

## Your Vote is Important on March 7

On March 7, you and I as voters will determine the fate of several important ballot measures that have tremendous impact on school facilities, educational materials, libraries, and students.

To assist you in making these consequential decisions, this issue of *HighLights* provides a brief overview of several propositions, including pros and cons, and Website addresses where you can get additional information. As a public agency, the County Office cannot advocate for or against these propositions; however, we can provide information so that you can make up your own mind on these complex issues.

The propositions we are highlighting in this newsletter pertain specifically to education/schools and children: *Proposition 14*, The California Reading and Literacy Improvement and Public Library Construction and Renovation Bond

Act of 2000; *Proposition 20*, California State Lottery/Allocation for Instructional Materials; *Proposition 21*, Juvenile Crime; *Proposition 22*, Limit on Marriage; *Proposition 26*, School Facilities, Bonds, Local Majority Vote; and *Bond Measure A*, Improve Oakland School District Facilities (see "State Ballot Measures" on page 6).

I hope this review is helpful as you study your ballot. Please talk to your friends, neighbors, and colleagues to help them understand the ramifications of these ballot measures. Each deserves careful review and consideration. As educators, parents, and supporters of public education, you will be asked for your opinion. Be ready to engage in that important dialogue.

On another matter, the County Office has just published a *First Year Report* reviewing the goals I set for myself and this agency during my first year in office. It is a report card, of sorts, on how the County Office staff has met the objectives I established

as the superintendent of schools. It also spells out my vision for "Year Two" especially related to our direct participation in school reform efforts. In the next issue of *HighLights*, I will provide an update on our County Office External Evaluator Team which is working with five low-performing schools in Alameda County and the Action Plan they are developing to help students in those schools achieve success.

If you would like a copy of the First Year Report or would like to know more about the Alameda County Office of Education and our programs, please contact the Office of Communications and Public Affairs, at (510) 670-4150, or visit our website at [www.alameda-coe.k12.ca.us](http://www.alameda-coe.k12.ca.us).



Sheila Jordan  
Alameda County  
Superintendent of Schools

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## National Nutrition Month 2000 Food and Fitness: Health for a Lifetime

The American Dietetic Association invites families, schools, and communities to celebrate National Nutrition Month. The keys to this year's National Nutrition Month theme are "food" and "fitness."

The California Healthy Kids Resource Center (CHKRC) has a wealth of comprehensive health materials ready to support schools, communities, and families as we strive for Health for a Lifetime. The Website [www.californiahealthykids.org](http://www.californiahealthykids.org) includes items such as HeartPower, a pre-K through 8<sup>th</sup> grade kit that emphasizes skills in making healthful food choices and keeping fit, literature sets that support food and fitness, and many other innovative and exciting curricula, videos and professional development tools. Call (510) 670-4581 if you would like more information about the CHKRC.



(continued on page 2)

## National Nutrition Month 2000

(continued from page 1)

### Health for A Lifetime

A lifetime of good health requires an early start. School age is a critical time to begin teaching children the importance of diet and activity. Reports from the United States Department of Agriculture and the Surgeon General indicate that:

- Fewer than one in five children eat the recommended 5 servings a day of fruits and vegetables.
- 27% of children 6-11 years are considered obese.
- Nearly half of all American youths are not vigorously active on a regular basis.
- Participation in all types of physical activity declines as age and grade in school increases.
- Only 19% of all high school students are physically active for 20 minutes or more, five days a week in physical education classes.

Many of these problems are present in Alameda County. We know classroom teaching time is precious. However, integrating health education into daily lessons is essential to preventing the health problems that are facing our children and families. When children and adults are fit, they can:

- Improve their mood, reduce stress, and increase energy.
- Reduce their risk for heart disease, cancer, and diabetes.

- Look and feel their best.
- Have the physical strength and endurance to do the things they want to do.

When children and adults develop healthful eating practices:

- Test scores on composite math and reading percentile improve.
- Attendance and student behavior improves.
- There are fewer visits to school nurses.
- Work productivity improves.
- Risks for some diseases are decreased.

Featuring National Nutrition Month at your school or district is an essential contribution toward promoting lifelong health. This could range from a simple food and fitness riddle to start each day, or a drawing at lunch for National Nutrition Month promotional items, to organizing a series of nutrition and fitness education lessons that are reinforced by murals or special events in the cafeteria. Even food-tasting is a great way to introduce students to the flavor and value of food to lifelong health and fitness. Contact your food service director for other ideas.

Further information on food and fitness, press releases and promotional materials for National Nutrition Month, can be ordered through the ADA Consumer Nutrition Hot Line, (800) 366-1655 or check the web site at [www.eatright.org](http://www.eatright.org).

For more information about National Nutrition Month contact Jackie Russum, Registered Dietitian with CHKRC, at (510) 670-4587.

## Events and Activities



Please call to confirm date and time.

**February 28:** Superintendent Jordan speaks at the Kiwanis Club Luncheon, Lakeview Club, Kaiser Center, Oakland.  
Contact: Beth Giuntini, (510) 834-7780.

**March 9:** Superintendent Jordan speaks at the San Francisco Bay Area Federal Women's Program Managers' Council for the Annual Women's History Month Training Conference, 8-10 a.m., Oakland Federal Building.  
Contact: Golda Mason, (510) 337-6837.

