



ACE ON TASK

President's Message by Karen Houck

Welcome Back! I hope you had a nice break and are ready to face the challenges of a new year. Here is a brief update of what we are facing. We have to finish negotiating LAST YEAR'S contract before starting on this year's contract. Our next bargaining session isn't scheduled until Sept.

Our ACEPAC has been busy getting our three endorsed candidates prepped and ready for the school board election. We are in the process of evaluating the final candidates for endorsement and should have a decision by the time this is printed. Our candidates have been working with a consultant to schedule precinct walks, and distribute campaign literature. If you want to change the way our district is run, help us elect student centered candidates.

That goes for the state races as well. Public education is under attack and it is up to us to stand up for our kids and our profession. The longer we stand by the sidelines and let politicians tell us how to run our classroom, the more they are going to legislate exactly what they

think needs to be done. We are in position to have a major impact on public education. CTA will be asking for your help this fall to get more pro-education candidates and propositions passed.

We are also under attack from our own district. There appears to be an excessive enforcement of morality for our teaching staff. The district has apparently adopted the attitude that whatever a student says is true and every teacher accused should expect to be placed on leave and then investigated. After an extensive investigation, even if the allegations are not corroborated or even refuted by other witnesses, a notice will be placed in your file. "We have to protect the children" is what I hear from the district and the board. Who protects the employees from false and baseless accusations? Who punishes the student who makes up a story to harm a teacher? Who corrects the student who misunderstands the situation and files a complaint? Who takes action against a group of parents who don't like a teacher and target that individual? It is up to the victim and ACE to do this. CJUSD won't even

try to defend your honor or reputation.

I have also been hearing from our members that your off-duty time is being called into question. Weekend and evening activities that students observe are going to get you talked to by your administrator. When did we jump back a century? Here are a few rules CJUSD apparently thinks we should be following from 1872 and 1915:

"Men teachers may take one evening each week for courting purposes, or two evenings a week if they go to church."

"Women teachers who marry or engage in unseemly conduct will be dismissed."

"After 10 hours in school, the teachers may spend the remaining time reading the Bible or other good books."

"You may not loiter downtown in any ice cream stores."

So, I guess we are to conduct ourselves in accordance with the rules of a century ago. That hardly seems fair. Welcome Back!

Association of Colton Educators ACE/CTA/NEA

Issue 1

August 2010

ACE Executive Board

President	Karen Houck
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Elem Director	Cristina Puraci
Elem Director	Steve Villa
Elem Director	Linda Placencia
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Sr, High Director	Robert Moses
Sr, High Director	Marcella Cook
PPS Director	Georgene Dixon
State Council	Paul Lucero
State Council	Rebekah Acord
State Council	Dona Hines



Digital Mosaics by John Chovan

Hello and welcome back to the 2010-2011 school year. Hopefully, everyone is rested and ready for another exciting year. If you are like me, you have most likely swapped your "What did you do for your summer?" stories with your friends and co-workers. When I swap, I always whip out my iPhone or digital camera to show them the places I visited or how fast my children are growing.

This summer, as I was wandering through the Internet, I came upon a (FREE!!!) program that enabled me to easily show off many pictures at once. The program is Andrea Mosaic (<http://www.andreaplanet.com/andreamosaic/>). It allows the user to take a digital photo and turn it into a photo mosaic. A photo mosaic, in case anyone has not seen one, is a

large picture that is comprised of dozens, hundreds, or even thousands of little pictures. Andrea Mosaic is simple to use. First, you select the photo to be rendered in mosaic form. Next, you choose your picture folders so you can select the pictures that will comprise your photo mosaic. Finally, you select the size of the mosaic, click on create mosaic, and within a few minutes, you will have your very own digital photo mosaic.

Andrea Mosaic is a fairly straightforward program that doesn't have too many confusing bells and whistles, but still allows for customization of your mosaic. As an educator, I thought this program could be helpful when reviewing the curriculum. For example, a history teacher might choose a picture of George Washing-

ton to be the subject of the mosaic. Then, he or she would use other pictures that are pertinent to Washington's life and times to comprise the mosaic. Of course, you could also



use the program to create a mosaic of the activities your students have done throughout the year and put it in an end-of-year slide show.

Did anyone else find a nifty technology tool with classroom applications? If you would like to share, send us an email (aceteach@aol.com) and share it with your colleagues!

Mental Health by Arlene Roper

There have been changes in the law regarding Mental Health. These changes began in October 2009. They took effect in our plans in July of this year. Now patients will pay a regular office visit co-pay for visits to a mental health physician. Also, the number of visits a patient makes will no longer be limited. So finally there is no difference in seeing a doctor for a physical or mental trauma. These changes were made before the Health Care law was passed this past winter. They were made because it was finally understood that mental health care should be seen in the same way that physical health care is seen. So here's to your good mental and physical health!

