Dear members:

This year has been a long and harrowing journey. There is no way around the fact that this year has been like no other, and even though we have more to go next year, we can say that we have come a long way and have managed to restore in person learning in spite of the ramifications of COVID and in spite of the lack of consistency in school and district protocols, systems, and discipline. I am so grateful to be a part of your successes and in those dark moments, I am glad we were there for each other.

On May 18, BTA acknowledged and celebrated our colleagues who have worked 25 years in the District and those who are retiring this year.

Twenty-five years of service is a tremendous amount of dedication. With this year’s honorees, it is 775 combined years of expertise, wisdom, and nurturance; it’s 525,600 minutes x 25 which is over 13 million minutes of instruction. Many of our colleagues who received their 25-year pins have only been at one site. These colleagues have helped build the institutional foundations at their sites. They have educated and fostered young people who leave their classes and schools ready to meet what lies ahead. They are the professionals who demonstrate a continuity of professionalism, intellect, and care. Their sacrifices do not go unnoticed. Their gifts of time, integrity, and knowledge keep on giving. Our district is fortunate to have them. Congratulations on your service milestone.

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25 Years:
- Kate Bailey, Providencia
- Gina Boulac, Stevenson
- Stephanie Carrillo, Stevenson
- Raymond Martin Colazas, BHS
- Ellen Dobbin, Emerson
- Nancy Fitzgerald, Washington
- Michelle Hacking, Luther
- Laurie Harmon, Luther
- Dorothy Hernandez, Washington
- Brian Kalousian, Huerta
- Barbara Kim, Washington
- Kristina Lincoln, Washington
- Kevin Madooghi, BHS
- Marieelle Matie, Edison
- Paul McNiff, BHS
- Wendy Miller, BHS
- Ann Ouellette, BHS
- John Peelles, JBHS
- Illene Peavyhouse, Muir
- Lisa Rayu, Luther
- Kenneth Rice, Muir
- Rachel Silverstone-Meron, Huerta
- Susan Smith, Washington
- Shana Strehlik-Duran, Muir
- Nien Ai Ta, Disney
- Wendy Thompson, BHS
- Wayne Tipton, Huerta
- Carol Walzoff, Roosevelt
- Darin Wolf, BHS
- Shelley Zepeda, Edison
- Pamela Zimny, JBHS

Our retirees deserve the highest accolades after giving 30+ years of their lives. So, before the retiree event, I asked my friend and former BTA Co-President, Kim Allender, what he thought I should say to this year’s retiring teachers. Kim retired in 2008 and has been...
keeping busy and enjoying his retirement years with his wife, Pam, also retired from BUSD. I thought he might have some words of encouragement and inspiration for this year’s group of retirees. I told him I didn’t want to just recite a lot of tired cliches about the golden years and hoped he could inspire me.

Kim immediately said I shouldn’t worry about cliches, nor should I have any concerns about excessive praise and glorification of teachers, especially given the challenges of the last two and a half years. He assured me that nothing I could say would be an exaggeration of the extraordinary dedication and sacrifice made by classroom teachers, counselors, speech and language pathologists, and nurses, in today’s education environment. In fact, he told me that having been retired for 14 years has made him more convinced than ever that we in public education are the unsung heroes of American democracy. Teachers, he said are the glue that holds together our essential democratic tradition of public education for all students, and within that tradition lies the basis for our beliefs in equal opportunity, celebration of diversity, and civility in our dealings with one another.

He told me that during his years in the Peace Corps with Pam, just after college, there was an unofficial volunteer motto that said, “Peace Corps – the toughest job I ever loved.” But he said after becoming a teacher he realized that teaching was the toughest job he ever loved. Nothing else even came close to the challenges, stresses, and long working hours of teaching. But there was also no equal to the sense of satisfaction and the rewards of an outstanding lesson that excited and motivated students. To emphasize his point, he told me he felt qualified to make this comparison because he had been in retail and sales management for 25 years before becoming a teacher. He said in those 25 years there were many days that he went to work without a sense of doing anything significant or meaningful. But as a teacher he never walked through his classroom door without a profound sense of obligation to his students.

