



# ETA ETIWANDA TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

...representing the teachers of the Etiwanda Elementary School District



## HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY ETIWANDA TEACHERS!!



### Serve Up a Good Book!



March 2, 2011

#### ETA Executive Board

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*Read Across America is a national day celebrating reading sponsored by the National Education Association and the California Teachers Association along with many of the country's leading literacy and youth groups to motivate children to read and generate new enthusiasm for reading.*

*In California, Read Across America is observed on Wednesday, March 2, in honor of Dr. Seuss's birthday. Mark your calendar at home and school to remember this special day of reading for students, family and friends.*

#### **Everyone is Celebrating**

*The theme for Read Across America 2011 is "Serve Up a Good Book!"  
Gobble up the spicy fun for some tasty reading.  
Get cookin' and be a part of the fun celebration!*

*Visit [www.cta.org](http://www.cta.org) and [www.nea.org](http://www.nea.org) for more information and free resources.*

### 2011 NEA RA CONVENTION



*2011 NEA Representative Assembly*

*McCormick Convention Center in Chicago, Illinois.*

*June 30th to July 5th*

*Teachers interested in becoming a local delegate must submit a Declaration of Local Candidacy form by 5pm on February 18, 2011.*

*Please send forms to Sonya Scott at Etiwanda Colony Elementary.*

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# Know your Contract

## Article IV ~ Personnel Files

- A. With the exception of immediate suspensions which are required by law, the district shall not base any disciplinary suspension without pay or dismissal upon materials not contained in the teachers personnel file.
- B. A teacher shall be provided with any negative or derogatory materials before it is placed in his/her personnel file. The teacher shall also be given an opportunity to initial and date the materials and to prepare a written response to such materials. The written response shall be attached to the materials.
- C. Upon written authorization by the teacher, a representative of the Etiwanda Teacher Association shall be permitted to examine and/or obtain copies of materials in such teacher's personnel file.
- D. Access to the personnel file shall be made available to a teacher upon request.

*This is an excerpt from the current contract. The words "unit member" has been replaced with "teacher" for clarity as presented within this newsletter . Exact language may be obtained by reviewing the contract . Contract can be viewed on the Etiwanda School District and Etiwanda Teachers websites.*

## "Personal Time" Troubles

It is important for teachers to be aware of "on personal time" troubles (such as domestic violence, DUI, etc). Even though these incidents may have occurred "off hours" and away from your school sites, the sentencing outcomes could interfere with your California Teaching Credential.

### For example:

A teacher was pulled over on Saturday night with her family and one of her daughter's friends. She was taken in for DUI. The teacher hired a defense attorney and that attorney feels they will be successful in pleading down the DUI to a "Child Endangerment" misdemeanor. The teacher did not contact a CTA GLS attorney and feels a misdemeanor is acceptable. A few months later, the teacher's credential is revoked as a "child endangerment misdemeanor" is an immediate loss of a teaching credential.

### Avoid possible pitfalls ~ when in doubt contact a Group Legal Services Attorney (GLS)

As a CTA member you are eligible to participate in the CTA Group Legal Services Program (GLSP). The GLSP provides high quality employment related legal services to you as a CTA member, assuring that your contractual, statutory, and constitutional rights are protected. You have the right to be fairly represented by your local association (Etiwanda Teachers Association) in matters arising under the collective bargaining contract with your employer.

GLS attorneys are a network of attorneys throughout California with their own law practices who provide legal services to CTA members. GLS attorneys are well-versed in education law and are familiar with issues that arise for teachers, e.g., credential problems, permanent teacher dismissals, RIFs, employment-related criminal charges, and probationary non-reelections.

Visit Legal Services on [www.cta.org](http://www.cta.org) for more information.



# NEA Grants

**Write About a Product Designed for Use in Disaster Relief**  
**Grant Type:** Subject Matter Expertise **Deadline:** Tuesday, March 01, 2011

Every disaster presents unique challenges and requires fast and decisive action to save lives and limit damages. Engineers are involved in designing many products specifically for disaster zones. This essay contest asks essay writers to identify an item designed specifically for use in disaster relief and then do some research on it to write their essay.

The contest is open to individual girls and boys in each of three categories (Choose your category by grade-level unless you are unsure of your grade):

- 3rd grade to 5th grade (ages 8-11)
- 6th grade to 8th grade (ages 12-14)
- 9th grade to 12th grade (ages 15-18)

First-place winners will be awarded \$500. Second-place entries will be awarded \$250. Third-place entries will be awarded \$100. Entries must be received by **March 1, 2011**.



The first annual NEA's **Green Across America Grants** program is a national competition aimed at helping educators and students design

activities that raise environmental awareness and develop eco-sustainable behavior.

The **Green Across America Grants** support environmental literacy by enabling students to:

1. Actively participate in innovative, awareness-raising, content-rich, activities-based programs;
2. Develop hands-on skills for taking positive, practical, and personal action on environmental issues; and
3. Engage their schools and communities in increased environmental conservation activities.

Green Across America grant applications will be available beginning May 1

## 403(b) & 457 Retirement Plans

*What You Need to Know Now!*

**Event:** Good Teaching Conference - South Pre-Conference Session

**Date:** Friday, March 18, 2011

**Time:** 10:00 - 4:00pm

**Location:** Hyatt Regency - Orange County

Given the importance of sharing CTA's investment education resources with local members to promote informed investment decisions and help educators with their retirement savings, CTA is providing release time for two members from ETA.

*If you are interested in attending, please contact Michele Jacks by February 18, 2011.*