The Times, Changing For The Better?

by Bernadette Pedroza

We begin the 2010-2011 school year standing upon the precipice of change. It will be one of the most crucial years for education in Colton. This year will bring us a new Governor, new school board members, and a new superintendent to Colton Joint Unified. Contract negotiations will continue as will the debate over national standards for CORE curriculum. All these will have a direct impact on your classrooms.

With all that we will have to face, the Association is still dealing with some of the same issues from last year. Even though we

won the class size arbitration case in December 2009, the district is still refusing to settle. They refuse to compensate the teachers who worked beyond their contract unless ACE revokes the initial grievance. Furloughs and RIFs will still be at the forefront of many ACE/CJUSD discussions, as well as issues with PPS and "student advocates".

ACE will continue to be a vital presence at the District, on school sites, and with the School Board. We have interviewed and endorsed those can-

didates that we feel will best serve the students and **ALL** stakeholders of Colton Joint Unified. (Videos of all the candidates that were interviewed are available at the ACE Office).

Your participation is now of the utmost importance. The School Board, the Governor, and the Legislature need to know what you think. The State needs to respect both school funding and you. **YOU** can have an impact on the school board, the governor, state laws, and school funding if you let **YOUR** voice be heard!!

November School Board Elections

by Arlene Roper

The past four years have been difficult for us. We nearly went on strike, we've been fighting to maintain jobs even though the District has a surplus of funds, and we've been working to maintain control of the curriculum in our classrooms. It seems we're getting attacked from all sides and putting out one fire after the next. In the next few years we'll be dealing with continued budget issues, Race to the Top, and who knows what else. We need leaders that will work with us to address all of these issues and to bring meaningful change.

This year there are four seats up for election on the School Board. The Association

has endorsed Roger Kowalski for the Grand Terrace seat, Robert Armenta Jr. for one of the Colton seats and Randall Cenicerros for the Bloomington seat. These candidates filled out questionnaires and interviewed with our ACEPAC team. Their endorsements were approved by the Rep Council. All of these candidates have worked with us in the past and we believe they will work with the Association and all parties in the District to provide for the needs of our students.

Our ACEPAC funds will be used this year to help win these elections; however, **all the money in the world won't matter without you.** We need

you to come out and help win these elections. We need people willing to work on the ACEPAC committee to plan and coordinate activities. We also need volunteers willing to walk neighborhoods around their schools, make phone calls, and put signs in their yards to support our candidates. Nothing makes more of an impact on voters than TEACHERS and their strong voices! Everyone counts as we work to solve the problems of our District and we need **STRONG** and **FAIR** leadership from our School Board to do so! Please come out and help! Contact your Rep or call us at the ACE office.

ACE Calendar September 2010

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6 HOLIDAY	7	8	9	10	11
12	13 Exec Board	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21 ALCO Uniserv	22	23	24	25
26	27 Rep Council	28	29	30		

Special Events

August 25: 20th student attendance day for elementary.

August 26: Site Visits

September 2: 20th student attendance day for 7th grade.

September 3: 20th student attendance day for 8-12th grade.

September 6: Labor Day

September 13: Exec Board

September 21: ALCO

September 27: Rep Council



I'm sorry Mrs. Blye, the crows ate my homework.

Member Benefits

Your membership in CTA entitles you to a number of additional benefits. TSA, a subsidiary of First Financial Credit Union, offers discounted tickets to a variety of savings for Disneyland, Knott's Berry Farm, Legoland, Medieval Times Dinner and Tournament, Pirates Dinner Adventure, Movie Tickets (AMC Cinemas, Regal, Edwards, United Artist and Pacific Theaters), SeaWorld, Universal Studios Hollywood, San Diego Wild Animal Park and San Diego Zoo. Also available are See's Candy Gift Certificates. For a complete list of availability, prices, and service charges, call (800) 537-8491 or visit their website at www.tsaspecialservices.com

Pepsi Refresh Grant

Coach Gabe Schaefer has submitted a proposal for a Pepsi Refresh Everything Grant of \$25,000 to start a youth wrestling program in Bloomington. He needs votes to get the grant. Please vote once a day throughout August.

Go to: www.refresheverything.com

Search: wrestling

"Wrestle for the Future..."

Or text:

Send 101261 to 73774 (Pepsi)

Let's help make a positive impact on the youth in Bloomington and the surrounding areas.

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