

# MVEA Advocate

The Official Publication of the Moreno Valley Educators Association

## A Time for Thanks!

By Janet MacMillan, MVEA President

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*Thanks* to all of you who participated in MVEA's campaign to elect education friendly candidates to our MVUSD School Board. Two of our recommended candidates won seats, incumbent Jesus Holguin and "CJ" Johnson. Two incumbents were defeated, and our third candidate, Oscar Valdepeña, came in fourth. The campaign was time consuming and expensive, but your MVEA leadership is confident that the Board will be open to learning about issues under consideration from the perspective of the educators who work with students every day. So, whether you wrote postcards, made phone calls, helped with signs, or walked precincts, we want to express our deepest thanks to you and recognize you individually:



Ann Adler, Nancy Albee, Barbara Alford, Danny Alvarez, Kathleen Ayala, Veronica Alzaga, Joyce Arnold, Mary Ann Aufderheide, Theresa Buggage, Carrie Calderama, Judy Ball, Jackie Banks, Katie Berry, Lisa Battle, Robert Bell, Suzanne Berkey, Desiree Blackstone, Richard Bright, Angela Briz-Garcia, Matthew Brooks, Amy Byrd, Rosalia Camarillo, Christine Campbell, Darcel Cannady-Jamerson, Jamie Cardiff, Theresa Carson, Denise Gonzalez Chavez, Lonnie Coffey, Kris Cole, Mary Cole, Richard Collins, Susan Cook, Jennifer Covington, Debra Craig, Marge Dahl, Amy Dargitz, Randy Dargitz, Jan DeFilippo, Kati Diaz, Marsha Edmonds, Angela Elsmore, Sandra Enriquez, Chris Farias, Stacey Fazio, Alfonso Ferrer, Michelle Feld, Claudia Flamenco, Cathy Fulgenzi, Pat Fulgenzi, Amy Fryer, Gregory Ganz, Teri Hilker, Erica Garcia Ochoa, Lisa Garcia, Heather Gardner, Toni Gardner, Craig Givens, Patricia Gomez, Leslie Gordon, Ruben Goussen, Ileana Gutierrez, Jose Gutierrez, Cathy Hahn, James Hassett, Edwina Hauk, Judy Haynes, Deanna Hendricksen, Rosie Hernandez, Nancy Hill, Elizabeth Holguin, Jesus Holguin, Patricia Holguin, Kristy Horn, Amber Humphreys, Shamish Irving, LaDonna Jempson, Elizabeth Jenkins-Mulder, Bernice Johnson, Cleveland Johnson, Fred Jorgensen, Maria Kobayashi, Setsuko Kobayashi, John Liederbach-Vega, Lisa Lopez, Pete Loza, John Lumian, Janet MacMillan, Jim MacMillan, Jean Mahar, Mike Mandelbaum, Susan Mares, Cynthia Marin, Jon Mauren, Jill McCarthy, Paulette McDole, Lucy McKechnie, Maureen McNair, Eulaine Melanson, Ginny Mellen, Sharon Mendonsa, Almario Mendoza, Gina Mills, Dawn Morrison, Mike Morrison, Erica Ness, Sergio Noriega, Eileen O'Brien, Sharon Orme, Nora Ortiz, Karen Ott, Alison Pelletier-Feekin, Martha Peyton, Susan Prady, Anne Prows, Linda Prows, Sue Prows, Connie Pruett, Jean Marie Puailihau, Sonia Quinn, Juanita Quiroz, Emiliano Quiroz, Eligio Rangel, Marissa Rangel, Judy Richards, Amparo Rodriguez, Tisa Rodriguez, Debie Rosa, Isaac Saucedo, Rick Sayre, Ruth Ellen Schmutz, Beverly Scott, Yesenia Serrano, Bruce Smith, Rhonda Smith, Thuy Nga Smith, Tracey Snell, Mike Sorter, Mary Stafford, Wendy Stieg, Kim Swanson, Mona Talamantes, Sylvia Taylor, Omar Tinoco, Talisha Tolliver, Paula Torres, Diane Tudge, Katherine Underwood, Tracey Vackar, Oscar Valdepeña, Rebecca Varela, Carol Von Mizener, Felicia Ward, Kristen Warner, Tom Weir, Denise Westhoff, Sharon Westoff, Tim Whitton, Linda Williams, Kim York, Carol Young, Tom Zambrana, and John Zorn.

