



VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!
School Board Election
Tuesday, March 8th

School Board Election: We must change the face of the school board this election. Your future lies in a more understanding school board that is focused on student need, not corporate greed! UTLA has endorsed Marguerite LaMotte for District 1 and teacher Bennett Kayser for District 5. They have pledged to collaborate with UTLA members, parents and the community. They cannot get into office without your help. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Bianca Anderson at (213) 637-5147 or visit www.utla.net.

RIF Notices: Again LAUSD has made plans to issue RIF notices to a significant number of our members. Rest assured we are and will pursue every legal and contractual avenue to prevent the number of proposed layoffs. There are four informational meetings scheduled to answer the following questions: How the ACLU settlement changes the entire RIF process? How the State Budget impacts the RIF process? What are the prospects and timeline for rescinding RIF notices? What UTLA is doing to fight the layoffs? How you can get involved in the fight-back?

If you want to be prepared and informed, the meetings are scheduled as follows from 4:30 p.m.-6:00 p.m.:

- Thursday, March 3rd at UTLA
- Monday, March 7th at James Monroe HS
- Tuesday, March 8th at Immanuel Presbyterian Church across from UTLA
- Thursday, March 10th at Stephen White MS

Early Start Calendar: Persistence by our negotiation team at the bargaining table—backed by support from thousands of UTLA members and parents—has paid off. LAUSD announced that it will NOT implement the Early Start calendar for 2011-2012. The news, which came soon after last week’s parent leafleting by UTLA members, is a solid victory, especially considering that LAUSD had already announced that schools would start in mid-August. UTLA has also proposed the creation of a working group with LAUSD to study the Early Start calendar and its impact on instruction, with an eye toward implementation in 2012-2013. A revised instructional calendar for 2011-2012 will be negotiated as soon as possible. Thanks to all members and parents who spoke out on this issue. Your voice made the difference!

**Next scheduled
 Elementary Committee*
 Meeting**

Wednesday, March 9th

UTLA Building
 Room 815
 4:15 pm

Bring questions and concerns
DINNER PROVIDED

*every UTLA member is welcomed to attend

Elementary Textbook Display: The UTLA Elementary Committee would like to invite all elementary teachers to view the 4 choices for our next Language Arts - ELD programs. The display will be at UTLA in room 810. We have wanted this for years, so this is a great victory! The choices are: MacMillian-McGraw-Hill "Treasures", McGraw-Hill/SRA "Imagine It!", Houghton Mifflin-Harcourt "Excursions" and Pearson "Reading Street." We have 1st and 3rd grade programs on display, Monday thru Friday, 9 am to 3 pm. Please complete the questionnaire so we can share your feedback with the Selection Committee. More information can be found at www.utla.net

Matrix: With looming RIF's and anticipated displacements, it is vitally necessary that each of us remain vigilant in the matrix process this year. DO NOT submit preference forms before the matrix is posted and request for assignments are made. The matrix is developed based on projected student enrollment, norm charts and ELD Master Plan. Your administrator does NOT need the preference forms to design the matrix. In addition, make sure all out of classroom positions follow the contractual election process beginning with School Site Council determinations. All dean and coordinator election positions must be elected and filled before matrix selection. Be fully informed and aware. Don't hesitate to contact your Area Representative for assistance.

Chapter Chair Trainings: Matrix - Thursday, February 10th, 4pm to 6:30pm. **Substitute** - Thursday, March 17th, 4pm to 6:30pm. **First Amendment Rights (in the classroom)** - Thursday, April 14th, 4pm to 6:30pm. **Member Rights and Responsibilities** - Wednesday, May 11th, 4pm to 6:30pm. **New Chapter Chair Training** - Thursday, June 9th, 8am to 3pm. Many thanks to Carl Joseph who worked very hard with me to schedule and prepare for these trainings.

2011 Leadership Conference: The 2011 Leadership Conference will be from Friday, August 19th – Sunday, August 21st at the La Quinta Resort & Spa in La Quinta, CA. All Chapter Chairs and Co-Chairs are strongly encouraged to attend. We are now looking for motivating presenters to provide workshops that will benefit our UTLA Leaders. The deadline for the Presenter Application is March 4th. Go to www.utla.net for more information on how to apply. Conference registration packets will be mailed June 3rd to all Chapter Chairs and Co-Chairs who have submitted their Chapter Chair Election forms.

UTLA FIGHTS BACK! Timeline of Escalating Events to Build Power

DATE	EVENT
MARCH 2 - 8	SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION CAMPAIGN
SUN MARCH 13 – 2PM to 4PM	CITYWIDE CHAPTER LEADERS MEETING
TUE MARCH 15 – Before school	DAY OF SOLIDARITY WITH OUR RIFS
TUE MARCH 15 – 10AM	PRESS CONFERENCE
TUE MARCH 15 – 1PM to 5PM	PACK THE BOARD AGAINST SCHOOL GIVE-AWAYS
SAT MARCH 26 – 10AM to 2PM	ALL-LABOR MARCH & RALLY FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION AND JOBS
APRIL TBA	COMMUNITY EDUCATIONAL FORUMS
SUN MAY 1	SOLIDARITY WITH IMMIGRANT RIGHTS MOVEMENT
SAT MAY 7 or 14 – 12PM to 2 PM	“SAVE OUR SCHOOLS” COMMUNITY UTLA RALLIES
JUNE 7	SPECIAL ELECTION FOR EDUCATION FUNDING (tentative)

Leftovers

Snapshot on Reed Case: The ACLU prevailed as ruled by Judge Highberger last Friday, January 21st. UTLA and its attorneys will file an appeal. Thank you to those who wrote letters voicing your objections. Members are encouraged to write letters stating discrepancies in the points raised by ACLU. The ground level perspective is necessary to give a comprehensive view of why this ruling will not remedy the problems that exist in hard to staff schools. Their argument is student constitutional rights over teacher collective bargaining rights. We know that teacher rights are inherently linked to students' rights to a quality education. The District needs to be accountable for its practice of staffing at risk schools with a majority of less experienced teachers and at the same time held accountable for not seeking to solve the problems our students face on a daily basis. Seniority is threatened because schools cannot RIF above the average layoffs in the District. Therefore, permanent teachers outside of the pending identified 40+ schools will receive RIF notices in March.

Child Abuse: Please familiarize with the District's Child Abuse Reporting Bulletin, "Bulletin No. Z-10" and California Law which states that there is an obligation of reporting if... "has knowledge of or observes a child whom the employee knows or reasonably suspects has been the victim of child abuse or neglect.... **shall** report the known or suspected instance of child abuse to a child protective agency immediately, or soon as practically possible by telephone.(Penal Code Section 11166).

Retirement Information: Most information can be found on the Human Resources website at www.teachinla.com/retirement. Contact Mary Davis at (213)241-5213 or email at mary.davis@lausd.net. For general information contact CalSTRS at www.calstrs.com or call (800)228-5453.