**March 14:** Region IV District Superintendent's meeting.  
Contact: Joe Ovick, (925) 942-3433.

**March 14:** Alameda County Board of Education meeting, 7:30 p.m., Alameda County Office of Education, 313 W. Winton Ave., Hayward, Room 142.  
Contact: Barbara Walker, (510) 670-4145.

**March 16:** ACSBA Board of Directors Meeting (speaker: Sharon Krull, teacher, topic: *Children's Brain Development — Are Schools Pushing Too Hard?*), 6:30 p.m., Alameda County Office of Education, 313 W. Winton Ave., Hayward, Room 142.  
Contact: Suzanne Barba, (510) 670-7754.

**March 17:** District Superintendents meeting, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Alameda County Office of Education, 313 W. Winton Ave., Hayward, Room 142.  
Contact: Jack McLaughlin, (510) 644-6147.

**April 6:** Countywide Emergency Preparedness Drill.  
Contact: William Singer, (510) 538-6888.

**April 7-8:** ACSA's Grape Escape Conference, Chaminade, Santa Cruz.  
Contact: Linda Cabral, (510) 337-7114.

**April 11:** Region IV District Superintendent's meeting.  
Contact: Joe Ovick, (925) 942-3433.

**April 11:** Alameda County Board of Education meeting, 7:30 p.m., Alameda County Office of Education, 313 W. Winton Ave., Hayward, Room 142.  
Contact: Barbara Walker, (510) 670-4145.

**April 25:** High School Exit Exam Presentation with Ruth McKenna, Superintendent, New Haven Unified School District; 9:30-12 noon, Alameda County Office of Education, 313 W. Winton Ave., Hayward, Room 142.  
Contact: Beverly Brown, (510) 670-4229.

## News and Features

- The **14<sup>th</sup> Annual California Writer's Club** story contest for fifth graders is underway in Alameda and Contra Costa counties. Teachers may submit up to three stories per 5th grade classroom, only one entry per student. Three entries from each classroom will receive certificates of merit. Top prizes are \$100, \$75, \$50, and at least seven \$10. Stories must be original, the student's own work, and no more than 1,000 words in length. Entries must be mailed on or before April 1, 2000 and the winner will be announced by June 1. The California Writer's Club may publish stories for educational purposes and to promote the contest. Other rights remain with the individual authors. For more information, visit the website at: [om/cwcstories/myhomepage/index.html](http://om/cwcstories/myhomepage/index.html) <http://www.hometown.aol.com/cwcstories/myhomepage/index.html>.
- Congratulations are in order for the **Castro Valley Unified School District's** lunch food and service.

Castro Valley Unified has earned the honor of being among the best food service programs in California. The State Department of Education's Child Nutrition Services division audits several hundred school districts in California each year to make sure they are serving healthy lunches and are satisfying the students. Last year, of the 300 lunch programs evaluated, Castro Valley was among the top 12 in the state. The state rates the districts based on the quality of lunches, how nutritious they are and whether the students actually like what they are eating. Bon appetit! (*Tribune*, 12/17/99)

- **San Leandro and San Lorenzo Unified School District** students who are interested in pursuing a college degree now have a new means to prepare for their college careers. *College Bound*, a program sponsored by the San Leandro Main Library, was founded by Librarians Nancy Fong and Penny Peck, and is available to all students. The program helps students determine what kind of career they want to pursue and explore the avenues available to

them. Help is also provided for applying for scholarships, financial aid grants and SAT course preparation. The club meets on the third Wednesday of each month from 4-5 p.m. at the Marina Community Center. The Club travels to college campuses for a first-hand look at the college environment. There is a membership fee of \$10. For further information call (510) 577-6054. (*Daily Review*, 1/1/00)

- Rafael Ramirez, Administrator/Principal, **School Age Mothers/Pregnant Minors Program**, at the ACOE attended, along with teen women from Albany, Oakland and Southern Alameda County a conference in Oakland offering young women a means of taking charge of their own destiny. The Oakland YWCA and Independent Means, Inc., co-sponsored the "An Income of Her Own Entrepreneurship Conference" designed to encourage young women to become financially knowledgeable and independent. For more information call (800) 350-1816 or e-mail [www.independentmeans.com](http://www.independentmeans.com).

## GOVERNOR'S BUDGET

*Resource: Mike Dillon Associates and Lynn M. Suter and Associates*

The Governor recently released his 2000-02 budget. The Governor states that "the academic achievement of California's 5.8 million pupils remains the administration's highest priority." This year, the budget reflects that priority by providing an additional \$2.9 billion in total resources for K-12 above the 1999 Budget Act—with over \$47 billion devoted to California's 988 school districts and 58 county offices of education, resulting in an estimated total per-pupil expenditure from all sources of \$7,453 in FY 1999-00 and \$7,793 in FY 2000-01.

A major component of the Governor's plan to achieve higher academic standards is geared toward drawing teachers to schools that rank in the bottom 50 percent on standardized test scores. Under the Governor's plan, teachers who agree to teach in these schools would be eligible for: forgivable college loans up to

\$11,000; competition for \$20,000 teaching fellowships for top college graduates who obtain a credential; a \$2,000 bonus for themselves and for the schools they teach in if they receive a full credential; eligibility for a \$10,000 loan for the down payment on a home, forgivable after five years; and eligibility for bonuses up to \$30,000 if they obtain national board certification.

