Welcome back. I hope you are well. First some good news on the horizon. When it comes to the vaccine, we are in the Phase 1B group to receive the COVID-19 vaccinations after front line medical workers. It is true that some counties such as Riverside are going to be administering sooner as well as Long Beach because it has its own Dept. of Health. Here in Los Angeles, they have not finished vaccinating healthcare workers so we are waiting to see when it will be our turn. Therefore, it is important that right now as your BTA Reps are doing their charting and mapping to create an accurate phone tree that you provide your Reps with accurate contact information such as email and cell number. If you have not been contacted yet, please let us know and we will tell you who your Rep is and how to contact them. CTA sent a communique recently and this is what it says.

“Vaccines are an important part of steps to reopen schools, but there is no research evidence that the vaccine alone eliminates or reduces virus transmissions. CTA's position is that getting the vaccine does not eliminate the need for multiple safety measures at schools, including improved ventilation systems, cleaning, PPE and robust testing and tracing programs.”

CTA President E Toby Boyd also put this out. “CTA also has a petition right asking the California state Board of Education and the CDE to apply for a federal waiver now for the English, Math, and Science portions of the CAASPP in spring 2021. We simply do not need to burden our students with standardized tests in this academic year.” I could not agree more as many of us are already challenged to provide the best teaching we can in an already limited amount of time. We need time to prepare and teach and our students need time to absorb and learn. To sign the petition, please go to cta.org and scroll down to the bottom where it says Take Action.

On Friday, January 8, Governor Gavin Newson’s proposed State Budget includes a record $89.2 billion for K-12 schools and community colleges next year, as well as 3% more for the University of California and California state University. He is proposing $4.6 billion for summer school and extra learning time to address academic setbacks that many students are dealing with during this pandemic.

Stay well and please take this advice from Samara Quintero and Jamie Long of The Psychology Group who say this about embracing a balanced approach to your emotions, setting healthy boundaries, and speaking your truth.

“Instead of practicing toxic positivity, aim for balance and the acceptance of both good and bad emotions rather than all-or-nothing thinking,” says Quintero, while Long adds, “If you're being influenced by toxic positivity, we encourage you to set healthy boundaries with anyone who passes judgment on your authentic experience and speak your truth. We get
one chance at this beautiful, painful, imperfect life…embrace it entirely and you’ll reap the rewards of bountiful aliveness.”

In unity,
Diana

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**CONFERENCES**

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**UniServ Director’s Message by Nate Banditelli**

Happy New Year! I hope you had some time to rest while staying safe and healthy. The health and safety of BTA members, our students and their families has been the top priority since everything shut down. While vaccination provides us with a light at the end of the tunnel, COVID-19 is at its peak. State and County agencies and officials continue to issue and update guidelines and Governor Newsom has recently proposed legislation that would impact our community if it passes. While it faces opposition, his budget proposal contained much-needed good news.

**Budget Update**

Due to the sudden impact the COVID-19, BUSD did not receive any additional education funding in 2020/2021. Even at the height of COVID-19, California’s economy is performing better than expected and Governor Newsom’s January Budget Proposal contains a 3.84% cost of living (COLA) increase for 2021/2022. It also contains a 1.5% COLA for special education. While these increases continue to leave California near the bottom of the list of per-pupil spending by state, many of us feared further cuts as the result of the economic impact of the pandemic. The proposal also includes funding to address learning loss, additional funding of the Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER) and Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEER). The proposal assumes that students will come back to school for in-person instruction next school year, with support for students who continue distance learning. BTA will negotiate, as we have done, to make sure that 2021/2022 is as safe as possible.

Governor Newsom also proposed legislation that would incentivize on-campus instruction with additional funding for TK-2nd grades (if instruction starts by February 16th) and 3rd - 6th grades (if instruction starts by March 15th). The proposal requires agreement from bargaining units. Many stakeholder groups oppose his proposal because the timelines are unrealistic. BTA does not have an agreement that would require educators to return for on-campus instruction this year.
When we know how the proposal will impact BUSD, we will share the information. If you’d like to read the summary, click HERE. To read CTA’s statement on the proposal, click HERE.

