



MVTA Newsletter

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy holidays. It seems that we just started the year, and here we are heading into the Thanksgiving break. We've had a busy 3 months full of trainings, conferences, assessments, and further exploration of Common Core Standards and strategies.

With the revision to the TOSA request form, more teachers are feeling free to take advantage of the support being offered through our cadre of teachers on special assignment. Because these forms are now funneled directly from the requesting teacher to the TOSAs, the concern about administrative oversight has been removed. All topics and all types of support have been requested and delivered. Consider giving it a try.

Over the past month, the MVTA Executive Board has been meeting and collaborating with district administration regarding the substitute shortage situation. Efforts are being made to cap substitute requests for prescheduled events such as training, conferences, and collaborations, to a maximum of 15 in one day. Other efforts are coming from the support and management of the AESOP system itself. Stay tuned for updates to follow. We can help by calling in for a substitute as soon as we know we need one. Thanks for your patience.

Finally, in the month of December, MVTA is sponsoring a TOY DRIVE in conjunction with the community-based Emergency Relief Agency. Unwrapped toys can be deposited in the "gift" box at each site.

Meanwhile, as we head into the holidays, I hope everyone has a restful week with family and friends. There is so much to be thankful for and hopefully this next week will give you time to count your blessings. Thank you for everything you do each day.



Mountain View Teachers Association In Conjunction with

Emergency Resources Association
By Jacquella Payne, RN, BSN, District Nurse
MVTA, Women's/Human Rights Chair

The Emergency Resource Association (ERA) was initiated and incorporated in 1956 by a group of concerned citizens of the El Monte area who recognized the increasing numbers of people in need of emergency assistance. Today many of the same concerned people continue to provide support to ERA. Both El Monte and South El Monte, as well as local service, civic and church groups contribute financially. ERA provides up to 5,000 individuals assistance per month. Aid is given to assist with helping people to get back on their feet. They may be about to be evicted, homeless, without food or in need of transportation. (See their brochure for a list of all of the services that they provide).

Over the past 17 years that I have worked in El Monte as a District Nurse, ERA has supported Health Services by providing free eye exams and glasses for MVSD families that we have referred who were undocumented and did not have any type of insurance. In addition to assisting MVSD parents with getting glasses for their children, we've referred parents who were unable to purchase a needed medication as well families who were in need of some of the other services that ERA provides.

For many years MVSD also partnered with ERA, and funding was donated to purchase uniforms to be available for families who could not afford to buy them.

Under the leadership of Lillian Ray, for the past 30 years plus, ERA has been a beacon of hope in the city of El Monte. Last year MVTA nominated Lillian Ray for the SC1 C.O.A.T. award which she was awarded for her many years of dedication to the families in MVSD as well as the surrounding communities. A commitment was made to Lillian Ray by MVTA to partner with her at least twice a year to assist her with providing items that are much needed by ERA. Last year, prior to Spring break, her Food Pantry was empty. MVTA held a food drive and several large boxes of food were collected so the pantry shelves were full to provide for MVSD needy families during Spring break.

Another area of need for ERA is toys to be distributed prior to Christmas. MVTA will again be partnering with ERA to help with meeting this need. MVTA will be having a Christmas Toy Drive beginning upon our return from Thanksgiving break, Monday, November 30, through Friday, December 11th. Look for the box at your school site near the teacher's mail boxes. We hope that everyone will dig deep to help fill up all of the boxes with toys valued at least \$5.00 or more. Let's show ERA and the families of MVSD that MVTA educators not only care about providing the best possible quality education and support to their students but also care about their student's lives when they are not at school.

CMC Math Conference

By Susan Dluhy

The California Mathematics Council – South had its 56th annual mathematics conference last weekend in Palm Springs, California. This year's theme was "Orchestrating the Common Core Classroom." The conference answered questions such as the following: "What are student doing in a Common Core classroom? How does a teacher orchestrate a Common Core classroom?" The workshops were designed to help teachers achieve a classroom environment where students will be able to develop and understand multiple representations of mathematical ideas.

I personally attended a session entitled "We Need to Reason Why: Division of Fractions." Carmen Whitman was the presenter. This session investigated how to model division of fractions through the Common Core Standards. It was an enlightening experience. The old saying for division of fraction goes something like this: "Yours is not to reason why, just invert and multiply." Those days are over. We discussed what division means. We conceptually worked out problems using whole numbers to understand the concept of division. We discussed the two types of problems, grouping or sharing. Carmen stressed teaching division in context. After that, we worked out word problems where we had to make models to solve the problems. It was a new experience for me, especially since I spent the last 13 years teaching language arts and history.