The Governor also proposed the establishment of an aggressive teacher recruitment program and changing statutes to allow retired teachers to return to the classroom without losing their pensions.

In an effort to encourage higher performance among high school students, the Governor outlined scholarship and other programs including: merit scholarships of \$1,000 for students in the 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> grades who score in the top 10 percent statewide or the top 5 percent at their school on the STAR

test; distinguished scholar award for perfect math and science advanced placements tests or equivalent scores on the Golden State Exam and funding assuring that at least one advanced placement course is available to all students by next fall.

### Website of the Month

**[www.liveatthepark.com](http://www.liveatthepark.com)**

From the National Parks Service, Live at the Park is a learning opportunity being made available to educators over the Internet to augment and enhance science and history education. Live at the Park uses the AniVision technology, Virtual Time Traveler, to give virtual park tours to students in classrooms.

# News Summaries on Current Issues

From [www.edweek.com/clips/](http://www.edweek.com/clips/)

- **Web Site To Offer Daily Scholarships**

*USA Today*: February 3. An Internet site to be launched Thursday is promising to give away \$10,000 a day in college scholarship money. No essay required. No nerve-wracking interview. Just the luck of the draw.

- **Board Ends 'Social Promotion'**

*The Minnesota St. Paul Pioneer Planet*: January 26. The St. Paul school board agreed Tuesday to a new plan that threatens to hold city school children back a grade if they score poorly on districtwide achievement tests and are chronically absent from school.



- **Vast Majority Of State's Schools Lag In New Index**

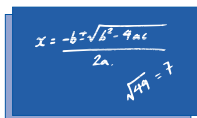
*Los Angeles Times*: January 26. Eighty-eight percent of California's public schools fell below the state target for achievement, according to the state's first-ever ranking of elementary, middle and high schools, released Tuesday.

- **Wanted: Schools' Savior; Must Be Fast**

*Los Angeles Times*: January 10. Los Angeles needs a permanent schools chief. So does New York City, San Francisco, Oakland, Las Vegas and Detroit, to name just a few of the major American cities in search of a superintendent. Some of the potential candidates already being mentioned by board members include a few who have been driven out of their superintendent jobs.

- **Governor Plans Big Push On Algebra: Seventh-, Eighth-Grade Summer Schools**

*The Sacramento Bee*: January 10. Gov. Gray Davis today will propose a new statewide summer school program to help seventh- and eighth-graders prepare for high school algebra, a subject he wants included in the new high school exit exam required before graduation beginning in 2004.



- **A Bidding War For Teachers Spreads From Coast To Coast**

*New York Times*: January 7. On Wednesday, only hours after Gov. George E. Pataki asked lawmakers to subsidize tuition for college students who commit to teach in selected New York public schools, Gov. Gray Davis of California addressed the legislature in Sacramento with a more lucrative counter-offer. Such offers have multiplied and intensified in recent months across the nation.

- **State Teachers Union Faces Calls For Change**

*Los Angeles Times*: January 7. In the shouting match over education reform, no voice booms louder than the California Teachers Association, the union representing 300,000 public school teachers. The union possesses an unparalleled network of activists. As one of the largest sources of campaign contributions in the state, the union has virtually guaranteed access to the highest levels of government. Yet, even within the union's own ranks, calls for change are mounting.

- **Teaching Chastity 101: Reviewing Our Notes**

*Time*: December 17. Author Jessica Reaves explores the whys and wherefores of the storm surrounding sex education.

- **Running Big-City Schools: A Job Fewer Want**

*The Christian Science Monitor*: January 4. Wanted: Politically savvy chief administrator to solve problems of big-city public school system. Must work with demanding parents, aggressive unions, and feisty mayors while improving test scores of hundreds of thousands of inner-city children. With scant budget, successful candidate must show progress immediately or face termination. Previous education experience not necessary. Who out there would take such a job? Right now some of the largest urban school systems in the U.S. are trying to find a new schools chief, a position fraught with administrative perils and political pitfalls.



- **S.F. Schools Seek Ethnic Balance Without Using Race**

*Los Angeles Times*: January 3. With educators across the nation watching, the city's school district is struggling—unsuccessfully, so far—to create a school assignment formula that can maintain an ethnic balance in each school without using race as a criterion. U.S. District Judge William Orrick has ordered district officials to submit a race-blind plan for the 2000-2001 school year.

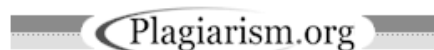
- **New Internet Site Nabs Term Paper Cheaters**

*eSchoolNews*: December 6. A new Internet site that checks material for originality is catching term paper cheaters in a web of deceit. The site, Plagiarism.org, checks material against millions of pages online, identifying pseudo-scholars with the click of a mouse.

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# Recognition Days - Great Ideas for Lesson Plans

**March 1-31 American Red Cross Month**  
Always observed during the entire month of March. Sponsored by the American Red Cross. E-mail: [info@usa.redcross.org](mailto:info@usa.redcross.org)

**March 1-31 Music in Our Schools Month**  
To communicate the importance of music in the learning experience. Sponsored by Music Educators National Conference. Email: [elizabet@menc.org](mailto:elizabet@menc.org)

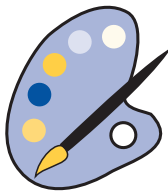


**March 1-31 National Mental Retardation Month**  
To promote public education concerning mental retardation and the welfare of the 7.2 million Americans who have this condition. Sponsored by The Arc of the United States. Email: [Lizmoore@metronet.com](mailto:Lizmoore@metronet.com)

**March 1-31 National Middle Level Education Month**  
To encourage middle level schools to schedule local events focusing on the educational needs of early adolescents. Sponsored by the National Association of Secondary School Principals. Email: [gallettis@nassp.org](mailto:gallettis@nassp.org)

**March 1-31 National Nutrition Month**  
To promote the importance of good eating habits to physical and mental health. Sponsored by the American Dietetic Association. Email: [NNM@eatright.org](mailto:NNM@eatright.org) (See story on page 1.)