I know I can relate to that sense of obligation, as well as the joy and satisfaction of creating a sense of hope and inspiration in my students. I know each of you feel that as well and I’m here to tell you that your value to this community as a public-school teacher is unequaled by any other profession. You have touched thousands of lives in your career and have often been the difference in helping students find a successful life course. How many times have you had a former student come up to you and say you were the one person who gave them hope and courage to become who they are today -- and for each of those who spoke to you there are hundreds more who would have the same message for you.

So, as you set off on your new life adventures in retirement, I urge you to always take pride in your accomplishments as a public-school teacher. You are the unsung heroes of America. You deserve all the plaudits and praise – cliches or not – that this community can bestow upon you because you feed the souls and heal the spirit.

I wish for you a happy, healthy, and busy retirement. You have earned it.

Retirees:

Kim Anderson
Shari Auproux
Gear Bogdashyan (2020-2021)
Pamela Cohen
Sally Corral
Christina D’Andrea-Bandlin
Dennis Donelson (2020-2021)
Janie Fogelson
Elizabeth Frederiksen
Deborah Gal
Sherry Hambo
Peggy Kurihara (2020-2021)
Richard Lightfoot
Rosanne Longtain
Kevork Madooglu
Dorothy Margve
Helene Marte
Nancy Martin
Laura Mixon (2020-2021)
Steven Moos (2020-2021)
Shawn Mulloy
Ilene Peavyhouse
Jill Salden
Debra Vermillion
John Whitener

In conclusion, I wish you an easy school ending and wonderful summer months. Just enjoy being.
Honoring School Nurses

By Alexis Weiner, JBHS

In honor of School Nurses Day on May 11, 2022, we wish to recognize the roles of school nurses in the Burbank Unified School District. I met with head nurse Lenora Aguilera to get a general sense of what school nurses do all day, every day, for the students and staff in BUSD.

On its face, the job description seems simple: to maintain the health and safety of students to the best of their abilities. However, the details reveal far more than just these basic guidelines. Nurses must be on call to manage students' chronic medical conditions (like diabetes, seizures or asthma) as well as in-the-moment acute health care issues (like injuries or illness), and go beyond overseeing just the physical health of students; their mental health and wellness fall under their purview as well. Because the nursing staff is the health expert at school sites, but cannot be with all students at all times, the school nurse participates in 504 and IEP meetings and takes part in all health-related assessments, along with working with the parents to create a general health assessment. Once they have gathered the necessary information, they then turn it into comprehensive and confidential health care plans for distribution to the adults that work hands-on with those students.

Beyond individual students, school nurses oversee the health and safety of the community at large. They are responsible for communicable disease management in the school environment, especially pertinent in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic. Nurses are responsible for the training and maintenance of epipens and AEDs on campuses. They educate parents on the need for student vaccinations and ensure that the school is compliant with immunizations, along with keeping track of medical exemptions. They also provide general student health education: self-advocacy for health and information regarding how to care for their own health needs, ranging from nutrition to STD information to students' rights to seek information in a confidential manner. Nurses build connections with students over the years to become a resource for both students and families, and students will often seek out the school nurse for support when needed. As a parent, I was on an evening Zoom call with other upper-elementary school parents to preview the puberty video that our children would be watching the following week, and Ms. Aguilera hosted the meeting, showed the video, and then stayed on patiently answering questions (often the same question multiple times in multiple ways) as long as parents were still asking. She was open and available to the school community in order to further the ongoing health and safety of our students.

Because working with a TK-12 population in a school setting requires specific skills and needs. In addition to maintaining their registered nurse license and having a bachelor's degree, school nurses must earn and maintain an advanced credential specific to being a school nurse. Beyond credentialing, nurses must also keep up with changes in the law and support and advocate for students' medical needs in addition to being in compliance and meeting ed code requirements.

