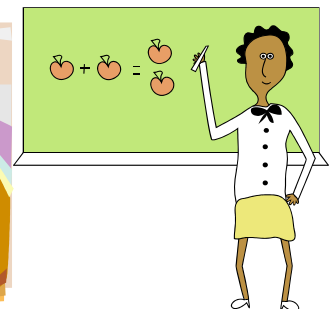
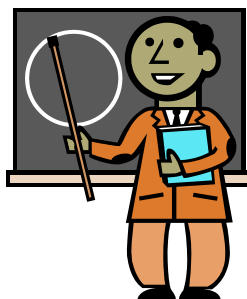
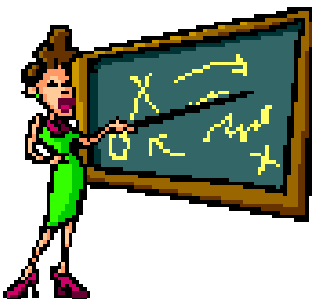


*Congratulations!*

# Teacher of the Year!

<i>Name</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>School Site</i>
Elizabeth Murphy	7th Grade LA, Business and Leadership	Amargosa Creek Middle School
Bertha D'Agostino	5th Grade	Desert View Elementary
Jennifer Krumeri	7th Grade, AVID	Discovery School
Margie West	Preschool SDC	Early Childhood Education
Erica Bowen	4th Grade	El Dorado Elementary
Amy Horn	6th Grade	Endeavour Middle School
Melissa Day	1/2 Combo	Jack Northrop Elementary.
Katie Burt	RSP	Joshua Elementary
Julie Schneider	4th Grade	Lincoln Elementary
Guillermo Balcazar	2nd Grade	Linda Verde Elementary
Nancy Collins	Assistive Technology	Linda Verde Center
Michelle Romero	2nd Grade	Mariposa Elementary
Michelle Elliott	Kindergarten	Miller Elementary
Kim Albreca	SH 3rd—6th Grades	Monte Vista Elementary
Christine Pirozzi	1st Grade	Nancy Cory Elementary
Mark Morrill	7th Grade Science, GATE	New Vista Middle School
Ron Rubio	6th Grade	Piute Middle School
Stephanie Fundenberg	2nd Grade	Sierra Elementary
Edward "Jarold" Wright	3rd Grade	Sunnydale Elementary
Laura Spears	2nd Grade	West Wind Elementary
Joseph Francois	4th—6th Grades	Cross Roads School



**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE** Well, we are sliding into the end of another crazy year! We've got a year of Common Core under our belts and SBAC testing is almost a memory.

I want to express my gratitude to all of you for re-electing me as TAL president. I hope that it means you are all happy with the job I have been doing and not just that I ran unopposed. Either way, I appreciate you. I have seen a lot of progress these past three years and I hope you have as well. I am overwhelmed by the number of you who have stepped up to help represent all of us on various committees. We are stronger together and we know best how to support each other. Congratulations to the other new and returning executive board members: Amy Keller (NV), VP; Dwight Young (MI), 2<sup>nd</sup> VP of Organizing; Wendy Clark (END), Treasurer; Alicia Rejniak (JN), Secretary; Bill Clark (AC), Minority Member-at-Large; and Cynthia Ogden-Denham (SU), Minority Member-at-Large, Women's Issues. I am thrilled to have such wide-spread representation!

Thank you to our out-going executive board members as well: Roger Ervin (NV), Minority Member-at-Large, Jeff Beckerman (NV), Treasurer; and Lynda Taylor (NV), Minority Member-at-Large, Women's Issues and *last but not least, Valerie Puckett (NV), Secretary.*

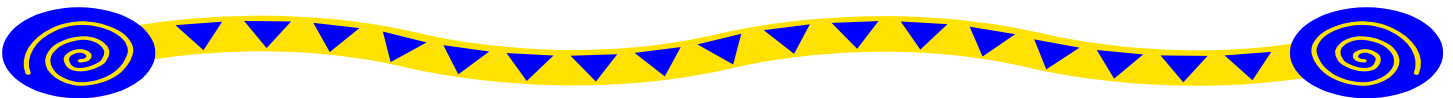
I am gearing up to attend the NEA Representative Assembly in Denver from June 30-July 6th. It is an honor to represent not only TAL, but our entire area. Serving on the assembly is a lot of work, however, I look forward to gaining new information that comes with it.

I recently assigned an essay to my students for Endeavour's annual writing contest. This year's prompt was to write about "An Inspirational Teacher." The entries proved to be very concrete data about what we do for students. It was an emotional experience reading the ways that we have impacted their lives. I thought it only fitting to share with you that you inspired a child. The following teachers received multiple accolades: Mr. Ganske, Mrs. Kennedy, Mr. Esse, Mr. Zaun, Ms. Horn, Mr. Armentrout, Mrs. D'Agastino, and Mr. Brotze. I am proud to say that I have worked with all of these amazing teachers at some point in my career.