**March 1-31 Youth Art Month**  
Observed during March each year to emphasize the importance of art activities for children and to encourage schools and youth groups to support their art programs. Sponsored by The Council for Art Education, (617) 426-6400.



**March 1-31 National Women's History Month**  
Proclaimed by Congress and many governors and state legislatures as a month to celebrate the rich and inspiring heritage of women's contributions to the United States. Information from National Women's History Project. Email: [nwhp@aol.com](mailto:nwhp@aol.com)

**March 6-10 National School Breakfast Week**  
Sponsored by the American School Food Service Association. Email: [asfsa@asfsa.org](mailto:asfsa@asfsa.org)

**March 6-10 Newspapers in Education Week**  
To promote the ongoing use of newspapers as a learning and teaching tool. Sponsored by the Newspaper Association of America Foundation, International Reading Association, and National Council for the Social Studies. Email: [abbottj@aol.com](mailto:abbottj@aol.com)



**March 12-18 Girl Scout Week**  
Sponsored by Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. Email: [program@girlscouts.org](mailto:program@girlscouts.org)

**March 16 Absolutely Incredible Kid Day**  
A day for adults to convey their appreciation of children by sending a letter to a special child in their lives. Celebrated on the third Thursday of March every year. Information from Camp Fire Boys and Girls. Email: [www.campfire.org](http://www.campfire.org)



**March 17 Camp Fire Boys and Girls Founder's Day**  
To commemorate the founding of Camp Fire Boys and Girls. Sponsored by Camp Fire Boys and Girls. Web site: [www.campfire.org](http://www.campfire.org)

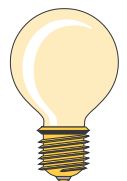


**March 19-25 National Poison Prevention Week**  
To encourage people to learn about the dangers of accidental poisoning of children and to take preventive measures. Observed the third full week of March. Sponsored by Poison Prevention Week Council. E-mail: [kgiles@cpssc.gov](mailto:kgiles@cpssc.gov)

**March 20 First Day of Spring**

**March 21 International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination**  
Day to remember the people throughout the world who have been victims of racial injustice. Information from Public Inquiries Unit, (212) 963-4475.

**March 24 National Energy Education Day (NEEDay)**  
To make energy education part of the school curriculum. Sponsored by National Energy Education Development (NEED) Project. Email: [NEED@erols.com](mailto:NEED@erols.com)



(continued on page 8)

# STATE BALLOT MEASURES

affect public education. This information was excerpted from the *State Ballot Measures Pros/Cons* published by the League of Women Voters of California, January 14, 2000.

## BALLOT PROPOSITIONS

### Proposition 14: The California Reading and Literacy Improvement and Public Library Construction and Renovation Bond Act of 2000.

#### Proposal

Proposition 14 would:

- Authorize the sale of \$350 million in general obligation bonds to fund a library construction and renovation program, with 35% in matching funds from local government agencies;
- Give priority to "joint use" projects where libraries serve both the community and schools, and to libraries in areas where schools are in need of infrastructure to access educational technology;
- Establish a six-member California Library Construction and Renovation Board to review project applications, with the State Librarian as administrator of projects.

#### Supporters Say

- Proposition 14 invests in our local communities wisely; it does not raise our taxes, the funds cannot be used for local administrative costs, and the 35% matching fund requirement maximizes the use of limited state funding.
- For more information call (916) 737-9331 or e-mail: [yeson14@PACBELL>NET](mailto:yeson14@PACBELL>NET)

#### Opponents Say

- Bond financing ties up our taxes for 25 years, even if the technological improvements become obsolete or if the economy collapses;
- For more information call (916) 445-9781 or [www.rayhaynes.org/bonds.html](http://www.rayhaynes.org/bonds.html)

### Proposition 20: California State Lottery. Allocation for Instructional

#### Materials

#### Proposal

Proposition 20 would:

- Earmark one-half of the increase in state lottery revenues allocated to public education for K-14 public school instructional materials, beginning with fiscal year 1998-99;
- Not affect the share (34%) of lottery revenue benefiting overall public education;
- Provide that funds be distributed by an equal amount per unit of average daily attendance.

#### Supporters Say

- California's textbook funding sources are clearly insufficient when we currently rank 47<sup>th</sup> out of 50 states in per-pupil textbook spending;
- Proposition 20 would ensure continuous funding for textbooks and instructional materials within the current education lottery revenues.
- For more information call (916) 319-2039 or e-mail: [schoolbooks4kids@aol.com](mailto:schoolbooks4kids@aol.com)

#### Opponents Say

- The state budget provides ongoing funding for textbooks, and a new state program will provide \$1 billion for textbooks over the next four years; and
- Proposition 20 would restrict local school boards' ability to allocate lottery funds for local priorities and special projects.
- For more information call (916) 319-2025 or e-mail: [david.pegos@asm.ca.gov](mailto:david.pegos@asm.ca.gov)

### Proposition 21: Juvenile Crime.

#### Proposal

Proposition 21 would require that serious juvenile offenders be treated more as adult offenders, and change the courts that would try their cases, where they are housed, and the type of probation and confidentiality available to them. Additionally, it would increase the punishment for certain adult felonies and include them as "strikes" under the "Three Strikes" law.