COVID-19 Update

In the November Benchmark, I explained California’s “Blueprint for a Safer Economy”, which prohibits schools from fully reopening while a county is in the Purple Tier. We know that COVID-19 has exploded, but the numbers are startling:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Positivity Rate</th>
<th>Adjusted case rate per 100,000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November 11, 2020</td>
<td>3.8% (Orange)</td>
<td>7.6 (Purple)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 19, 2021</td>
<td>17.1% (Purple)</td>
<td>75.3 (Purple)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

BUSD has agreed that no educators will be forced to return to campus for the remainder of the school year. We all look forward to the day when school can reopen safely without the threat of COVID-19. BTA is committed to making sure that health and safety conditions are top priority until that day arrives.

WHY I TEACH...

Nicole Drabecki (Jordan M.S.)

When I was growing up in South Bend, Indiana, playing sports was something that came so easy for me. I quickly found out that I enjoyed the dedication of being the best athlete that I could be. It drove me to practice all the time, even in the snow and rain when no one was looking. My teammates would always tell me I would make a good coach one day. I was lucky enough to get a full-ride scholarship to Western Michigan University to play Division I softball. Those four years were the hardest I've ever worked in my life. When I graduated in December 2002, I had a degree in Elementary Education and a minor in Physical Education. I decided I wanted a change from the Midwest life and I applied for jobs in California. In July 2003, I was hired by Hesperia Unified School District, teaching about health and fitness. It was something I had a passion for and I enjoyed teaching students the same skills I had excelled at. I loved being their role model and someone to look up to.

I then moved and taught two years in Glendale Unified at the middle school level and finally got to BUSD in 2007, teaching High School PE. I was hired as a head softball coach at BHS and I taught 9th grade. I loved the opportunity to teach high school students, and I hoped to inspire them to become future community leaders. In 2012, due to declining enrollment, I was moved to Jefferson Elementary to teach 3rd-5th grade PE and found the challenge of teaching younger students just as fulfilling.

In 2017 I became very active in BTA and started attending all the Board of Education meetings. That was the year that the district didn't want to offer us any raises and I wanted to fight for our members. Many of our members are single parents who cannot afford to buy a house in Burbank. I joined the BTA Membership committee in 2018 and I was attending monthly Rep. Council meetings. I wanted to learn more about our Union and how I can best help our members. The next school year I joined the BTA Organizing team, and in 2019 I ran for BTA Vice-President. I am currently in my second year as Vice-President and am honored to spend the extra hours working hard for our members.
I had spent eight years at Jefferson and Edison and hoped to never leave, but when Measure I failed, the Elementary PE program was cut for the 2020-2021 school year. I have now been moved to Jordan Middle School to teach 6th, 7th and 8th grade PE students for the 2020-2021 school year. I am grateful to be at Jordan, continuing to do what I love and working with my wonderful new PE department and staff.

When I teach, I am rewarded when I can inspire my students to become their best selves and build healthy life skills. It’s also a great satisfaction being a BTA member and serving our union. I hope everyone realizes how fortunate we are to be in a Union, I know I do.

BAY VALLEY EQUITY TEAM PRESENTS

DIVERSITY RECEPTION

- Learn about leadership opportunities
- Discuss work for racial & social justice
- Network with local leaders
- Win prizes!

Monday, January 25, 2021
5:00-6:00

CLICK HERE TO RSVP

BTA MEMBER HAPPENINGS

CONGRATULATIONS

David Cohen (JBHS) and Rebecca January 9, 2021

After having our first attempt thwarted by Covid back in June, we were able to defy the odds and
Joanne Yao (JBHS) and husband Graham Palme welcomed Leo Yao-Palme, their first child, on Dec. 18th! Leo was born 8 pounds and 12 ounces - a healthy and happy lil bub. He is a few days away from celebrating his month anniversary in the world :) and his favorite things are baths, burps and story time.

**BUSINESS BUDDY TAKEOUT TUESDAY**

Mark your calendar **February 9th** Takeout Tuesday featuring **MexCocina Cafe**

2714 W. Burbank Blvd Burbank, CA 91505
818.845.0561

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**Burbank Teachers Association**

3021 W. Burbank Blvd, Burbank
California 91505

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