

IN THIS ISSUE

- President's Message
- Governing Board Teacher Recognition
- Contract Reminder (PN)
- SCV Education Town Hall
- Forbes Article
- More Teacher News
- Onward Book
- Fall Break

HDTA on the Web

- hartdistrictteachers.org
- [HDTA Facebook](#)
- [Twitter @HartDTA](#)
- [CTA Website](#)
- [NEA Website](#)
- [HDTA Mailchimp](#)

Helpful Links

- [Conference Request Form](#)
- [Grievance Form](#)
- [CTA Instruction & PD](#)
- [Membership Benefits](#)
- [CTA Invest](#)
- [The Standard](#)
- [WiSH Foundation](#)

HDTA EXECUTIVE BOARD (2019-2020)**President:**

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**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Greetings to all,

We are now in the swing of things as last Friday was one month from the first day of school. Routines are established, names are memorized, first grades are due, and things have settled down – a bit. I will tell you that this job is more than I expected. Every time I turn around something new is popping up. I want to say thank you to all the site reps as we have upped the ask in taking on more responsibility. It is a very important position in our organization and all of you have made this transition smoother for me. I have to admit that I miss being around the students.

I am continuing my efforts to be visible on campus' district wide. Please invite me to come to your site if you have something you would like me to see. This past week I visited Saugus and Canyon carrying a handy dandy laser thermometer doing checks on air conditioning. We will be discussing providing one for each site so our reps can support our members and we can collect valid data.

A number of sites/ subject areas have begun instituting a variety of self-assessment in different areas of teaching and learning. Some of these are WASC related, others more informational. Please be assured that these types of processes are

not designed to evaluate individuals nor are they meant to be used in your individual evaluations. The purpose of these formative assessments is for self-reflection and guidance in the development of curriculum and PD while identifying standards in need of re-teaching. Please feel free to contact me if there are components of these efforts that make you uncomfortable. I am working with individual sites and district TOSAs to make sure lines are not crossed.

All in all it has been a good start to the 2019-20 school year. I wish you the best.

Together,
John Minkus

UP AND BEYOND | Board Teacher Recognition

With the District's many outstanding teachers, the staff takes pride in identifying and honoring its own heroes of Hart District classrooms. The Governing Board honored Teachers of the Year for the 2019-2020 school year on Wednesday, September 18.

Selection criteria included personal growth, commitment, personal attributes and professional skills. The California Teacher of the Year program, which began in 1972.

Mike Koegle, Biology, AOC
Kelvin Flores, Band/Music, Arroyo Seco
Christine Desuse, English/Theater, Bowman
Laurel Priesz, English, Canyon
Yara Wright, ESL, Golden Oak
Shanna Mann, Social Studies, Golden Valley

Kathryn Smith, Science, Hart High
Kamalinphol Punpanichgul, Mathematics, La Mesa
Bree Hammer, English, Placerita
Aubrie Fairbanks, Special Education, Rancho Pico
Stephanie Sosa, English, Rio Norte
Wendy Noonan, English, Saugus
Brandy Abernathy, Special Education/History, Sequoia
David Drabinski, History/Electives, Sierra Vista
Tamara Desso, Science, Valencia
Terri Sage, Health/Yearbook, West Ranch



SITE REPRESENTATIVES

Academy of the Canyons & Learning Post:

Don Musella

Arroyo Seco:

Thomas Van Dyke

Bowman: Mike Coombe

Canyon: John Albert & Cesar Arevalo

Castaic: Lori Hermelin

CEPA: Christy Lennarz

Golden Valley: Darren

LaRue & Michael Bunch

Hart: Sam Modugno &

Lynn Yale

La Mesa: Kathy Gettman

CEPA: Christy Lennarz

Placerita: Edward Carr

Psychologists: Eboni Shields

Rancho Pico: Doug Smith

Rio Norte: Julie Schneider

Saugus: Megan Botton & Marty Fricke

Sierra Vista: Skye Ostrom

SPL: Kaitlyn Wilson

TLC: Anna Bettencourt

Valencia: Maya Loch, Gene Truex-Hill &

Stephen Whelan

West Ranch: Laura

Erickson & Mike Kane



The Voice
Christina Tolisano
Editor-in-Chief

HDTA Headquarters

26111 Bouquet Canyon Rd.

Suite H-2

Santa Clarita, CA 91350

661.255.0311

info@hardsiteteachers.org

Office Hours

9-4pm

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

CONTRACT REMINDER

13.5.1.1 Personal Necessity Leave

No Personal Necessity (PN) leave shall be used on a workday immediately preceding or following a Board approved break without prior written approval from the unit member's site administrator excluding verified emergencies.