May 14<sup>th</sup> is CTA's official Day of the Teacher. Your site reps are organizing TAL-sponsored activities. As the year comes to a close, remember to take care of yourselves and each other. We all work so hard for our students and, sometimes, we get so busy with all of the things on our plate, that we overlook those closest to us. Take some time to look around and appreciate the ones who support us unconditionally. Whether it is a parent volunteer, a colleague, or even your spouse-let them know that you appreciate them. We all need to hear it sometimes : )

Enjoy the last thirty-something days of school.

~Gina



**Grievance Team Site Coverage**

**Bertha D'Agostino - [bad1995@roadrunner.com](mailto:bad1995@roadrunner.com)** - Endeavor, Jack Northrop, Miller and Sunnydale

**Edith Turriza - [eturriza@yahoo.com](mailto:eturriza@yahoo.com)**- New Vista, El Dorado, Monte Vista and Sierra

**Kym Hickman - [delkym@att.net](mailto:delkym@att.net)**- Desert View, Discovery, Lincoln, Linda Verde and Piute

**Wendy Clark - [tricyko@yahoo.com](mailto:tricyko@yahoo.com)**- Amargosa, Crossroads, Joshua and Nancy Cory

**Tina Diaz - [alexisszach@sbcglobal.net](mailto:alexisszach@sbcglobal.net)** - Mariposa, West Wind, Linda Verde Center, and Spec. Ed/RSP

# IDEAS FOR THE LAST WEEKS OF SCHOOL...HOW MANY MORE DAYS?

## The Students Become the Teachers.

There isn't much students love more than the realization that they are now the experts on their grade – so much more experienced and knowledgeable than the kids who will be in your class next year. Give them the chance to show off with these next two activities that ask them to reflect on what they have learned and share some useful advice with your incoming class.

## The ABC's of Our Grade

ABC charts, where students are asked to come up with some piece of advice or information for each letter of the alphabet, are a fun challenge to give your class during the last few weeks of school. Invite the students to work in pairs or groups to add some additional fun to the activity and circulate frequently to see what they come up with for each letter. You'll enjoy seeing how they fit the year's lessons and activities into the chart and they'll have a blast thinking back over all that they've done. If desired, save their charts to display next August and you'll have one bulletin board planned and ready to go!

## Welcome to Your School Year

Similar to the ABC chart, it can be a blast to ask your students to provide your incoming class with advice for how to survive your class and grade. Come up with a list of fun questions, like:

- \* My favorite lesson this year was...,
- \* If you don't want to make the teacher mad, don't...,
- \* One thing I wish I knew in September was... and more.

Your class will love giving the "inside scoop" to their younger schoolmates (and you'll love reading their responses!). Compile all their responses and you'll have a fun bulletin board or book to share with your new pupils next fall.

a marker and have them visit each of their classmates' papers, writing something positive about the person and then signing the paper with their name.

2013-2014 Calendar	Rep Council Meetings	Exec Board Meetings	School Board Meetings
April	4/29	4/8	4/1 and 4/15
May	<b>May 27th</b>	5/13	5/6 and 5/20
June			6/3 and 6/17

## Memory and Autograph Books

While children enjoy the summer break, many have very little opportunity to see their classmates who are not close friends. Have children fill out a memory book on the last day of school, and then have all of their classmates write in an autograph section of the book. Create the memory books ahead of time, using construction paper covers with pages in the middle asking questions about the school year for kids to answer in their books. Make the questions age appropriate, and leave plenty of space for the kids to write their answers and include pictures. Some questions you might ask include:

- \* What is your favorite memory of this year?
- \* What is the most interesting thing you learned this year?
- \* What was the funniest thing that happened in class this year?
- \* Which field trip did you like best?
- \* List the things you learned this year.
- \* Draw a picture of how you looked at the beginning of the year and how you look now.
- \* What are the names of the new friends you made this year?
  - What did you learn this year that surprised you?
  - What are your plans for the summer?

## Body Outline Autograph Sheets

As an alternative to an autograph books, you can have each student lie on a large sheet of paper while a partner outlines him with a marker. Give the students some time to decorate their outlines, writing their names on top of the paper. Now give all of the students a marker and have them visit each of their classmates' papers, writing something positive about the person and then signing the paper with their name.

*If there are any cool end of year  
ideas you would like to share with  
The membership, please send them  
To Valerie Puckett at New Vista,  
I will put them in a special newsletter  
For mid may. Happy Spring!*