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We're on the web!  
[MVEAinfo.com](http://MVEAinfo.com)

# An Agreement is Like a Puzzle

## Each Piece Must Fit in a Way that Contributes to the Whole

The 2nd in a series... By Ann Adler, CTA Executive Director

*The* current Contract does not expire until June 30, 2011. Ideally, before that, MVEA would agree to new working conditions. These conditions would reflect the impact of the State Budget, the Federal Ed Jobs bill money, and the fiscal reality of the economy. Members are the ones who ratify any tentative agreement for MVEA, and the School Board members ratify for the District. MVEA continues to bargain in good faith with the District and vice versa, despite the swirling fiscal conditions around us and in reaction to those same conditions.

Last spring, it looked like we would have to take many budget cut days (furlough days) as a result of the pending loss of \$250/Average Daily Attendance (ADA). Now, there is \$6 million of ONE TIME money from the Federal Government: the Ed Jobs Bill. One-time money is usually not used for ongoing costs because it is temporary. In this case, if the money is used to bring people back, it would be short term. The money can also be used to offset budget cut days and/or help pay for benefits costs.

According to the October 8, 2010 adopted State Budget, the District will now not experience the loss of \$250/ADA. This places \$8.7 million more of ongoing funds in the District's budget. That is the good news. The bad news is much of this will be deferred until July even though it is booked in the 10-11 District budget. The worse news is that the State Budget is built on what the Legislative Analyst's Office believes is inflated revenue projections and the hope that the Federal Government will contribute \$5 billion to California's fiscal woes. Let's hope these two things happen.

Remember too that the District has been forced to reduce its budget to bare bones over the last several years (cut more than \$62 million) so even with the new monies; there are issues just to maintain an educational program and pay for anticipated expenses. Enrollment is down this year and the loss of anticipated revenue (over \$1 million) due to fewer students, must be reflected in the 3-year projections.

Add in benefits: the District is "upside down," meaning the costs of benefits are more than the revenue placed in that account from the General Fund. In order to deal with this, the Benefits Committee has changed the plan to minimize costs as much as possible, and the District has borrowed \$5.5 million internally to pay for benefits. This is a very real problem.

### Health & Welfare Expenditure Trends

	Year 1 2006-7	Year 2 2007-8	Year 3 2008-9	Year 4 2009-10	(Projected) Year 5 2010-11
Interest	35,987	84,286	28,550	13,680	<b>4,707</b>
Income	12,734,577	13,915,584	16,097,500	18,462,721	<b>18,752,566</b>
Total Income	12,770,564	13,999,869	16,126,050	18,476,401	<b>18,757,270</b>
Expenditures	(10,802,335)	(14,585,138)	(17,112,319)	(21,579,328)	<b>(19,614,375)</b>
Surplus (Deficit)	1,968,229	(585,268)	(986,269)	(3,102,927)	<b>(857,105)</b>
Ending Fund Balance	1,968,229	1,382,961	396,692	2,888,765	<b>231,660</b>

The MVEA Bargaining team continues to "size" every piece of the puzzle. Sometimes these pieces are changing even as bargaining continues. Still your Team steadfastly works toward an Agreement that considers all the above factors and the educational program. MVEA is especially sensitive to the fact that members fear a sudden loss of income due to budget cut days. We continue to urge all to save a little each month.

Given the above factors, "contingency language" becomes critical. Contingency language in this case would reflect the promise to reduce any bargained furlough days if there is unexpected revenue during the period of the Contract. The District would want to bargain if there is less revenue than anticipated during the term of the Contract.

How can you help? Support your Negotiation Team colleagues. Get more involved in MVEA. Work with a fiscal sensitivity at the sites. Use prevention strategies before medical conditions require a doctor's care. Encourage and monitor student attendance. Use sick leave only as seriously needed. Attend School Board meetings on November 16 and December 7 to show solidarity. Wear BLUE on bargaining days. Plan for the worst and hope for the best!

Your Team thanks you for hanging in there. They are not idle, only cautious in settling for something that honors your interests based on the best data at the time. MVEA only controls their side of the table. The District must agree to any tentative settlement. We will get there...together.

