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- hartdistrictteachers.org
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Helpful Links

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Keith Matkin & Dianna Rose

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Christina Tolisano

Grievance: Sean O'Brian

Elections:

Cassandra Perez

Webmaster: Tom Gavin

State Council Rep:

Jayne Allsman & Doris Fossen

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

First, I think you all know how much your time and expertise is valued by the leadership in HDTA. You do amazing things in your classrooms and this is something that I try to remind the school board of at every opportunity.

When your administrators present information to the board about things happening on the campuses, the members invariably praise the leadership of the principal and I quickly remind them that the "magic in the classroom and on campus" doesn't happen without terrific, amazing,

dedicated teachers. Having said that, let me gently and kindly remind you that you are valuable and that your time is valuable. I know that we are helpers by nature and that we want to do good things for students; however, I don't want you to be taken advantage of when it comes to opportunities and you should be paid for your time when asked to attend extra meetings. Have I been subtle enough?

Second, we value your leadership and time on your campuses and we also value solid pedagogical leadership in the form of

good administration. To that end, we often remind ourselves and our district office personnel that what we want in leadership positions are people who can support, nurture, and develop good teaching skills in our teachers.

An observation/evaluation should be a tool for an administrator to see what is happening positively in our classrooms and to also give them an avenue by which they can help a struggling teacher find their way back to solid ground.

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"I was born ready..." Focus on Valencia High

Valencia High School's Theatre Department took home first place at the recent Drama Teachers Association of Southern California Fall Festival held at Canyon High. Under the direction of **Stephen Whelan**, our site representative for Valencia High, the Vikings thespians and theater technicians competed against 70 schools, including arts magnet schools, charter schools and LACHSA (Los Angeles County High School of the Arts). Although the department has won numerous first-place awards over 14 years of competition, this win marks the first time Valencia High School's Theater Department has won the overall sweepstakes first place.



Photo submitted by Stephen Whelan

DRUM ROLL... Tony Thurmond, Superintendent of Public Instruction



It was a photo finish, but Thurmond made it across the finish line thanks to you. California educators turned out the vote, sent text messages to voters for

Tony, joined the #TeamTony Tweet-a-Thon, and had countless conversations with folks in our communities. In such a close race, it's clear that California educators made all the difference.

This outcome is the icing on the election cake, which included a slew of other victories in California. Governor-elect Gavin Newsom heads up a long list of Election Day winners who support public schools. Nationwide the #RedForEd movement helped flip nearly 300 state legislative seats and elect more than 100 women to U.S. Congress.

Photo taken from CTA

SITE REPRESENTATIVES

Academy of the Canyons & Learning Post: Don Musella
Arroyo Seco: Thomas Van Dyke
Bowman: Mike Coombe
Canyon: Cesar Arevalo
Golden Valley: Darren LaRue & Josh Stimac
Hart: Sam Modugno & Lynn Yale
La Mesa: Kathy Gettman
PAR: Christy Lennarz
Placerita: Edward Carr
Rancho Pico: Doug Smith
Rio Norte: Dawn Ferrier
Saugus: Megan Botton & Marty Fricke
Sierra Vista: Kellie Kontis
TLC: Anna Bettencourt
Valencia: Gene Truex & Stephan Whelan
West Ranch: Laura Erickson & Mike Kane
Psychologists: Eboni Shields
Speech and Lang: Kaitlyn Wilson



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Office Hours

9-4pm
*Feel free to leave a message by phone or email. We will be in touch as soon as possible.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *cont.*

Across the district we have a number of administrators who do that well and a number who struggle with this concept.

Helping administrators become the leaders we need them to be is the reason we ask you to share your observations and evaluations with your building rep. We are not wanting to see what was said about you but how the task of evaluation is being approached by our administrative teams. It will help us demonstrate to the district where and how this process needs to be improved. Your assistance and cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

That being said, if you have any concerns about the content or process of your evaluation, please share that with your building reps right away so we can address them. If you meet the criteria for a [5-year](#)

[evaluation](#) cycle, you can have request one from your principal. Principals have a variety of reasons for not granting these (it's not fair to the folks who don't qualify if I give one to you, how will I know what is happening in your room if I don't come in every other year and check, and - my personal favorite - you are not old enough yet) and none of these reasons are contractually sound.

Third, check out all the things offered to us as members through [CTA Member Benefits](#). You will also find training opportunities, information about the state of education in California, and links to valuable resources.

Speaking of resources, [CTA scholarships](#) are posted for its members and their dependents. We have had actual recipients of these scholarships come from the Santa Clarita Valley.

Lastly, as we are enjoying the efforts of our negotiations team with a little more cash in our paychecks this month, you might want to take a look at the [history of salaries in HDTA](#) and see how the negotiations teams of the past have always been working in our best interests. You will also note, no doubt, the years of the great recession and the impact those had on our salary schedule. That link is also on our website.