Proposition 21 would:

- Require adult trials for juveniles 14 years or older charged with specified offenses;
- Eliminate informal probation, and further limit confidentiality for juveniles who are charged with, or convicted of, specified felonies;
- Require that certain juvenile offenders be held in local or state correctional facilities rather than juvenile facilities;
- Designate additional crimes as violent and serious, thereby making offenders subject to longer sentences;
- Further increase punishment for gang-related offenses, and allow for the death penalty for gang-related murder;
- Provide indeterminate life sentences for home-invasion robbery, carjacking, witness intimidation, and drive-by shootings;
- Authorize wiretapping for gang activities, and require persons convicted of gang-related crimes to register with law enforcement.

#### Opponents Say

- Department of Justice statistics show that serious juvenile crime has steadily declined in recent years, and California already has tough laws against gangs and youth crime;
- Proposition 21 carries a high price tag; more jails and prisons will need to be built, taking money away from other government services and current efforts to prevent violence.
- For more information call (415) 437-4009 or e-mail: [www.noprop21.org](http://www.noprop21.org)

#### Supporters Say

- The "Three Strikes" law has contributed to a decline in adult crime, while juvenile crime continues to be serious and needs to be addressed;
- Law enforcement must have more power in prosecuting and convicting

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# STATE BALLOT MEASURES

juvenile offenders for serious crimes and in dealing with gang members.

- For more information call (916) 446-6667 or e-mail: [www.faqvoter.com](http://www.faqvoter.com)

## Proposition 22: Limit on Marriages.

### Proposal

This initiative statute would provide that only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California. Marriages performed in other states and countries would not be legal in California if they did not meet this criterion.

### Opponents Say

- Proposition 22 is unnecessary government interference. The measure does not ban same-sex marriages in California—they are already banned by current law;
  - This measure is discriminatory and singles out one group for attack; this divides Californians instead of uniting us.
- The lives of the children of 400,000 same-gender couples currently recognized by California laws will be unnecessarily disrupted if Proposition 22 passes. The measure threatens their rights, stability and well-being.
- For more information call (415) 227-1020 or e-mail: [www.noonknight.org](http://www.noonknight.org)

### Supporters Say

- Californians will continue to have the right to live as they choose, but not to re-define marriage for our entire society;
- Without Proposition 22, legal loopholes could force California to recognize same-sex marriages performed in other states.
- For more information call (916) 441-1010 or e-mail: [www.protectmarriage.net](http://www.protectmarriage.net)

## Proposition 26: School Facilities.

## Bonds, Local Majority Vote

### Proposal

Proposition 26 provides that:

- K-14 jurisdictions could incur bond debt for the construction or rehabilitation of K-14 school facilities if approved by a simple majority of the local voters;
- Property taxes could exceed the current one percent limit in order to repay the bonds.

### Proposition 26 would:

- Prohibit bond use for teacher/administrator salaries or other school operating expenses;
- Require local bond measures to include a specific list of school facilities to be funded;
- Require annual independent financial and performance audits of local bonds;
- Require that facilities be available to public charter schools.

### Supporters Say

- The current supermajority (two-thirds vote) for bond measures translates to “one-third plus one” rules, no matter how great the public need;
- Proposition 26 makes it easier to invest in our kids’ education, providing facilities for class-size reduction and repairing old, dilapidated buildings.
- For more information call (916) 554-0324 or e-mail: [www.letsfixourschools.com](http://www.letsfixourschools.com)

### Opponents Say

- The current two-thirds requirement protects homeowners from property tax increases voted in by renters who do not pay taxes.
- Taxpayers are already investing in schools at a record rate; since 1996, voters approved over \$11.8 billion in local school bonds with a two-thirds vote.
- For more information call (916) 444-9959 or e-mail: [www.saveourhomes.com](http://www.saveourhomes.com)

## BOND MEASURE

### Measure A - \$303,000,000

### Oakland Unified School District

Resource: Tramutola Company

### Ballot Statement:

To relieve overcrowding in Oakland’s neighborhood schools and improve educational facilities for children, through projects such as constructing new schools; renovating classrooms and bathrooms; replacing electrical, plumbing, heating, and ventilation systems; upgrading science labs and libraries; restoring arts/music rooms; and replacing deteriorating portable classrooms; shall Oakland Unified School District issue \$303,000,000 in bonds at authorized interest rates for acquisition and improvement of land and facilities, and appoint a citizens’ oversight committee to guarantee funds are spent accordingly?

### Supporters Say

If there is one issue all Oakland citizens agree upon, it is the need to improve Oakland schools. Measure A has been placed on the ballot by a coalition of educators, business leaders, elected officials, religious leaders, and community members to provide funds to repair Oakland schools and to provide permanent classrooms to relieve overcrowding. The following projects will be completed within a 10-year time frame:

- New schools will be built to relieve serious overcrowding;
- Student and teacher restrooms will be renovated;
- Electrical wiring will be upgraded for safety and to improve access to technology;
- Aged portables will be replaced with new classrooms;
- Heating and ventilation systems will be upgraded, sewer and plumbing systems replaced or repaired;
- Schools will be made seismically safe;
- Science labs will be modernized;
- School libraries will be renovated and modernized.