A unit members' use of Personal Necessity (PN) leave shall conform to established guidelines. A unit member shall request such personal necessity leave in writing (email is acceptable), at least five (5) workdays in advance of the requested Personal Necessity (PN) leave.

For more information regarding the contract, visit the [HDTA Site](#).

**Active Links in Section*

scvsa@ednet.edu'."/>

SANTA CLARITA VALLEY EDUCATION TOWN HALL
Thursday, October 3, 2019
6:30-8:30pm
Newhall Family Theatre for the Performing Arts at Newhall Elementary School

EXPECTED TO APPEAR

Edmundson, Executive Director of the Santa Clarita Valley Education Authority
Representative from the Santa Clarita Valley Education Authority
Representative from the Santa Clarita Valley Education Authority
Representative from the Santa Clarita Valley Education Authority

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: scvsa@ednet.edu

DID I GET YOU WITH THE QUOTE?



"Stop calling it a teacher shortage...you can't solve a problem starting with the wrong diagnosis."

Peter Greene, senior contributor Education, looks at k-12 policies and practices from the classroom perspective.

Click [here](#) for the whole article.

#WINNING #DOESN'T STOP HERE | Teachers Continue to Receive Accolades Outside District



Molly Peters (West Ranch) appeared on the Kelly Clarkson Show on Tuesday, September 10th as a special guest. Since a music teacher made a huge difference in Clarkson's life, the show featured some local SoCal music teachers. "It was a super fun experience and I'm so glad I got to participate! Kelly is a LOVELY person who was so down to earth and really spent a lot of time talking to us about our jobs and teaching in general. I am a total fan!" Peters said. Click [here](#) for more information about the show.

The District Teacher of the Year is **Laurel Priesz (Canyon)**, an English teacher and Literacy Coach received the award at a luncheon held at the Hilton in Universal City Friday, September 20. Representing diverse K-12 districts from around the county, 14 women and two men winners serve as standard-bearers for the county's 73,000-member public teaching corps for the academic year. Recipients received \$1,000 from the program's main sponsor, the California Credit Union.



**Active Links in Section*



Canyon High Football - On September 17 in his video message, former NFL Quarterback Peyton Manning , a brand ambassador and strategic advisor for the football equipment company Riddell, congratulated the team and told them to be proud they were one of 10 teams across the nation selected for the "Smarter Football" initiative. As winners, the Canyon Football program is set to receive a \$10,000 grant to use on Riddell's latest helmets, shoulder pads, padded apparel and blocking equipment. Click [here](#) for the video.

Christine Hirst (West Ranch) - "Last May I was contacted by Martin Weill (the French Anderson Cooper) who wanted to shoot an episode investigating the roots of science dismissal, the adoption of conspiratorial worldview, and the foundation of individual truth. I had the privilege of working with the most incredible group of young ladies- some of whom still attend here-who gave up their own free time to be a part of this event. I was not able to talk about the motivation for our second launch because the flat Earth group interviewed was so incredibly paranoid." Click [here](#) for the video.



*Active Links in Section

WELLNESS CORNER

Elena Aguilar *Onward*



Under the direction of **James Webb, CEPA** (Center for Educator Preparation and Assistance) recently relocated from the district office to the Castaic High School campus. CEPA houses PAR, Teacher Induction, Administrator Induction and CTE Preliminary & Clear Credential Programs. To continue supporting new teachers and administrators, district-wide mentor teachers will be using this text to foster their discussions.

Click [here](#) to purchase from Amazon.

"*Onward* tackles the problem of educator stress, and **provides a practical framework for taking the burnout out of teaching.** Stress is part of the job, but when 70 percent of teachers quit within their first five years because the stress is making them physically and mentally ill, things have gone too far. Unsurprisingly, these effects are highest in difficult-to-fill positions—places where we need our teachers to be especially motivated and engaged. This book offers a path to resiliency to help teachers weather the storms and bounce back—and work toward banishing the rain for good."

*Active Links in Section



SHAKE IT LIKE A POLARIOD | Fall Break on the Horizon

This is a real test to see who reads *The Voice* to the very end...

Show us your fall break sel(ie)-care. Take a picture of yourself or something that represent how you embrace R&R and a little bit of fun over break. Upload to the [Google Form](#).