TRUE DAY OF THE TEACHER CELEBRATION

On May 11th, TRUE members from across our district came together at Bella Bru Café in Natomas, to the TRUE event to celebrate and honor the work done every day by educators to create student success. Educators attending the celebration enjoyed a wide range of conversations with other educators while catching up with old friends and making new ones. We were treated to a delicious menu of seasonal fruit, fresh tomato with basil and mozzarella, chicken sliders, turkey meatballs, orzo pasta, stuffed mushrooms, and more! Everything tasted delicious, including the homemade chocolate book cake.

TRUE members attending the event also had the opportunity to win prizes, such as gift cards, lunch boxes, fun educator bags, and more. Those in attendance had a great time. Thank you, Twin Rivers educators, for all that you do!
Dear TRUE Members,

I hope you all have a wonderful summer break and get some much needed rest and relaxation! You will continue to hear from me throughout the summer, but this will be TRUE’s final Newsletter of the school year.

**Twin Rivers Proposed School Bond for the November 2016 Election:** TRUE’s Site Representative Council voted to take neutral position on this bond. It was discussed that this is a community decision, as most of TRUE members are not tax-paying residents in the Twin Rivers School District, that would be financially affected by this bond. We are aware that a bond would benefit facilities district-wide and restructure our outstanding debt from the ENEC Project (the Grant School District high school that was never completed out in the Natomas area), but want to leave this decision to the voters in our school district.

**Bell Times:** I have shared information at two Site Rep Meetings regarding the purpose of the changes. Due to how current bus routes are scheduled and school bell times, an adjustment was made to streamline bus routes. Often there are students who have to catch a bus an hour before their school day begins and at times, at 6:00 a.m. in the morning. Because of current routes and school bell times, we have teachers having to wait with students 30 minutes to sometimes an hour after dismissal, because of late buses. The new start times cluster schools in groups for overflowing students more efficiently to avoid the late buses and long commutes for our students. -See Page 3 for a summary of the Board-approved new start times at several schools.

**1% PD Timeline:** The final day to finish your 1% PD is June 9th at midnight. This is an extension from the original MOU. Payment for the 6 hours will be as scheduled, on July 10, 2016.

**Last Day of School - June 9th:** This is a minimum day; we work a professional work day. You leave when your professional duties are done. If that is at dismissal time, then that is the end of your day. It has been established practice that there are no staff meetings or PD held on minimum days.

**Twin Rivers School Board Election:** Our final event to support our School Board candidate for Area 7, Francisco Garcia, is June 4th. We will be walking his area neighborhoods. Come for as long as you can! Any amount of time will be helpful in working to get Francisco Garcia elected. It is past time for a change in the Trustee Area 7 School Board seat, which has been held by Linda Fowler.

You can also provide support to another of our endorsed School Board candidates, Basim Elkarra, who is running for Area 5 (Regency Park Elem/Norwood Jr. HS Area). Visit his website and volunteer to do some precinct walking, make phone calls, display lawn signs, etc.: [http://www.elkarra4kids.com](http://www.elkarra4kids.com)

**Summer PD:** This is not on MyLearningPlan but on our new system, Edivate; please check your district e-mail for a message from Zenobia last week on how to sign up for summer PD. Don’t forget that Aug. 3rd and 4th are both summer site-based Professional Development, which are of voluntary assistance and will be paid at the summer rate of $250 per full day. Most sites will have a guided PLC Time during the 3rd and 4th. All Summer PD is now $250. Go to Edivate to check out all of the great offerings for PD!

If you did not receive an email about a new login for Edivate, contact: mary.gerwer@twinriversusd.org or Stephanie.annett@twinriversusd.org.

**Teachers Charged for Student Textbooks:** We have heard from Foothill H.S. and Smythe Academy that teachers were being told they will be charged for textbooks their students have not returned. This is absolutely incorrect. Ed. Code clearly states that teachers cannot be charged for those
textbooks. I have been in contact with district management over this (again), and they agree it's a mistake and have assured us that they will clarify this with site administrators. If your site administrator is telling you you'll have to pay for student textbooks, please let the TRUE office know immediately (true.office@yahoo.com).

