

MTA NEWS

Representative

Murrieta Teachers Association

Council Highlights

President's Message from Kathy Ericson

- **PAC:** Organizing times for potential MTA-backed candidates for School Board to address Rep Council.

Spring is in the air, and soon a much deserved 2 week break will arrive. It is the goal of the AdHoc and negotiations teams to have an agreement by the end of the week. I believe we will head into the break with some long awaited good news.

- **Bargaining:** AdHoc members meeting with district on February 10th— more details on page 2.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our site Teachers of the Year. Each teacher was selected for going above and beyond, for their dedication to students, and for expertise in their craft. In addition, I'd like to recognize our three

- **Insurance:** Preliminary renewals will be announced at a meeting on February 11th.

District Teachers of the Year: Dina Mclain from Lisa J. Mails Elementary School, Barbara Everett from Thompson Middle School, and Timeree Kristell from Murrieta Mesa High School. To be selected for distinction in a district such as ours, where excellence is the norm, is truly an accomplishment.

This is the time of year sites begin to look at master schedules and staffing for next year. Leadership teams and administration should be walking side by side throughout the process at all levels. At the elementary level, leadership teams have been tasked with reducing class sizes in K-3. Sites have been provided the number of FTE's required in K-3 to bring class sizes down to the level required by the state. After gar-

nering input from staff, each leadership team is to decide what is best for their site in utilizing these FTE. They have been asked to keep 1st grade the lowest as research supports that smaller class sizes in 1st grade provides the most benefit to students. It is important to consider the intervention needs at each site. If an RSP teacher has a multiple subject credential and is providing interventions for regular education students, their caseloads must be adjusted accordingly.

When we return from Spring Break, the year is sure to fly by in a flurry of activity. Although many people in facilities, ed services, and at sites have worked diligently preparing each site, testing will bring new challenges as we test on-line for the first time. Try to take a deep breath, relax, and enjoy the process as the focus this year is to work out the kinks. Be forthcoming when asked for your input. This will ensure that we learn from the process and make positive changes for next year.

As always, feel free to reach out to me with any questions, concerns, or input.

Kathy

Director Reports

Elementary Director/ CTA State Council Representative

Kim Chevlin

- Combination class issues, including TK/K issues are being discussed with Char.
- Many teachers are being required to move rooms at sites, but not given time to move. Is this happening at your site?

Middle School Director

Beth Szabo

- Teachers at sites are able to leave at different times on minimum days. This is being addressed.

School Director

Anthony Blount

- No issues to report

Special Education

Director

Matt Johnson

- No issues to report

MTA AdHoc Update

MTA's AdHoc members will be meeting with the district on February 10th to discuss changes to the Local Control Funding Formula, and the amount of updated additional money coming to the district. We will then focus on the district's commitment from our Joint Communication to make employees a priority as funding is improving. We'll keep everyone updated through e-mail after we meet on the 10th. Employee compensation and class size are our main priorities, as members let us know from the survey last semester.

Wayne Conklin,

MTA Vice-President/Bargaining Chair

Contract Highlight (This is an issue that sometimes comes up before the school year ends.)

8.10.2 A committee of teachers shall be formed at each elementary site and at each elementary grade level to recommend the structure of classes for the following year with the goal of balancing classes as regards to the gender, achievement levels, learning styles/behavior, Special Program placement and attendance history of students. At the secondary level, department and/or grade level chairs will provide input into the development of the master schedule as specified in 8.10.1. **If you need to look up a contract item, you will find the contract on the MVUSD website, staff tab, under employee contracts.**

Be Aware!

Vergara v. State of California lawsuit

This lawsuit alleges that California laws governing teacher dismissals, attainment of permanent status and layoffs are unconstitutional and should be eliminated.

As an educator, you have a trusted voice. It is important that you share why seniority matters and how our due process rights do not mean educators have a job for life.

For more information and talking points, see the CTA website:

[cta.org/issues and actions/ongoing issues](http://cta.org/issues-and-actions/ongoing-issues)

