

# TCEA NEWS LETTER

# Temple City Education Association

[Union Members]

Website  
[www.tcea9.com](http://www.tcea9.com)

May  
2019

## President

Ellen Laughlin

## Vice President

Kyla Hjertstedt

## Secretary

Samantha Jennings

## Treasurer

Sandy Johnson

## Membership

Maria Ioele



## [ A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT ]

Hello,

The cycle of the school year is coming to an end, and summer will be here before we know it. I'm booking flights, reserving hotels, and scheduling outings with friends and family, and I'm sure you all are too. It has been quite a year. As our union has seen a change in leadership, so has our district.

Although I have been planning my vacation time, something has been nagging at me, "Will I still be able to attend a professional development day over the summer or does my scheduled vacation conflict with PD?" With that in mind, the district will be sending a schedule of professional development options by the middle of May, at the latest. If this causes a panic, wait, and take a breath. Our members have until November 15th to complete professional development in exchange for the Monday of Thanksgiving week off.

If you're getting emails from people you've never heard of, you're not alone. There have been major staffing changes at the district, with more to come as an Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction will be hired soon. Consider stopping in at a TCUSD board meeting to meet the district's new team of professionals. District leadership is working diligently to make preparations for next year with a focus on being fair, equitable, and fiscally sound.

Our union has a lot to celebrate: a 4.5 % salary increase, supportive building representatives, PD grants to our hard-working members, a smart and cohesive bargaining team, scholarships to high school students, a rise in active members participating, a donation of 840 books to children, an increased number of members attending school board meetings, and a good relationship with the district. We're going back to the bargaining table on Tuesday, May 14th. Please wear your RED TCEA shirt to show support.

TCEA will be holding a General Association meeting at 3:30 on Monday, May 6th at Emperor School to welcome our 2019-2020 executive board and building representatives. We will have ballots so that you may VOTE on TCEA's updated Bylaws and our PAC Bylaws. Come out, vote, and have a slice of pizza. It would be wonderful to see you all there.

We are stronger together!

Ellen

## Monthly TCEA Meetings

Everyone is welcome to attend

our next meeting:

May 6, 2019 at 3:30 in the

Emperor Cafeteria



Featured  
Member

[ Dawn  
Neufeld ]

Hello! My name is Dawn Neufeld, and I teach English at Temple City High School. I started my teaching career in Baldwin Park, and then spent a couple of years in San Diego, before coming to Temple City. This is my 12th year teaching at TCHS, and I'm so grateful for this learning community.

This year has been one of my favorite years teaching! I have all Juniors (which I love), and I've been teaching AP Lang and Comp this year for the first time. I love curriculum planning and grading essays and engaging in discussions with students and staff. I love working at the high school and being part of a team. The students are great, and I feel very blessed to be here in TCUSD.

On a more personal note, my daughter and I live in Monrovia and enjoy the small town atmosphere we have there. She attends a dual immersion program in Monrovia, so I'm learning Spanish so I can keep up with her! In my spare time (hahaha) I enjoy reading, coaching, and dancing. :)



## Article VI - Transfer and Reassignment; Sections 2 and 3; Appendix J

This is the time of year to be on the lookout for your site administrator to be asking for volunteers to transfer to another school site or to be reassigned within your school. Whenever there is a call for volunteers, members should expect to see a notice in their mailbox, and a written posting which will be posted for 5 days. Additionally, if the transfer or reassignment occurs during the summer, the affected staff will be notified by mail or phone call. Therefore it's necessary to have an up-to-date mailing address and phone number with the district and site.

Members can notify the district of their interest in volunteering for a reassignment or transfer by completing a form found Appendix J of our contract. Ask a building representative for help.

### TCEA Meeting

TCEA Meeting for the  
General Association  
VOTE on new Bylaws  
Welcome the executive  
board and building  
representatives  
Emperor School -  
Cafeteria, Monday; May 6th  
3:30 pm  
Pizza and drinks will be  
provided.

