



Contact

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California Reads Offers Quarterly Book Recommendations

We all know that reading is the foundation of learning and needs to be highlighted more than just once a year to make a lasting impression. A study from the National Institute for Literacy found that a person who is not at least a modestly-skilled reader by the end of third grade is quite unlikely to graduate from high school. Therefore, the Read Across America committee has expanded our current day of reading celebration to a yearlong promotion of reading for all ages. Rather than just one day and just one book, "California Reads" will offer teacher-approved quarterly book recommendations for multiple age groups, including adults.

Teachers and librarians are literacy experts, therefore it only seems natural to be reinventing Read Across America for California this way. The possibilities are endless for how teachers can use California Reads in their classrooms and their communities.

Recommended reading for Winter 2015:

Pre-K: One by Kathryn Otoshi

K-2: La Mariposa by Francisco Jiménez

Grades 3-5: Words with Wings by Nikki Grimes

Grades 6-8: Richmond Tales: Lost Secrets of the Iron Triangle by Summer Brenner

Grades 9-12: I Am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World by Malala Yousafzai

California Reads materials are available at www.cta.org/raa. You will find a downloadable poster and book mark, certificate of participation, and "6 Keys to Helping a Child Become a Good Reader."



My Life Has Changed—How Can I Change My W4?

The 4.5 percent salary increase began February 2. The retro checks are due no later than March 15. Sometimes as circumstances change members want to change the deductions on their checks. An employee can submit a new W4 at any time by visiting the Payroll Office at D.O.

Payroll and Benefits Supervisor Rose Ella Kerns offered the following: The payroll cut-off date changes every month. When the employee drops the W4 off, s/he can specify the effective date.

Example 1 - If an MTA member brings in a W4 this week, Payroll will automatically enter it so it would take effect with their next (March 2) payday. If they the member doesn't want it to take effect until after the March 2 payday, s/he needs to let us know when the form is submitted.

Example 2 - If an MTA member comes in on February 27, it would be too late for the March 2 payday, it would be effective on April 1 payday.

The deadline for MTA members is usually the 26th, 27th, or 28th of each month. It is recommended to turn in the form prior to the deadline for the best result.

Over, please...

YOU'RE INVITED!!!

Preparations are underway at the MTA CC for the MTA 75th **Friday, February 20** from 3:30-7:30 p.m. Office Manager Alonso Ibanez helps Elmer unload the *History Wall* which will be unveiled at the event. The wall was created by a committee of past and current members lead by Retired Executive Director Ken Kim.





Your Membership Matters

January-February 2015

CTA and Stanford University partner on innovative teacher training program

In a powerful example of our members taking control of the profession to improve student learning, CTA and Stanford University are supporting the training of 160 teachers to assist in local Common Core and Next Generation Science state curriculum standards. Once trained, these educators will form the Instructional Leadership Corps (ILC) responsible for the implementation of trainings statewide.

The educators will be made available to districts during the three-year project window. Through outreach and capacity building the program is designed to reach as many as 50,000 educators. The main goal is to create professional learning opportunities and lend expertise to educators to enrich instruction and foster deeper student understanding of the new academic standards. CTA remains committed to supporting members as they transition to the Common Core-based curriculum and methodology.

CTA's Institute for Teaching offers grants for educators and chapters

The CTA Institute for Teaching continues to promote teacher-driven reform through its competitive grant program to support strength-based programs in schools throughout the state.

The grant application process is open to all CTA members, including small teams of educators and affiliated local chapters. Individual grants of up to \$5,000 and chapter grants of up to \$20,000 will be funded. Application can be submitted online from January 1st through April 30th 2015. Grant recipients are notified of their award in June. You will find detailed grant application information and an online application at www.Teacherdrivenchange.org Applications also must specify how the proposal is strength-based, how it will improve teaching and learning conditions, and how student outcomes will be improved.

Strong California budget adds \$2.1 billion

In their November report, the California Legislative Analyst's Office has determined that the 2014-15 budget will exceed earlier predictions and add an additional \$2.1 billion to the state's previous revenue projections. (*The California State Fiscal Outlook can be accessed online at www.lao.ca.gov*) CTA members throughout the state continue to benefit from their hard work in the passage of Proposition 30. As the California economy continues to improve, Proposition 98 funding guarantees are also adjusted upward, placing public schools in the best financial position in over a decade. It is another example of how the hard work of our members has generated positive change for students and educators throughout the state.