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2012-13

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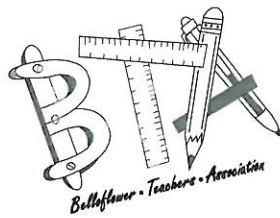
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The VOICE

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Needless to say, it's been a very stressful school year. We've been working hard, pay is dismal, and no reward or relief in sight. I saw this recently on facebook and wanted to share it with you. We are excellent teachers in Belflower USD. Maybe we don't hear it often enough from our site administrators but enjoy this post and know within yourselves that you are "great" and you love what you do. I hope this gets you through these last few months.



Top 10 Signs That You Are a Great Teacher

1. You see each child as a child, and not a diagnosis.
2. You see your class as individuals, not as a drawer full of case files.
3. You keep your sense of humor against all odds.
4. You deal with upset kids, clueless administrators, and pushy parents with grace and dignity.
5. You're not afraid to be flexible and creative.
6. You know when to make a stand and when to choose your battles.
7. You see parents as allies, not enemies.
8. You never give anybody any doubts as to why you went into teaching.
9. You love your job, and it shows.
10. Your students love you, too.

Words of Encouragement:

"A teacher affects eternity; no one can tell where his influence stops."

Henry Adams

Have a great spring time break and enjoy the time off!

Elayne



QUICK REMINDER... Monday, March 18, 2013 Rep. Council Meeting



March 2013

Membership Matters

Institute for Teachers fosters teacher-driven change

CTA's Institute for Teaching believes school change should focus on what's working: the great teaching taking place in our classrooms. By focusing on what works in our schools and encouraging teacher independence and increasing capacity, we are more likely to have success.

So in order to support such strength-based, teacher-driven reform for students and public schools, IFT is

awarding educator grants to individuals and small teams of teachers in amounts up to \$5,000.

Chapter grants will be awarded to associations in amounts up to \$20,000. Project implementation for the grants will be in the 2013-14 school year.

Grant application information is available online at www.teacherdrivenchange.org. The deadline for applications is April 30, 2013.

CTA/PTA fliers available in several languages

CTA and the California State PTA have joined forces to offer flyers with tips for parents to help their children succeed in school. The attractive, full-color fliers cover topics such as getting information, effective study habits, suggestions for cooperative learning and how to

encourage children to learn. Different versions of the fliers are available in the English, Arabic, Armenian, Cambodian, Chinese, Hmong, Korean, Spanish, Tagalog, Thai and Vietnamese languages. You can find them ready to download at: <http://www.cta.org/family>

CTA opposes Sen. Padilla's dismissal bill – SB 10

Because no one is more concerned than teachers about protecting students from child abuse or other misconduct, CTA's State Council has taken a position to oppose Sen. Alex Padilla's (D-Los Angeles) SB 10, a bill intended to make changes in teacher dismissal law.

Sen. Padilla's bill seeks to correct a problem that doesn't exist. Under current law, districts can immediately remove any educator accused of "immoral conduct" or accused of a serious crime from the classroom and keep the employee away from students until the facts of the case have been determined.

CTA also opposes SB 10 because it would allow districts to delay dismissal hearings on the charges. Because it doesn't require the district to follow a timeline for investigating the allegations or holding a

hearing, and so potentially creates distrust and uncertainty in the community, CTA is seeking to streamline the process by which teachers may have a day in court to defend themselves against charges of serious misconduct.

CTA is committed to protecting the safety of students and employees on every campus. It is opposed to counterproductive legislation that will do nothing more than make it possible for school districts to suspend educators indefinitely without pay and without a hearing.

That's what SB 10 will do, in addition to allowing districts to ignore the findings of an impartial arbitrator and fire the teacher, notwithstanding the arbitrator's finding that the teacher is not guilty of anything.

Our Union Starts With You