TRUE Site Representative Elections! Yes, you are supposed to elect your TRUE Site Representative! A Principal cannot/should not just select a person or two to be the Site Rep(s), and someone cannot just step up to be the Site Rep; an election needs to be held at each site at the beginning of each school year. Let the TRUE office know if your Principal tries to impose his/her selection of the Site Rep at your site, for that is a serious interference with union business. More information will come out in August on how to go about having an election for your school’s TRUE Site Representative.

TRUE Office Hours in June: Because of office staff vacation, during all the month of June the TRUE office hours will be: 9 am to 5:30 pm, Monday-Friday.

Kristin Finney
TRUE President

2016-17 Starting Times

| Allison          | 7:45:00 AM |
| Babcock          | 8:45:00 AM |
| Castorl          | 7:45:00 AM |
| Del Paso Heights | 7:45:00 AM |
| Dry Creek        | 8:30:00 AM |
| Fairbanks        | 7:45:00 AM |
| Foothill Oaks    | 8:30:00 AM |
| Foothill Ranch   | 8:45:00 AM |
| Frontier         | 8:15:00 AM |
| Frontier Campus  | 7:45:00 AM |
| Noraito Preschool| 12:30:00 PM |
| Northwood        | 8:15:00 AM |
| Oakdale          | 8:30:00 AM |
| Orchard          | 8:15:00 AM |
| Regency Park     | 7:45:00 AM |
| Sierra View      | 7:45:00 AM |
| Strauch, Hazel   | 8:30:00 AM |
| Village          | 8:15:00 AM |
| Garden Valley    | 8:15:00 AM |
| Hagginwood       | 8:00:00 AM |
| Hillsdale        | 8:15:00 AM |
| Johnson, Harmon  | 8:45:00 AM |
| Joyce, F.C.      | 8:30:00 AM |
| Kohler           | 8:00:00 AM |
| Madison          | 8:15:00 AM |
| Morey Ave        | 8:00:00 AM |
| Noraito          | 8:45:00 AM |
| Noraito Preschool| AM program |
| Vineland/Preschool| AM program |
| Westside         | 8:00:00 AM |
| Westside Campus  | 7:45:00 AM |
| Woodlake         | 8:30:00 AM |
| Woodridge        | 8:00:00 AM |

SCHOOLS WITH NO CHANGES FOR 2016-2017

CCAA High
Frontier Campus
Pacific Pathways
Pioneer
Ridgepoint
Smythe Charter

CCAA High
Eastside Campus
Football High
Frontier Campus
Grant High
Highlands High
Martin Luther King Jr
Miles P. Richmond

Norwood Jr. High
NOVA
Pacific High
Rio Linda High
Rio Linda Prep
Rio Terra Jr
Smythe Charter
Viola Nueva High
This Saturday, June 4th is the last weekend before the elections on Tuesday, June 7th. This is a primary election and our candidates typically do better because more people vote during a primary than during an election for school board trustees only, but we need your help to unseat Linda Fowler and seat Francisco Garcia. This Saturday is our last big push before the election. It would be extremely helpful if you could grab a friend and come walk for Francisco. Snacks and water will be provided for the walk, and lunch will be served following the walk. We will be meeting at the candidate’s, Francisco Garcia, house. Because of the heat we are hoping to start right at 9 am. Thank you for your support.

Lisa Gant
TRUE PAC Co-Chair
The California Teachers Association Good Teaching Conference for the North took place in San Jose, April 15-17, 2016, and I was able to attend as a recipient of a TRUE Scholarship. It was a weekend filled with food, fun, and of course, plenty of exciting workshops! The workshops offered included classic topics such as reading, writing, and arithmetic, but also fostering positive relationships with students, 21st century media, building collaborative relationships with other educators, and everything in between.

One of my favorite workshops of the weekend was “Fifty Ways to Leave Your Lecture,” presented by Grace Dearborn. This workshop may sound like it is geared towards junior high and high school teachers, but the advice offered was useful even for elementary educators. Teaching in any subject at any grade level will involve some kind of direct instruction and this workshop offered practical ways to make the most of our time with students so that our kids remember what we are trying to teach them.

Grace’s presentation started with brain-based research demonstrating why it is so important for us to move away from traditional lecture-style teaching. Studies have shown that rats kept in highly stimulating, highly social environments will strengthen so many connections between neurons that their brains actually get heavier over time. The converse is true of rats kept in lonely, unstimulating environments their brains got lighter and their brain connections got weaker over time. The same result happened to rats that saw their peers in an enriched environment, but could not participate themselves. This is an important reminder that no matter how interesting or enjoyable our students find our direct instruction unless they are actively participating in the learning process, they are not really forming the neural connections that help them to process and store information over the long term.

