



# ACE ON TASK

## President's Message by Karen Houck

The budget has and will continue to be the focus of state employees for months if not years to come. We are very connected to the decisions made in Sacramento and by the voters of the state. This June, there are expected to be critical ballot initiatives for the survival of public schools.

These are extensions of existing taxes that were due to expire. Without the passage of these initiatives, we

are expecting a loss of \$330 per ADA. For a district the size of Colton, that would be about \$7 million lost each year. While there is an ending fund balance that could absorb that, it won't last for very long and then MAJOR cuts will have to occur. Schools will have to close and the school year will be shortened across much of the state. We will be facing many of the cuts our colleagues are already facing: elimination of CSR, furlough

days, pay cuts and more. We NEED these initiatives to pass and it will take more than just CTA putting ads on TV.

We need the membership to understand the initiatives and campaign for them. Information will start coming to your sites and to your homes. We need to work together with our education partners to pass these extensions.

## Association of Colton Educators ACE/CTA/NEA

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### ACE Executive Board

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True or False: submitted by Marcella Cook

- Teachers feel safe at CJUSD
- Students feel safe at CJUSD
- I feel supported by my administrator
- My site follows the student discipline matrix
- I have plenty of materials and supplies to be effective in the classroom
- CJUSD has a proactive anti-bullying policy
- CJUSD has is proactive about challenges of teen pregnancy
- CJUSD has a proactive anti-drug policy
- Teachers are encouraged to pass all students
- Collaboration is beneficial to me
- Evaluations are completed in a timely fashion with proactive feedback
- District walk throughs are beneficial
- I never work beyond my contract day
- Saturday school is a great academic program
- CJUSD is proactive on excessive student truanancies
- I take great pride in being employed by CJUSD

**DUES AMOUNT  
FOR TAXES  
\$970.84**

## It's Our Top Priority!

by Arlene Roper

That statement means different things to different people. Your children are a priority over friends and your health is a priority over paperwork. Yet, one would think that in a school most of our priorities would be similar. As a classroom teacher, my priority is the education and safety of my students. I demonstrate that priority by striving to be the best teacher I can be and conduct my classroom in a way that educates my students. I study the curriculum, prepare lessons and follow up on the work students do. I guard my planning time from distractions and what I consider ineffective practices because I only get paid for 45 minutes of planning a day. Of course, like

so many teachers, I actually spend a lot more than 45 minutes a day on planning. I also spend a lot of money making sure my students have the supplies they need. Whenever a new method or curriculum comes to me I evaluate it to see if it will be more effective than what I am already doing.

It is frustrating and demoralizing when District Administration states openly that something is their "Top Priority" and doesn't back that up with actions. CJUSD administration is supposed to have the education and safety of their students as a priority; yet we have had to fight to maintain smaller class sizes and keep effective curriculum in the classroom.

Administration says they value their employees; yet, they would rather try to force furlough days and cutbacks rather than spend down their surplus. As long as test scores improve they seem to care little about the stress and harm being done by unnecessary directives. It's a good thing that the educators of ACE are so professional; because, the pain and stress that has been caused by unnecessary actions from administration would cause most to jump ship. Perhaps Administration should do a "priority check" and reassess their decisions. Meanwhile, I know that ACE unit members will continue to keep our priority where it should be—on our students!

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## Blue Shield Rewards You

by Arlene Roper

It's that time of year again to begin thinking of signing up for the Healthy Rewards Program that is sponsored by Blue Shield. Healthy Rewards is a Wellness program funded by Blue Shield and available to all Blue Shield enrolled members. It is easy to use and pays up to \$150. To use this program you must sign up on the Blue Shield website and take the WebMD wellness assessment. Then you pick a program to follow from week

to week on the Healthy Rewards website. Some of the programs are Weight Management, Nutrition, and Smoking Cessation. Each week you log on you get a credit. When you receive 12 credits for 12 weeks, you redeem them on the website and Blue Shield sends you a Visa Debit card for \$50. When you earn another 12 weeks of credits Blue Shield will add another \$50 to the Debit card. You can earn up

to \$150 during the year. You can use the Debit card to pay for co-pays, over the counter medication or anything else you want. The information in the programs is useful and promotes a healthier lifestyle while earning you a few extra dollars. Blue Shield will send out a reminder with instructions but you don't have to wait. Go to the Blue Shield website and begin today. [www.blueshieldca.com](http://www.blueshieldca.com)

# Top Eleven Ways the District Could Save Money in 2011 \*

by Robert Moses, Dan Johnson, Mason Branham, Gary Puffer, and Sam Gallo

According to the district office, we are in the middle of an economic decline of historic proportion, which will only get worse. We began deficit spending last year when we went from having a combined total of about 60 million to only about 55 million or so. Unfortunately, if we don't find a way to trim more of the fat, then at this rate, we will be looking at economic insolvency in only about...11 years from now.