School nurses strengthen and facilitate the health status of children. The major focus of school health services is the prevention of illness and disability, and the early detection and correction of health problems. The school nurse is especially prepared and uniquely qualified in preventative health, health assessments, and referral procedures.

We honor our school nurse BTA members: Lenora Aguilera (JBHS), Stacy Eaton (BHS), Richere Aleman (Muir), Amy Choi (McKinley/Harte), Maygan Delanter (Harte/Edison), Anna Jackson (Emerson/Washington). Thank you for all of your hard work and dedication to the Burbank Unified community!

READ HERE, THERE, & EVERYWHERE

- Diana Abasta

WATER IS ... LIFE! This is Ms. Marsha Ramos’ motto. Marsha is a former mayor who also sits on the Metropolitan Water Board for
Burbank. She is a lifelong Burbank resident who attended McKinley, Dolores Huerta, and JBHS. On April 15, 2022, Marsha accompanied me to Providencia Elementary, home of the Providencia Panthers to visit Ms. Katherine Colvin-Marvin’s impressive 5th grade class. Marsha spoke about water conservation and the importance of being ambassadors of conversation during this drought. Students asked questions on desalination, water filtration, and water usage. Marsha also shared her story of being born in New Mexico which ties into the book she read to the class outside, *The Water Lady* by Alice Minty and illustrated by Shonto Begay. After our classroom visit, Ms. Colvin-Marvin’s class went outside and walked to the fence so Ms. Ramos could read the book to them. It is actually based on a true story. Below is an excerpt from the book jacket.

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**Underneath the New Mexico sky,** a Navajo boy named Cody finds that his family’s barrels of water are empty. He checks the chicken coop—nothing. He walks down the road to the horses’ watering hole. Dry. Meanwhile, a few miles away, Darlene Arviso drives a school bus and picks up students for school. After dropping them off, she heads to another job: she drives her big yellow tanker truck to the water tower, fills it with three thousand gallons of water, and returns to the reservation, bringing water to Cody’s family, and many, many others. Here is the incredible and inspiring true story of a Native American woman who continuously gives back to her community and celebrates her people.

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Reading to Ms. Shin’s first graders at Emerson Elementary on May 4th was such a delight. Gale Gorman, a community member, and the Executive Director of Kids’ Community Dental Clinic read *The Creature of Habit* written by Jennifer E. Smith and illustrated by Leo Espinoza. The story was about a creature who found it difficult to make changes because he was in the habit of doing the same things. The friend he meets does things differently and sometimes haphazardly. Together, they reach consensus and find a way to adopt some good habits.

It was a perfect day to take a walk outside to read the book on the fence. The students later tied good habits to the importance of good dental care. Ms. Gorman went over proper brushing techniques and healthy eating habits. Ms. Shin’s students were very attentive and participated in the discussion about visiting the dentist for teeth cleaning. Many shared the loss of a tooth story which of course, led to the discussion of the going rate of the tooth fairy. Gale and I were surprised at the going rate of $10.00. Must be inflation!

Finally, each student helped put together a dental care packet to take home. They each got a toothbrush, toothpaste, mouthwash, and dental flossers. It was a great way to spend the day. Thank you to Mrs. Shin for sharing her class time with us and thank you to Gale Gorman for her generous spirit.
SITE VISITS  - Tracy Sorensen, Elementary Director

In April, Diana Abasta and I went to Stevenson Elementary to visit their Stepping Stones program. Board member, Emily Weisberg, joined us for an inspiring tour of the three special education classrooms ranging from TK - 5th grade. The morning started with the greeting of the youngest students as they arrived. The children were friendly and definitely had the routine down when it came to classroom protocols. Next, we followed a schedule created by Molly Hyslop, a 3rd to 5th grade Stepping Stones teacher. In each classroom, the teachers and their aides were busy instructing lessons, engaging with the students, and addressing or meeting individual needs. It is my understanding that it was a good day, as every aide was present, and there was not a single “fire” to put out.