The first rule of thumb in designing direct instruction is that kids can only pay attention to us talking for 1 minute for every year old. So, if you are thinking, “I'm not in the habit of lecturing, I teach 2nd grade!” Time yourself the next time you teach a new concept. If your teaching or instruction lasts longer than 7 minutes, chances are you have hit the limit for how long your students can pay attention to you.

The second rule of thumb is that the first rule only applies up to age 12. After 12 minutes teenagers and adults alike can’t help but space out and turn their attention elsewhere. If you’ve ever taught students going through puberty you’ll know this to be true.

One easy way to break up direct instruction and improve student learning is simply to pause periodically while you are teaching. During these short 30-90 second pauses ask students to do something so that they are actively engaged. An easy go to is to ask students to summarize what they just learned. To keep students on their toes change up how you want them to summarize, out-loud, with a partner, out-loud with the whole class, by quietly thinking to themselves, writing down what they remember, by creating a simple drawing. You can make it a bit more creative by asking students to come up with three book titles about the subject they are learning and older students can write tweets. Have them restate what you just said in kid-friendly language that a student two grade levels below them would be able to understand. Older students can squeeze in a bit of test prep by asking them to come up with three questions about the topic they think might be included on a pop quiz.

Finally, get your kids moving! Physical activity improves memory and retention, so instead of having your students complete the above activities with a seated partner, have them get up and work with someone new in the room. Have students put their hand up into a “high five” and find someone else with their hand raised to become partners with. If you worry that students won’t choose appropriate partners, get them up and take the choice out of the equation. Make partnering up a review activity by passing out cards that are part of a set of two, and have each student find their match. For example, a primary student holding a lower-case “a” card might need to find their upper-case counterpart. Older students might have to find the definition that matches the vocabulary card they have. However you decide to structure partner time the end result is the same, when kids are moving they are learning.

If you don’t want to wait for the next conference to get more practical tips and tricks for keeping your students engaged, check out Grace’s organization at [http://www.consciousteaching.com](http://www.consciousteaching.com)

Happy teaching everyone!

*Clara Skaug,*  
*6th-Grade Teacher at Rio Tierra Jr. High.*
TRUE Organizing Committee will host three community conversations around the LCAP and improvement of student success in the Twin Rivers District. We plan to ask our educators, families, and community members to “Stand with Students” as we create a pathway to their future. We will be able to have safer schools, lower class sizes, and provide social and emotional support with the communities support.

The conversations will take place on August 16th at the North Highlands - Antelope Library, August 17th at the Roberts Family Development Center, and August 18th at the North Natomas Library. We need the support of TRUE educators to make these events a success. We are asking for all TRUE educators to invite families to attend one of the events in your area. When you return to school in August, you will be provided with additional information and flyers to share with families, but please start spreading the word. TRUE educators will also be encouraged to attend one of the events.

Julianne Neal  
TRUE Organizing Chair, Interim
SAVE THE DATE!

Sacramento Area Reading Association
In partnership with
San Juan USD and Twin Rivers USD

present

Reading & Writing

A Recipe for Success

Guest Speakers

Dr. Lester Laminack & Dr. Gretchen Bernabei

Lunch time presentation by San Juan Culinary Academy with a special dessert for attendees

October 22, 2016 (8:00 – 3:00)
“Sign-in” is from 8:00 – 8:30 am
Del Dayo Elementary School, 1301 McClaren Drive, Carmichael, CA 95860

$40.00 Registration Fee includes breakfast and lunch
6 Hrs PD honored by your District as directed

We will also have special drawings for $100 Visa Cards,
Wine Food Baskets, 3 days/2 nights Lake Tahoe and more.

Please send your check (Payable to Sacramento Area Reading Association)
Along with the tear off below to:
ALICE LAW c/o SARA P.O. Box 60765 Sacramento, CA 95860

I would like to register for the October 22, 2016 Conference

Name: ____________________________________ District: _______________________
Home email: ________________________________ School: _______________________
# of tickets _____ Names of attendees: ____________________________

I would like my lunch to be: [ ] vegetarian [ ] gluten free
Study Finds
First-of-its-kind analysis examines 15 years of data
By Leo Doran and Benjamin Herold

Efforts by K-12 schools to give every student a laptop computer increased student achievement and gave a modest boost to their "21st-century skills," concludes a first-of-its-kind meta-analysis of 15 years' worth of research studies.