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## Recognition Days

(continued from page 5)

**March 24**

### **World TB Day**

World TB Day, observed annually on March 24, encourages people around the world to work together to contain tuberculosis (TB) on a global scale. Sponsored by the American Association for World Health. Email: [AAWHstaff@aol.com](mailto:AAWHstaff@aol.com)

**April 1-30**

### **Keep America Beautiful Month**

An annual celebration of the ongoing efforts of Americans to improve their environment through a variety of educational, clean-up, and improvement projects. Information and materials available from Keep America Beautiful. Email: [kabcomms@aol.com](mailto:kabcomms@aol.com)

**April 1-30**

### **Mathematics in Education Month**

Month of local and national events planned to increase student, parent, and public awareness of the importance of understanding mathematics in today's world. Sponsored by National Council of Teachers of Mathematics. Email: [infocentral@nctm.org](mailto:infocentral@nctm.org)



**April 1-30**

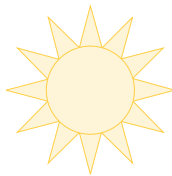
### **National Crime Prevention Month**

Sponsored by The National Exchange Club Foundation for the Prevention of Child Abuse. Phone: (800) XCHANGE.

**April 2**

### **Daylight Savings Time**

Begins for all U.S. time zones. At 2 a.m., clocks advance one hour, except in the following U.S. states and territories: Hawaii, Arizona, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, American Samoa, and the eastern zone portion of Indiana. Always the first Sunday in April.



**April 2**

### **International Children's Book Day**

Celebrated on Hans Christian Andersen's birthday to help young children develop an understanding of other cultures through literature. Sponsored by the U.S. Board on Books for Young People. Email: [acutts@reading.org](mailto:acutts@reading.org)



**April 7**

### **World Health Day**

Commemorates the establishment of the World Health Organization in 1948. Information from American Association for World Health.

Email: [taff@aol.com](mailto:taff@aol.com) [AAWHstaff@aol.com](mailto:AAWHstaff@aol.com)



**April 9-15**

### **National Volunteer Week**

Sponsored the The Points of Light Foundation.

Phone: (202) 729-8000.

**April 9-15**

### **Week of the Young Child**

To focus attention on the importance of the early years for children's learning and all aspects of development. Sponsored by National Association for the Education of Young Children.

Email: [naeyc@naeyc.org](mailto:naeyc@naeyc.org)



**April 15-22**

### **National PTA Earth Week**

During Earth Week, parents and teachers across the country focus their attention on the environment and plant the seeds of change for a cleaner, healthier future for our children. Information from the National PTA. E-mail: [info@pta.org](mailto:info@pta.org)

**April 16-22**

### **National Student Leadership Week**

Sponsored by the National Association of Secondary School Principals to encourage and recognize the many student leadership activities in our nation's secondary schools. For information contact the NASSP. Web site: [www.nassp.org](http://www.nassp.org)

**April 16-22**

### **Public School Volunteer Week**

To encourage parents and citizens to volunteer in their public schools. Sponsored by Project Appleseed. Web site: [members.aol.com/pledgenow/appleseed](http://members.aol.com/pledgenow/appleseed)

**April 22**

### **Earth Day U.S.A.**

Annual observance to acknowledge our responsibility for the environment and to make a stronger commitment to take action for the coming year. Information from Earth Day Network. Phone: (212) 922-0048.





# ACOE Workshops & Conferences

Teachers, staff, parents, and general public are welcome. Call to confirm and for registration information.

## **Technology Classes**

**Contact: Sandra Hart, (510) 670-4167**

- *Taking Charge of the Mac Desktop*–March 2
- *Introduction to AppleWorks*–March 7-9
- *Managing Your Windows Desktop*–March 8, 15
- *Word Processing with Microsoft Word*–March 14, 16, 21
- *Painting and Drawing Tools for Classroom Projects*–March 16
- *Microsoft Publisher (Windows Only)*–March 20, 22, 27
- *Camcorder Basics*–March 22
- *AppleWorks Graphics Project: Making Your Point*–March 23
- *Multimedia Publishing with HyperStudio*–March 28, 29, 30
- *AppleWorks Word Processing Project: A Slide Show Report*–March 30
- *Web Publishing with Claris HomePage*–March 31
- *Introduction to Microsoft Access (Windows Only)*–April 3, 4, 10
- *Microsoft Word Skill Builder*–April 5, 12, 26
- *AppleWorks Database Project: Classroom Experts*–April 6
- *PhotoShop Projects for the Classroom*–April 11
- *Introduction to Microsoft FrontPage 98 (Windows Only)*–April 11, 17, 18
- *AppleWorks Spreadsheet Project: Price Comparison*–April 13

## **Grants Resource Center**

**Contact: Karen Freeman, (510) 670-4520**

- *The East Bay Community Foundation Mini-Grant Workshop*–February 25
- *How to Get Started in Grantwriting: The Basics*–March 1; April 3
- *Successful Fundraising Strategies*–March 15
- *Proposal Review*–March 27
- *Prospecting for Grants: How to Do An Effective Search*–April 10