## US Education Federation Trip to China

The US Education Federation is an organization that arranges an educational trip to China for American educators and administrators. Thanks to the opportunity presented to us by our administrator, Jason Rose, and a parent at our school, Robert Hao, we were invited to attend this 10 day trip to China during our Spring Break. We were asked to teach S.T.E.A.M. lessons to different age groups, visit public and private schools, and share our teaching experience and strategies, specifically in S.T.E.A.M., with Chinese teachers and administrators. The two of us went on this trip along with 12 other educators, administrators, and family members, mostly from private schools in Southern California. Thanks to this program and the grant awarded to us by the TCEA Grant Committee, which paid for our \$500 travel fee and \$140 visa fee, our flights, food, hotels, and other travel expenses were completely paid for. The grant committee also worked with the district office to permit us to use 3 school/district business days for our trip. The trip was a wonderful opportunity for us to observe Chinese classrooms and schools and to share what American education is like.

Within the ten days that we were in China, we were afforded the opportunity to visit ten different schools in three cities across China (Beijing, Xinyang, and Changsha). The schools we visited came from varying backgrounds and philosophies (private, public, boarding, progressive, and traditional), but regardless of their differences, we were always received with a warm welcome and treated with such respect. We often felt like celebrities during our school visits! Both students and educators were excited to share their work and ideas with us and it was fascinating to hear their perspectives on education and how much the students valued and appreciated the education they were receiving. Additionally, they were curious to hear about what school and life was like in America and were amazed that traditionally, elementary educators taught all subject areas as opposed to just one. During our school visits, we had a chance to introduce what S.T.E.A.M stood for, what it looked like in the classroom, and taught S.T.E.A.M lessons to 1st, 2nd, 4th, and 8th graders. Aside from the educational exchange, as a group we had a chance to explore a bit of China and learned about its rich culture and history. Some highlights included the Great Wall of China, The Forbidden City, night markets, visiting tea mountains and picking our own tea, and trying out local delicacies.

Considering a large portion of our student population is Asian American, specifically Chinese American, we expected to gain an understanding of parents' mindsets of U.S. education. After visiting the schools and speaking with educators, students, and parents, we've gained an insight into Chinese educational values. It was interesting and surprising to see students take control of their learning, especially in the upper grades where they must take initiative to research, apply, and succeed in prestigious middle and high schools. To our surprise, the parents' roles were much more hands-off than we expected. The pressure to do well did not come from the schools nor the parents, but rather on the students themselves. For example, at one of the private boarding schools that served students in grades 7-9, a student shared that her day primarily consisted of going to class and studying. During the small amount of free time she had, she chose to spend it reading, doing art, and hanging out with her friends. While this may not be the preference of American students, this particular student and her classmates felt very fortunate and appreciative of the opportunities afforded to her. While one might feel sad for their long school days and lack of free time, the students seemed genuinely happy to be where they were.

Finally, the most heart-warming and eye opening take-away from our trip was that regardless of the school or its educational philosophy, each school encouraged students' individuality, creativity, and to voice their opinions. They were not trying to conform students to fit one mold, but rather to challenge them to find their passions and pursue them with vigor and determination. This contributed to students' appreciation for the education they were receiving, their zest for learning, and their overall happiness. While it required flexibility and adaptability to changing schedules and long hours, this trip was certainly a worthwhile experience for educators. If you are interested in this opportunity, which occurs twice a year, please contact one of us and we'd be happy to share our experience with you more in-depth.