# Educator of the Month: Penny Parker

By Janet MacMillan, MVEA President

*Penny Parker* was October's MVEA Educator of the Month. Her colleagues at La Jolla Elementary School describe Penny as an excellent example of a professional educator who always goes the extra mile to support her students and staff. Her principal, Wade Hamilton, describes her as a leader, an innovator and a creative personality.

Penny has earned such praise by making the curriculum come alive for her students. Her area of special emphasis is social studies. She covers all state standards in her instruction, but includes a hands-on element that extends learning beyond the classroom. Third through fifth grade students participate in a student council that works under Penny's direction. The students can tell you about campaigning, signing for secret ballots, tallying votes and conducting business in accordance with By Laws and Robert's Rules of Order. Penny is also responsible for organizing Colonial Days, a school wide event at La Jolla. Colonial Days is a living history project based on recreating a day in the life of the United States during colonial times. This involves costuming, foods, crafts and students retelling the events that established our country. It's fun, but it provides students with an understanding of the importance of events in our history that goes beyond learning dates and the names of famous people and places.

Penny is a lifelong learner. She is constantly involved in professional development. She has her BA, MA, teaching credential and GATE certificate from

U.C. Riverside but she goes beyond that. She has attended the Colonial Williamsburg Teacher Institute to refine her ideas for Colonial Days. She won a grant last summer to participate in the Honeywell Space Academy for Educators, a week long space program in Alabama. Penny will use information from this inservice to expand activities for La Jolla's science nights for parents and students alike.

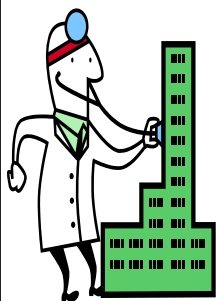


Penny is a leader at her site. She has served as grade level leader, leadership team member, categorical facilitator and PTA officer. As a leader, she played a role in developing a team approach to student achievement through the Professional Learning Community. The La Jolla staff has been recognized by the Board for meeting its state targets on the STAR test, including those for its English Language Learners.

Penny is a Moreno Valley resident who gives back to the community by involving students in CAP, UNICEF, Pinwheels for Peace, Pennies for Patriots and the United Way. Her time away from school is spent with her husband and three sons. She enjoys skiing, reading and photography.

Congratulations to Penny Parker, a teacher with unlimited enthusiasm for her craft and her stu-

*November* is traditionally a month dedicated to giving thanks for our many blessings. Good health is one we so often take for granted. Unfortunately, we have members who are gravely ill. Catastrophically ill members can apply to be considered for sick leave donations by contacting the MVEA office. Once approval is granted, other members can donate some of their sick leave days to another member. Your Reps have a form that can be used for this purpose. If you have at least 10 days of accrued sick leave, you can donate days to a particular member or to the sick leave bank. Once the days are donated, you cannot get them back even if the member you indicated in your donation no longer needs the days. If you are interested in supporting your colleagues in this way, contact the MVEA office for additional information.



Enjoy the Thanksgiving holiday with your family and friends.

*Each site* should have Budget and Site Discipline Review committees that meet regularly. Feedback from the meetings should be reported at staff meetings and at Rep Council meetings. Such information is then shared at District level meetings. Ask your Rep about these meetings.



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Educators Association**

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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:**

- **Nov. 16** School Board meeting @ 7:00
- **Nov. 22-26**  
Thanksgiving Break
- **Dec. 1** Executive Board meeting @ 4 p.m.
- **Dec. 7** School Board meeting @ 7:00
- **Dec. 8** Rep Council meeting @ 4 p.m.
- **Dec. 9** Bargaining  
—Wear BLUE!
- **Dec. 18-Jan. 9**  
Winter Break



**Hear Ye, Hear Ye:**

**Attention All 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> Year Teachers**

*Do you* have some issues with classroom discipline? Have you run out of solutions? Could your class run more smoothly? MVEA and the MVUSD Professional Development Department are pleased to announce that we are having “I Can Do It,” CTA’s classroom management training, with our very own members as instructors, Tuesday, December 7 at the Professional Development Center. The District will provide a substitute so that you can attend. Check your mailboxes for the announcement and further information.



**MVEA Executive Board:**

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