## **Service Learning**

**Contact: Evan Goldberg, (510) 670-4233**

- *Teaching About Hunger and Homelessness*–March 2
- *Waste Reduction*–March 29

## **Leadership Academy**

**Contact: Gloria Jacome (510) 670-4222**

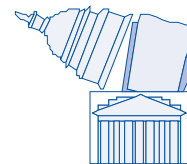
- *CLAD/BCLAD Sheltered Academy for Administrators*–February 22, 23
- *STAR and the Basics of Testing*–March 23

## **Professional Development Program**

**Contact: Beverly Brown, (510) 670-4229**

- *Beginning Teachers' Network*–February 10, 24; March 9, 23; April 6, 27; May 11, 25
- *Key Middle School Math Concepts*–February 26; March 18; April 1, May 6
- *TRIBES: A New Way of Learning and Being Together*–February 25, 26; March 3, 4
- *The Arts as Literacy*–February 26; March 25; May 6
- *Integrating School Gardens and Recycling Programs With Literacy and Science Curriculum*–March 20; May 5
- *Improving Student Literacy at the Secondary Level*–February 23; April 5; May 23
- *Focus on Meaning: Strategies for Teaching Comprehension Skills*–March 7, 14
- *The ABCs of Establishing Safe Ways to Schools*–March 8, 22
- *School Gardens: The Nitty Gritty*–March 15
- *Principals' Orientation for Program Quality Review*–March 15
- *Cooperation and Inclusion: Using New Games for Meeting the Sate P.E. Framework*–March 17, 18
- *Spanish for Educators: Beginner/Intermediate*–April 11, 18, 22, 25; May 2, 9, 16, 20, 30; June 6, 10, 13, 20, 26, 30
- *Using PathFinder to Manage Placements of Students in Summer Internships*–March 16, 23
- *Watching Our Watersheds*–March 18, 25
- *Reading Intervention: Intervention Strategies for Students with Reading and Writing Difficulties*–March 23
- *Kids in Gardens*–March 25; April 1
- *Anatomy of a Partnership Academy: An Interactive Visit to the Oakland Health & Bioscience Academy at Oakland Technical High School*–March 29
- *Aligning School-to-Career With WASC Focus on Learning*–April 4
- *Design Studio on Personalization of Education: Rigor, Relevance, and Relationship: A School-Based Institute at Oakland Technical High School*–April 6, 7, 8
- *SAT Preparation*–April 7
- *Workplace Health and Safety for Teens*–April 11
- *Learning About the Fourth Dimension*–April 13
- *Arroyo del Valle, A Residential Environmental Education and Sustainable Living Center*–April 15
- *The High School Exit Exam*–April 25
- *Teenage Drinking and Driving Prevention: Every 15 Minutes/Operation SLAM (Simulated Live Action Melodrama)*–April 26

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



(Resource: School Services of California)  
The following bills are pending in the Legislature:

### **School Facilities; Automated Fire Detection and Alarm** AB 20 (Lempert)

This bill would require that after July 1, 2001 all modernized public school facilities be equipped with automated fire detection and alarm systems. It would authorize districts to apply for funding under the Greene Act of 1998 (Proposition 1A) for installation of automated fire detection and alarm systems. The bill no longer requires a 20% local matching fund contribution for modernization and 50% for new construction. The bill is proposed to be effective July 1, 2001 and would create a local mandated program not funded from the State Mandate Claims Fund but for which districts could pursue reimbursement.

### **Educational Resources**

AB 121 (Leach and Runner)

This bill would:

- Revise the calculation of the annual revenue limit cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) by providing a slightly smaller dollar amount to high-revenue-limit districts than to districts with below-average base revenue limits as a means of promoting revenue equalization;
- Base the calculation of the annual COLA on the type and size of district, instead of the current formula based only on type—elementary, high school or unified; and
- Repeal the statutory COLA formula and leave the determination of the COLA percentage up to the annual budget process.

### **School Volunteers**

AB 415 (Havice)

This bill would require volunteers who have direct contact with students in an unsupervised setting to have his or her name submitted by the school district to the local law enforcement agency. The local law enforcement agency will check names against the maintained list of registered sex offenders to determine whether that person has been convicted of a sex offense. Districts that require criminal background checks for volunteers are exempt. The district must receive clearance before the volunteer has direct contact with pupils in an unsupervised setting.

### **School Classrooms: Pupil Health**

AB 454 (Havice)

This bill would require the California Department of Education and Health Services to develop “best management practice guidelines” to help school districts deal with classroom ventilation and air quality and complaints

about health conditions. It would also require the State Architect to conduct a study and set minimum standards and design features for classrooms. This bill is intended to create a mandated cost.

### **Pupils: Age of Admission**

AB 513 (Mazzoni)

This bill would eventually require a child to be 3 months older in order to enroll in kindergarten and the first grade. Specifically, the child would need to have his or her 5th birthday (for kindergarten) and 6th birthday (for first grade) on or before November 1 for the 2001-02 school year, on or before October 1 for the 2002-03 school year, and on or before September 1 for the 2003-04 school year. This bill also contains provisions that would:

- Allow for early or delayed admission to kindergarten and first grade on a case-by-case basis;
- Mandate a parent/guardian outreach program that focuses on methods to determine a child’s readiness for school;
- Compensate school districts for the loss of enrollment through 2015-16 as a result of raising the admission ages;
- Amend compulsory education law to include 5 year old children; that is, children between the ages of 5 to 18 would be required to attend public school full-time, unless exempted; and
- Require the school district to consult with local child care planning councils on preschool/child care capacity and provide a pre-kindergarten readiness program.

