director</b>	Ann Adler	<b>CTA State Council Rep. to the Board</b>	Katherine Underwood
<b>Director of Contract Maintenance</b>	Harold Acord	<b>CTA State Council Members</b>	Harold Acord, Janet MacMillan, Connie Pruett, Katherine Underwood
<b>Director of Communication</b>	Cathy Fulgenzi	<b>CTA Board Rep. District O</b>	Mikki Cichocki
<b>Director of Human Rights</b>	Danny Alvarez	<b>NEA Director District 11</b>	Katherine Underwood
<b>Director of Instruction &amp; Prof. Dev.</b>	Sharon Orme		
<b>Director of Member Services</b>	José Alcalá		
<b>Director of Political Action</b>	Anne Prows		