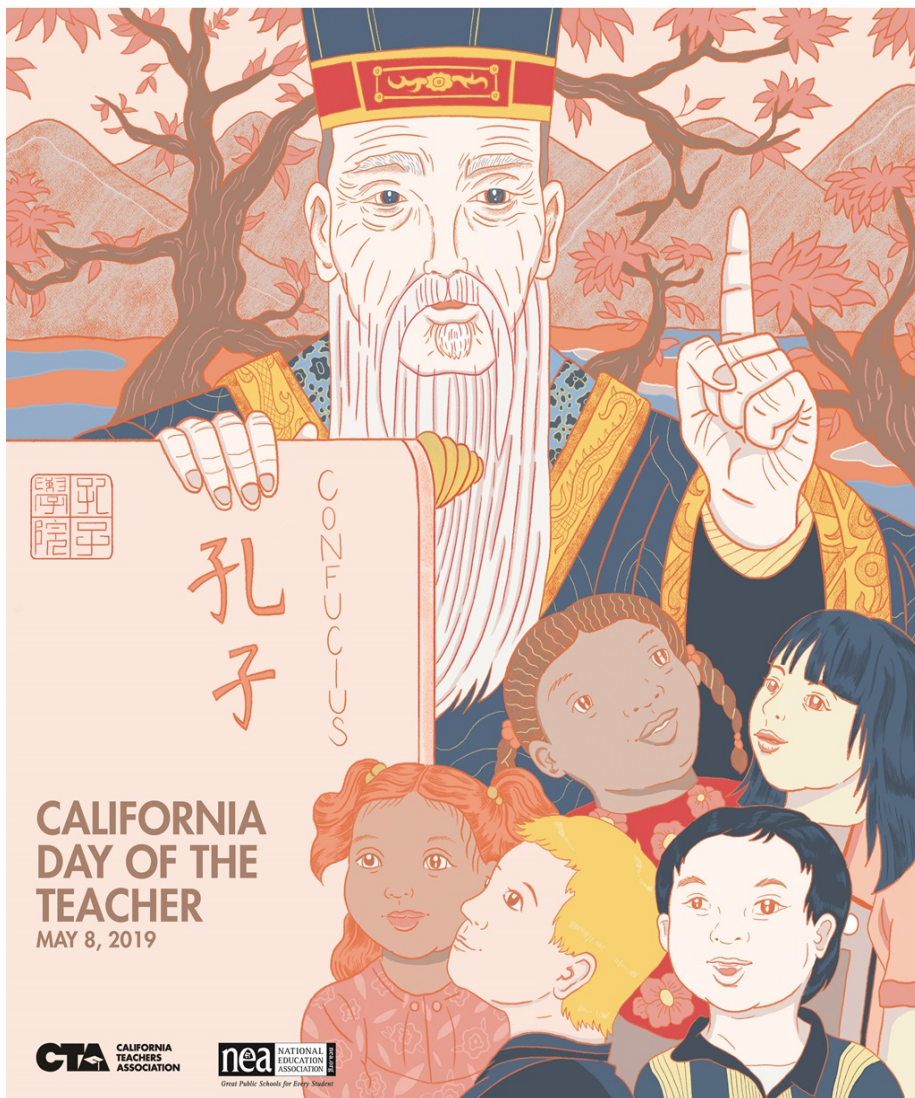
*Janelle Futa, 3rd Grade Teacher*  
*Jamie Ceralde, 2nd Grade Teacher*



## TCEA SCHOLARSHIPS

Each year TCEA generously gives scholarships to Temple City High School seniors who are entering college and studying to be teachers. It takes a village to get this wonderful task accomplished. Thank you to Amy Sisson, TCHS College and Career Center Coordinator for your assistance. I'm grateful to Annie Hwang, Gary Ledger, and Dawn Neufeld ; Temple City High School science, math and english teachers for reading student applications and awarding \$1,200 in scholarships.

## GREAT TEACHING IS NEVER FORGOTTEN



### Important Dates:

#### TCUSD BOARD Meetings

Closed Session 6 pm

Open Session 7 pm

May 8th

May 22nd

#### BARGAINING SESSION:

May 14, 2019

Wear your new RED TCEA union shirt to show support.

#### CONTRACT INFO:

5/1 is the deadline for Summative Evaluations. If you were on the observation/evaluation

Cycle this year, you should have received your evaluation by 5/1.

Your administrator has until 6/1 to discuss the evaluation with you.