



TEA President News Flash.....January 3, 2012

Happy New Year! I hope you all had an opportunity to rest and rejuvenate as well as celebrate the holidays. As we begin our second semester please remember to continue make time for yourself amongst your commitment to your students, classrooms and sites.

Remember that we all have a contribution to make to increase student achievement and improve our district's performance. Do not hesitate to ask for the things you need to be successful and participate in the decision making at your sites.

As we move forward as an organization we are continuing to refine our internal operations and procedures to best serve our members and be an effective representation within the district, our community and state. We want to welcome Paula Maniszko, TEA/AEA Organizational Consultant newly assigned to TEA. Your input is invaluable. Please participate, and do not hesitate to share any concerns, however there are also great things happening at the sites as well and we welcome that news to share!!

- I. **Upcoming TEA Elections** - TEA has several opportunities for leadership positions. The elected positions that need to be filled are: TEA Treasure/Secretary, Ethnic Minority At Large, and Cholla Area Director. Please look in your school mailboxes and TEA's Website for the Pledge-to-Serve forms and any information needed if you are interested in serving in one of these positions. Over the next couple of weeks information and timelines for these elections and how to vote will be distributed. Our organization needs members who are interested and involved in moving us forward, making us stronger and continuing the representation of our members and profession, please consider participating.
- II. **TUSD Issues**-We are having some concerns regarding the information that site leaders are being given regarding school council's role in the budget process. While we recognize that there will be standards set that may limit discretionary funds, it is not the intent for **School Councils** to be left out of the decision making process entirely. We are working on communiqué language to distribute as soon as the budget process is defined. Those who are eligible for the 301 stipend should have received your **EEL rubric score**, please check with your principal for communication on your status and that the timelines are followed. Also, remember that all bargaining unit employees are eligible for the **\$450.00 PD stipend** for seat time or reimbursement for professional development. The deadline is June 30th.
- III. **Undesignated Tax Credit Dollars**-The legislature has allowed for the remainder of this school year 50% of the undesignated dollars in tax credit may be used for soft capital expenditures per the **School Council** approval. This does allow for more flexibility in the spending on tax credit funds and so far only applies to this school year. Principals should be receiving this information this week. Along with this notice, the District is putting a freeze on all capital expenditures and will be filling request on an emergency basis.
- IV. **TUSD Governing Board**-Our new TUSD Governing Board Member has been selected, Dr. Alexandre Sugiyama. We plan on meeting with him in the near future to share our common goals and interest. For more information check the TUSD Website.
- V. **January 7th Community Event**- Gabe Zimmerman's father, Ross, and about 300 other representatives of the best community organizations in Tucson are sponsoring an amazing project in memory of Gabe. They are having an inaugural event, BEYOND: Commemorate * Celebrate * Commit, this Saturday, January 7th. There will be many activities happening all over Pima County from sun up to sun down as part of BEYOND <http://www.beyond-tucson.org>. The main event will be at the Reid Park Festival from 10-2 pm. The sponsors are trying to establish a good crowd for the "Move Your Body" Flash Workout at 11 am. So please come, spread the word widely, and bring everyone you know!

Frances Banales