I thank you all for continuing to allow me to be in service to the dedicated educators of HDTA. I wish for you a peaceful, wonderful, fun winter break with your families and friends and that you come back to the new semester raring to go!

United,
Jayme Allsman

**Active links in this section*



DISASTER RELIEF

California communities rally aid unit members and students left homeless by wildfires

**Active links in this section.*

Chico Unified Teachers Association

[GoFundMe account](#) for educators and students in the Paradise/Chico area.

Butte College Education Association

GoFundMe accounts: one for [faculty](#) and one for [students](#).

Santa Monica-Malibu Educators

[GoFundMe account](#)

CTA Disaster Relief Fund

If you want to [donate](#), you can sign up for automatic payroll deduction.

American Red Cross

Select "[California Wildfires](#)" in the dropdown menu.

CTA Chico RRC

If you can provide housing, please call the RRC at (530) 345-9743.

GET IN MY BELLY

Thanksgiving isn't just a time for eating; it's a time to evaluate what your most thankful for



Photo wrecklessly stolen from the web...I wish my dinner table looked like this one!

Holly Zeilenga, West Ranch

"Teachers & staff who care about the well being of each other & our students, I love our WR family! Spending time in Mammoth with my family."

Amber Aquin, Saugus

"My department! They are the most supportive, thoughtful, and...entertaining group of people I have ever had the pleasure of working with!"

Jamie Stewart, Placerita

"The supportive and collaborative staff!"

Andrea Blade, Sierra Vista

"I am thankful for the support received from other teachers."

Melissa Christensen, West Ranch

"My colleagues, my ability to be innovative and creative in my classroom with my students learning within the framework of the curriculum framework, the support we receive from each other and the administration."

Serena LeDuff, Saugus

"All of my coworkers. Everyone is so nice from the office up to my department. One of our principles is in the office every morning saying hi to us as we walk in and my coworkers always share their resources so, I do not have to feel alone as a first year teacher."

Michele Tait, Placerita

"The sense of teamwork and support of all staff members."

Ryan Correll, West Ranch

"The outstanding leadership of Mark Crawford!"

Jill Spradling, Saugus

"I am thankful to have the opportunity to help my students access skills and learning as they transition into post-secondary life."

Jason Priske, West Ranch

"Being able to be a positive role model for our SPED population."

Ken Jeffris, Saugus

"I am so thankful for our math department. We have

a great leader in BJ Layton and a great team of teachers that work extremely well together."

Judie Blevins, Placerita

"I'm most grateful for the amazing and caring people that I work with!"

Vern Burns, West Ranch

"My 9th English fellow teachers!"

Gordon Preston, Rancho Pico

"The talented, committed staff!!!"

Nicole Terranova, Sierra Vista

"The custodial staff."

WHAT REALLY HAPPENS OVER BREAK

Winter Shenanigans

Doug Smith, Rancho Pico

"Alone time from the children, beer, and golf."

Kevin Berns, Saugus

"Training and preparing our student athletes for the upcoming track season."

Mike Copenhaver, Sierra Vista

"Sleeping in on cold winter mornings and perhaps even a bit of snow to wake up to."

Darren Thomas, Saugus

"Traveling to Morocco,

Egypt, and Spain."

Kourtney Hansen, West Ranch

"Finishing my new backyard landscaping."

Megan Botton, Saugus

"I'm most looking forward to having a clean house again. I don't get to clean as often as I'd like!"

Karen Cirricione, West Ranch

"Catching up on work and spending time with my family."

Crystal Hilstein, Saugus

"There will be no essays to grade to deter me from spending time with my family over the holidays."

Dianna Rose, Saugus

"My sons' reaction when they see the puppy that Santa brought!"

Ingrid Riederer & Tanja Brosche, West Ranch

"Sleeping in!"

Analia Paniagua, Saugus

"No packing my younger kids' lunches!"

Suzanne Van Amberg, West Ranch

"Relaxing with family and friends."

Danielle Polanco & Christina Tolisano, Saugus

"Visiting family, reading, sleeping, and binge watching TV shows!"

Tealena Felix, Placerita, Katherine Gettman, La Mesa & Kaitlyn Reiner, Sierra Vista, Marissa Hyke, Saugus & Tami Pearsall, Rancho Pico

"Spending time with my family."

Brianna Mowry, Sierra Vista

"I am looking forward to catching up on sleep, drinking green tea while wrapped in a blanket, and cuddling with my cat."

Summer Flaherty, Sierra Vista

"I look forward to spending time with family and friends during the holidays as well as purging old resources in my move to a new classroom."