I know, it may seem like a long time in the future, but, according to the district, if things get worse, the future could be now. When the district solicited our help with the budget crisis, a few of us teachers were more than happy to brainstorm. We caution you that some of the ideas in our countdown may seem a bit radical, but this is only a draft. It is by no means exhaustive or definitive, so we invite all of you to send any suggestions you have to: [savecjusdfromextinction.com](http://savecjusdfromextinction.com)

#11. We could ask our students to bring toilet paper from home to save on supply costs.

#10. We could auction the District's Ford Explorers and bank the proceeds. Or, if the district insists on unnecessary travel expenses, we could trade-in the gas guzzlers for cheaper, greener... mopeds .

#9. We could cut costs in

auto shop by turning it into... auto-chop, where vehicles would be donated to the school, disassembled, and the parts sold on the open market.

#8. We could convert Ag and ROP Business costs into huge revenues by simply combining the two programs into one which oversees the cultivation, distribution, and sale of produce for the Farmer's Market.

#7. To reduce air conditioning costs, we will return to the long standing tradition of starting school after labor day as opposed to school being in session during the hottest month of the year, or, if the district insists on unnecessary energy costs, then, we could simply shut off all air-conditioning and recommend that each student bring from home... an ice-pack and a battery operated mini-fan.

#6. You remember when the district pushed "failure is not an option", well, we could finally achieve that goal by literally ... removing the F column from all report cards thus saving costs on printing and retention.

#5. If we implemented "Student Centered Learning" across the board, we could pink slip every teacher, and replace all of us with... our students

(must score above basic on the CST).

#4. Sally Struthers could host an infomercial on the local cable channel and encourage the community to... "Sponsor a CJUSD student for a year" for only a few pennies a day.

#3. On the front lawn of the district office, we could hold a ... yard sale and hawk our entire supply of obsolete curriculum i.e. failure is not an option, student centered learning, backwards design, and of course next year... explicit direct instruction.

#2. Bernie Madoff could manage an investment of our school improvement bond, and Enron to help us manage our energy costs.

And the #1 way for the district to save money in 2011 would be to ... Increase the number of administrative furlough days from 14 to ...247.

\* This is an Op Ed piece submitted by the group and published to encourage dialogue and discussion. It has been edited for content. If you have comments, direct them to the authors or send them to ACE and we will forward to the authors—Editor.

# ACE Calendar March 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4 Equity & Human Rights	5 Equity & Human Rights
6 Equity & Human Rights	7 Exec Board Ballots	8	9	10	11	12
13	14 Spring Break Painting	15 Spring Break Painting	16 Spring Break Painting	17 Spring Break	18 Spring Break Good Teaching	19 Good Teaching
20 Good Teaching	21 Spring Break	22 Spring Break	23 Spring Break	24 Spring Break	25 Spring Break	26
27	28 Rep Council	29	30	31		

## Special Events

- March 7: Exec Board
- March 7: Ballots Due
- March 9: Results Announced
- March 14-16: Painting Party
- March 14-25: Spring Break
- March 18-20: Good Teaching

## School Board

On February 17th, the school board took action to non-re-elect the temporary employees in the district—again. Most of these teachers were originally RIFed 2 years ago and their 24 months of recall rights are about to expire. The board also tabled discussion and a vote on the CalSafe and JV sports programs. These will be brought back at the March 3rd board meeting. If the board is going to RIF this year, they have March 3rd or a special board meeting as the only 2 options. Watch facebook and the board agenda for that item.

## 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](http://www.tsaspecialservices.com)



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 190 W. H St #101 Colton, CA 92324 (909) 825-0332 [aceteach@aol.com](mailto:aceteach@aol.com)  
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