Jill Johnson, principal, took us on a tour of their beautiful garden, which was a peaceful place to explore, learn, and harvest a variety of fruits and veggies. During lunch periods, many teachers stopped by to ask BTA related questions, share ideas, and relate teacher concerns with us. I am pleased that I was able to spend the day seeing an outstanding school filled with many engaged students and educators.

Diana and I also had a great visit at McKinley Elementary in late April. The morning started off with an observation in Dug Gutierrez’ 1st grade Dual Immersion class. CTA’s Vice President David Goldberg read a book about pumas to the class in Spanish. The kids enjoyed the story, but were especially intrigued by how tall he is, 6’7”. We also observed Ms. Kasey Palermo’s’ first grade class prepare for recess time by singing a great line up song.

"My eyes are facing forward,  
My hands are at my side, 
I’m ready to go out the door 
to see what we can find (zip!)
"

Next, we went to Shawn Mulloy’s class to see what 4th graders were up to. The kids were working on a Mind Map for a social studies writing project. Mrs. Costella chatted with us on the playground before we were off to hear David read again, but this time we headed outside to read the book BTA attached to the fence for all to enjoy. A Walk in the Words written and illustrated by Hudson Talbott is a story about a boy who has dyslexia. Several students offered to read a page aloud for Mr. Goldberg. It was an inspiring lesson for the students to find out that people learn in different ways. Finally, we were able to discuss concerns with a large group of teachers during their lunch periods. Thanks to everyone for sharing your school with us.

BTA HAPPENINGS
collected toiletries for BTA in February. Jamie Davis (Emerson), Laurie Harmon (Luther), and Tracy Sorensen (Jefferson) are pleased to announce that with the help of Diana and Alice, we were able to deliver hundreds of quart sized bags full of all the basic necessities for the many homeless men, women, and children in our community to the Burbank Temporary Aid Center.

*Pictured is Barbara (BTAC manager), Jamie and Tracy with just some of the boxes filled with toiletries.*

**California Day of the Teacher theme for 2022 is “California Educators: At the Heart of Communities, Powering Our Future.”**

To celebrate, BTA provided all sites with cookie trays from Aunt Joy’s Cakes, a local business. It is on this day and every day that the Burbank Teachers Association thanks its members for their hard work and dedication to the profession.

**WINE & WISDOM**

A peaceful and joyful time was had by attendees, when origami artist Shigeko Hanada presented creative classroom ideas on April 21st. Delicious food and friendship was shared. BTA looks forward to Shigeko presenting more of the creative origami ideas for grades K-12 in Fall ‘22.

BTA hosted its final happy hour of the school year on May 13. Sandoval's tacos made delicious food and a margarita machine served to keep us cool and liven up the party. There were over 40 members in attendance. It was the perfect way to end such a challenging school year. Congratulations to the following $25 gift card raffle winners: Samantha Robman (Emerson), Karyn Lombardo (Bret Harte) & Chris Mitchell (Huerta)
Relay for Life
Save the Date!

Come walk with the Burbank Teachers Association Team in the fight against Cancer
Saturday, September 24th, 2022
Donate an hour of your day
10am - 9pm
LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE
5792 Ethel Avenue
Valley Glen, CA

For more information, contact Jamie Davis @ javiadanie@sbcglobal.com or text to 661-406-8738

Or

1) Scan the QR code.
2) Click “join this relay” and set up an account.
3) Then, search for Burbank Teachers Association or Jamie Davis: Captain

California Casualty's Music and Arts Grant

Apply to receive $250.00 for your school.

CTA Members! California Casualty’s Music and Arts Grant program will award individual members with a $250 grant for their classroom or program. This is a very popular association member benefit. They plan on awarding approximately 60 grants this year. Applications received by July 2, 2022 will be notified of their status by September 30, 2022. Applications received after July 2, 2022 will be considered for an award during the next program cycle. Quick Entry Link!

Burbank Teachers Association
3021 W. Burbank Blvd, Burbank