"It's not like just providing a laptop to every student will automatically increase student achievement, but we find that it's the first step," said Binbin Zheng, an assistant professor of counseling, educational psychology, and special education at Michigan State University.

Using statistical techniques to analyze already-completed studies, Zheng and her colleagues found that 1-to-1 laptop programs, on average, had a statistically significant positive impact on student test scores in English/language arts, writing, math, and science. The limited number of rigorous quantitative studies available to analyze means that further analysis is warranted, but the findings are clearly a good sign for 1-to-1 proponents, Zheng said.

A further review of 86 additional papers, meanwhile, found some modest evidence of other positive benefits associated with giving laptops to students, including increased student technology use; more student-centered and project-based instruction; greater student engagement; and better relationships between students and teachers.

The analysis focused solely on 1-to-1 laptop efforts. The researchers cautioned that their results are not generalizable to other devices such as tablets, desktop computers, and smartphones.

This is an excerpt from an article in Education Week go to www.edweek.org to read the entire article.

ELECTIONS UPDATE

Congratulations to all the newly elected Directors-at-Large on the TRUE Executive Board. They are as follows:

PreK-Grade 6:
Olivia Wilkins. Rebecca LeDoux and Louise Holder

K-12 Special Education:
Catherine Roller

Grades 7-12 and Adult Education:
Sharon Reichelt and Paul LeFrancois

Ethnic Minority at Large:
Ann Murray

At the start of the next school year, we will have an election to fill the vacant seat of the Director-at-Large for Specialty Groups.
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**TRUE EXECUTIVE BOARD**

**OFFICERS:**
President: Kristin Finney  
true.office@yahoo.com

Vice-President: Janet Edwards  
janet.edwards@trueassociation.org

Secretary: Julieanne Neal  
julieanneneal1@surewest.net

Treasurer: Lisa Gant  
lisasing@sbcglobal.net

**DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE:**
For Pre-K - Grade 6 Regular Education Teachers:
Rebecca LeDoux  
rebecca_ledoux@yahoo.com

Olivia Wilkins  
mslivie@yahoo.com

Louise Holder  
louiseholder@comcast.net

For Grades 7-12 Regular Education Teachers, Charter & Adult Ed.:
Paul Le Francois  
lefrancois1@earthlink.net

Sharon Reichelt  
sreichelt23@gmail.com

For Special Education Teachers K-12:  
Catherine Roller  
caroller54@aol.com

For Specialty Groups (Psychologists, Speech Therapists, Counselors, Nurses, Librarians, Program Specialists, TOSAs, SLCs, SSTs, VAPAs, and Social Workers):
~Vacant~

Ethnic Minority at Large and TRUE News Editor:  
Ann Murray  
annmurray456@gmail.com

---

**TRUE CONTRACT ENFORCEMENT (Grievances):**

For Grades 7-12 & Adult Ed.:  
Paul Le Francois  lefrancois1@earthlink.net

For ECE to Grade 6:  
Sharon Reichelt  sreichelt23@gmail.com

---

**TRUE NEGOTIATIONS TEAM:**

Lead Negotiator:  
Janet Edwards  
janet.edwards@trueassociation.org

Paul Le Francois  
Rebecca LeDoux  
Crystal Grooms  
Yolanda Jimenez

---

**CTA STATE COUNCIL TRUE REPS:**

Joyce Childs  
Janet Edwards  
Rebecca LeDoux

State Council Alternates:  
Wendy Gallimore & Julieanne Neal

---

**TRUE REPS ON TRERC:**  
(Twin Rivers Employee Relations Council)

Paul Le Francois  
Bill Avery

---

**TRUE COMMITTEE CHAIRS:**

Organizing & Labor Solidarity:  Julieanne Neal

Professional Development:  Edna Shoemaker

Contract Enforcement:  Paul LeFrancois

Catastrophic Leave Bank and Scholarships:  Sharon Reichelt

Elections: Tara Jacobs

Political Action (PAC): Lisa Gant