### **School Finance**

AB 801 (Cardenas)

This bill would allow a school district to deduct, for eligibility purposes, the space in a building that was to be torn down on the same site where the new school is to be constructed.

### **Charter Schools**

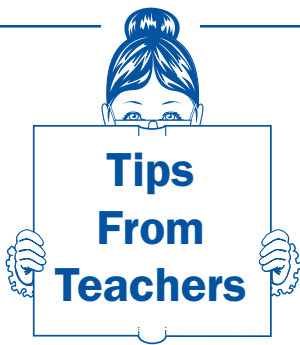
SB 326 (Lewis)

This bill would authorize a chartering agency to grant a charter for up to 15 years versus 5 years under current law.

### **Students: Violations on School Grounds**

SB 650 (Karnette)

This bill would expand the current authority of school attendance supervisors, peace officers, administrators, and probation officers to include arrests for specified misdemeanors and infractions committed by students on school grounds.



**Miss Haider, Mr. Nguyen, and Miss Purcell**, teachers at Alvarado Middle School, New Haven Unified School District, have solved the mystery—or at least have allowed their students the opportunity to do so. Through a deductive reasoning skill assignment, students were required to solve a “mysterious murder” on campus. Students were divided into teams and tested soil and blood samples, compared fingerprints and tested handwriting in order to gather enough evidence from the scene of the crime to solve the mystery. This hands-on learning adventure enabled students to form their own theories about the victim and the murderer. The final verdict: yet another innovative way to keep the students enthused and challenged during the learning process. (*New Haven USD 1/5/00*)

**Patti Dore**, a first and second grade teacher at Lorin Eden Elementary School, Hayward Unified School District, has the Hayward Police Department’s assistance in her classroom. No one is under arrest — the Hayward Police Department is just there to help with reading. Officer Steve Abercrombie, who initially taught anti-drug lessons to the students, has become an active volunteer in the fight to achieve literacy for all children. Abercrombie reads weekly to Ms. Dore’s class and has enlisted the help of 30 other Hayward Police Department employees at other area schools. The district is trying to enlist more community involvement and resources to increase literacy. The volunteer efforts of the Hayward Police Department are to be commended. (*Daily Review 11/27/99*)



Please forward any “Teaching Tips” proven to be useful to you so that others may benefit from your success! Ideas may be sent to Linda Henderson at the Alameda County Office of Education, fax (510) 670-4146 or e-mail to: [lhenderson@acoe.k12.ca.us](mailto:lhenderson@acoe.k12.ca.us).

## State Ballot Measures

(continued from page 7)

For accountability, an oversight committee made up of parents, teachers, experts in construction and finance, and taxpayers’ organizations will be appointed and serve without pay to ensure funds are spent properly. All funds, by law, can only be used for school improvement. Passage of Measure A allows our Oakland schools to qualify for state matching funds, thereby reducing costs to local taxpayers. Without passage of Measure A, these funds will be given to other school districts. The average age of Oakland schools is almost 60 years old. Measure A is critically needed to ensure safe schools for Oakland children.

### Opponents Say

First, the school board wanted to ask voters for \$512 million. Now, it’s \$303 million. Don’t they know what they need? The answer is NO! They are asking for enormous sums without a carved-in-stone guarantee of what, specifically, they’ll spend it on.

How much tax money has to be squeezed out of the already overburdened Oakland taxpayers to pay for

years of maintenance and neglect in our schools? \$598 million? That’s what school bureaucrats say. That number consists of this \$303 million bond issue, \$182 million in state funds by their estimate, and \$113 million balance from Measure C, which they said, was so badly needed. That’s right. \$113 million is still unspent from the 1994 bond issue of \$169 million approved by the voters.

Remember—the unprecedented \$303 million figure, largest ever in Northern California, doesn’t include the huge interest to be paid on the bonds until the year 2035! Interest could nearly double the sum taxpayers must cough up. Further, the school district’s tax rate statement clearly points out that tax rates are only an estimate—these rates could drastically increase over the years. There’s no cap! And, don’t forget we’ll also be paying taxes on the 1994 bonds for 42 years to come!

Pending state legislation would require two things of school bond issues: a detailed list of all proposed use of the money, and quarterly audits of those expenditures. This Oakland bond measure doesn’t meet either requirement.

Oakland taxpayers should reject this enormous bond issue and tell the school board to come back with a more reasoned measure that accounts in detail for every dollar! This pig-in-a-poke costs \$598 million.



*Next Issue: Submission of items for the next issue is subject to space availability. Districts are also welcome to submit first-person briefs (2-3 paragraphs) on best practices in teaching. Deadline for next issue: March 10, 2000. Please e-mail your submissions to Linda Henderson at [lhenderson@acoe.k12.ca.us](mailto:lhenderson@acoe.k12.ca.us).*

**DON'T FORGET TO**

 ***Vote***

**MARCH 7, 2000**



**Alameda County Office of Education**

Sheila Jordan, Superintendent

313 West Winton Avenue • Hayward, CA 94544