



An affiliate of  
the Arizona  
Education  
Association and  
the National  
Education  
Association

**Calendar of  
Events**



- Nov 1 Executive Board Meeting**
- Nov 7-10 Parent Teacher Conferences**
- Nov 10 Governing Board Meeting**
- Nov 11 Veterans' Day No School**
- Nov 15 Executive Board Meeting with the Superintendent**
- Nov 22 Rep Council Meeting**
- Nov 24-25 Thanksgiving No School**

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# The Voice

[www.wdea.net](http://www.wdea.net)

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## President's Message

Greetings to all! We are off and running in our second quarter of the school year. Hard to believe that more than 30% of the school year is behind us. I wanted to share what your WDEA leaders are doing to support you in your frontline efforts. Your leadership team is attending many district and state events/meetings to represent our members. We participate on the Planning and Steering Committee, the Washington Education Foundation, the Health Insurance Committee, the Teacher Evaluation Committee, and the Principal Evaluation Committee. WDEA also meets with the District Superintendents and the Human Resource Director monthly to collaborate on important issues. We hold monthly meetings with WDEA leadership to discuss issues and problem-solve solutions. In addition, our Advocacy Committee is representing members on a regular basis with employment concerns. This is only a sampling of the leadership we provide on your behalf.

As your President, I attend a monthly meeting with other local presidents from around Arizona to stay informed of statewide issues. At the last meeting the President of the Arizona Education Association, Andrew Morrill, shared with us that he was working with a variety of groups to create a new ballot initiative for the 2012 Election. I will be sharing more with you about this in the next newsletter, so keep watching as this measure could protect school funding! He also shared

some information about how the American Jobs Act, sponsored by President Obama, could help our students and our schools. It will bring \$50 billion to the middle class. It will save 280,000 teacher/support staff positions nationwide. If passed, it will bring nearly \$544,000 million to Arizona in order to modernize public schools and technology. He shared that 7,100 construction jobs would be created by modernizing the schools most in need. For a family with an income of \$46,000, it includes a \$1,400 tax break. I have been watching the news trying to understand the proposal, and was confused as to what that would mean to Arizona. Andrew Morrill's information told me what this would do for Arizona.

I know conference means lots of preparation and time away from other commitments. I want to thank all of you for the hard work you do each day for our students. I know you are working long hours to provide the best education to our students and thank you for all you do! Please remember that we have a monthly WDEA meeting at Palo Verde Middle School at 4:30. Our next meeting will be on November 22, 2011 and you are always welcome to attend and find out what is going on across our district, in the state, and at the national level. Together we will make a difference for our students!

## Vacation Carry Over During Winter Break

Classified employees who must use vacation over Winter Break, please be aware that the upcoming break is scheduled from Monday, December 26 to Friday, January 6. Scheduled holidays fall in both 2011 and 2012. This means employees must use two days of

vacation in 2011 and the remaining three days in 2012.

As a result, only two vacation carryover days can be used— for December 29-30. Then, current vacation time must be used for January 4-6, 2012. Additional vacation carryover will be lost if not

used prior to December 23, which is a scheduled furlough day.

If you have any further questions, please talk to your supervisor.

Submitted by Kyla Kushner,  
Recording Secretary

## A-F Accountability Town Hall

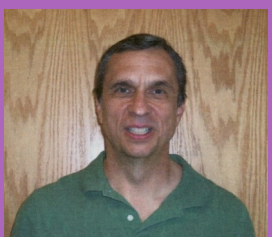
The Arizona Department of Education is sponsoring several A-F Accountability Town Halls all over the state of Arizona. If you too are confused by the new labels and want to learn more or if you want to share this with parents of your students, the Town Hall is free to attend and will be very informative. The

town hall will be on **November 17, 2011** from **2-5pm** at the Wigwam Resort Conference Center in the Sachem West room. That is located at 300 Wigwam Blvd, in Litchfield Park, Arizona. The conference will include:

- Rationale for the letter grades
- A-F vs. AZLearns

- Explanation of letter grade system
- Question and Answer session
- ADE Resources
- Innovative Programs and software
- Strategies for assisting students

Submitted by Mindy Whalen, President



## John Clayton Tribute

John Clayton has been in the field of education for many years and he was a resource teacher at both

Orangewood and Richard E. Miller prior to coming to Moon Mountain two years ago. In addition, John got his special education certification on the East coast and taught high school servicing students with special needs. While at Orangewood, John was the recipient of the Lamp of Learning Award which is a great honor for any employee. John has those special interpersonal relationship skills that

help him be successful in any environment. He is child-centered and works very diligently to meet the needs of all students. John has a wonderful manner with parents as well and his calming influence is felt both in the classroom and within the IEP meetings that he facilitates.

In addition to the great work that he does in the classroom, John supports our district and our school in several additional roles. He is the co-sponsor of the A-Team which is a youth leadership team on campus that facilitates our Olweus Bullying Prevention Program. He also has coached boys

basketball, serves on the Social Committee and also serves on a district committee as well. John is positive, enthusiastic and always maintains a great sense of humor, no matter what the circumstances. He is a role model for students and his peers as well. He is the kind of professional employee deserving of this recognition. Thank you John for being an advocate for our association and serving as a Rep at Moon Mountain!

Submitted by Lori Fox, Area Delegate