My favorite part of the conference was the session called "Ignite!" This was at the end of the first day. Ten math educators lit up the room with fresh ideas in teaching and learning. Each speaker was allotted 5 minutes. In those five minutes, they had to go through 20 slides that auto advanced every 15 seconds. The slides advanced whether they were ready or not. It was a fun time. The speakers were engaging and funny. It was an exciting way to end a long day.

The district sent two teachers from each school to attend the conference. It was great running into so many Mountain View colleagues. Finally, conferences are a great way to rejuvenate yourself and learn new ideas and strategies to use in your classroom.

MVTA BOARD MEMBERS

Laura Gaber, President - Miramonte Elementary

Leticia Urias, Vice President - Madrid Middle School

Rose Dominguez, Secretary - Miramonte Elementary

Cindy Loveless, Treasurer - Monte Vista Elementary

Haile Ucbagaber, 6-8 Member at Large - Kranz Inter.

Nancy Ruiz, 4-6 Member at Large - Voorhis Elementary

Maria Aguilar Pre-3 Member at Large – MV Head Start

Teacher Wins School Board Election

By Rubi Calderon
6th Grader, Miramonte Elementary

Donna Freedman has been teaching for 36 years at Miramonte Elementary. Unfortunately, Donna will be retiring soon and wants to keep working with children. So she decided to campaign for Rowland Unified School Board. Her daughter just graduated, and her love for children has been a great factor in her decision. She would like to take the next marvelous step in her career. We were assured that she will make kids' educational environment a place where they can have fun and better themselves in any subject.

As Miss. Freedman knocked on hundreds of doors along the way, she met people full of positive vibes. They really helped her in the campaign by voting for her. There is no doubt that her effort was a success because she won with more than 2,000 votes. She is very thankful for all the support she received. She really wants the district to be number one and would like to make improvements for the community to see.

Miss Freedman wants kids to get a better education, and she also wants kids to have a good time in school. With her educational background and experience, we know she will do a very outstanding job.

State Schools Chief Tom Torlakson Announces Next Step in Implementing Groundbreaking Approach to Teaching English Learners

SACRAMENTO — State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson announced today that California has taken the next step in implementing its groundbreaking approach to teaching English learners.

On Wednesday, the State Board of Education voted to approve instructional materials for kindergarten through grade eight that are aligned to the California Standards for English Language Arts and Literacy in Science, History-Social Studies and Technical Subjects, that were based on the Common Core, and the California English Language Development Standards.

California is the first state to integrate English language arts/literacy (ELA) and English Language Development (ELD), which helps English learners by making their language development a core part of the curriculum and not a separate, isolated part of the school day.

"This is a big step because these instructional materials can help teachers develop the language skills of English learners throughout the school day," said Torlakson. "I'm proud California is a leader in this area. We will continue to welcome all students to our classrooms and work with them to inspire learning. The one-quarter of our students who are English learners are an asset to our state and will continue to foster growth for all of us."

Of the 27 instructional materials programs submitted for consideration from 10 publishers, the State Board of Education approved 25. Reviewing the materials were nearly 200 educators and the Instructional Quality Commission. Among the 25 adopted programs, 17 were basic grade-level programs, and eight were intervention programs.

Local school districts may now begin their own process of reviewing the materials to determine which of the adopted programs best meet the needs of their students. With such a wide variety of choices, including a number of technology-based programs, districts have greater flexibility when designing and implementing a curriculum that will help their students achieve academically.

The adopted programs are on display for public review at [Learning Resources Display Centers](#) across the state. For more information about the 2015 ELA/ELD Adoption process, visit the California Department of Education [English Language Arts Instructional Materials](#) Web page.

STRS Retirement Check-up Workshop

Monday, January 11, 2016
3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

Large Board Room

Intended for educators 3-5 years away from retirement.



From now until
Dec. 11th

~ December 2015 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 World AIDS Day MVT/ERA Toy Drive continues until December 11th	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 School Board Dinner 6:00 p.m.	9 Executive Board Meeting 3:00 p.m.	10 Human Rights Day School Board Meeting 7:00 p.m.	11	12 Menudo Breakfast 8:00 am -12:00pm
13	14	15	16 Representative Council 3:00 p.m.	17	18	19 Winter Break
20 Winter Break	21 Winter Break	22 Winter Solstice (Northern) Winter Break	23 Winter Break	24 Winter Break	25 Christmas	26 Winter Break
27 Winter Break	28 Winter Break	29 Winter Break	30 Winter Break	31 Winter Break	Notes: Winter Break through January 3rd	