



Dear PVFA Member,

Welcome back to school. **This is an invitation to you and your family to join your fellow PVFA members for a fun-filled picnic. South Bay United Teachers is hosting this fun event.** There will be food, beverages, games, and prizes! When: Saturday, October 8th at Columbia Park (4045 190th Street, Torrance, CA 90504) from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm. The park has beautiful trees and picnic areas as well a children's play equipment, softball diamond, soccer fields, fitness course, horseshoe courts, sand volleyball courts and of course, restrooms, but best of all it is a chance to bring the family and meet up with your colleagues. Please let your on-site representative know you are coming, so we are sure to have plenty of everything. If your site does not have a PVFA representative, maybe you can be that representative and take a tally of your colleagues and family members planning to attend and send that information to pvfa.bonniemae@gmail.com. See you at Columbia Park!

PROPOSITION 55: Remember furlough days and lost days of instruction for our students? Remember just a few years ago when 50,000 California teachers were laid off and students lost days of instruction, but gained more classmates in a class? We cannot go back to that! The California Teachers Association, your PVFA and our local PTSAs are encouraging everyone to vote yes on Proposition 55! You have an opportunity to join in promoting Prop. 55 by joining your colleagues at the local South Bay United Teachers office (3551 Voyager Street #105, Torrance, CA 90503, Phone: (310) 921-2500) We are currently calling California Teachers Association members; that means you are calling teachers and reminding them to vote "YES ON PROP. 55"). The days you can make a difference are Sept. 29, Oct 6th, 20th and 27th, as well as Nov. 3rd and 8th (Election Day). The time is 5:00-8:00 pm and dinner and beverages are provided, as well as a scripted message for you to use. Pick a date for your school to be there; it makes it more fun to do it together. A deciding vote may result from your phone call. Join your colleagues and community to support "YES on 55."



Know Your Contract— Complaint Scenario



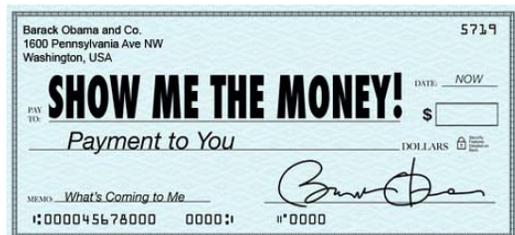
Your principal or vice principal calls and asks you to meet with him/her and a parent of one of your students. Here's an incident in which you need to know your contract. This request by your administrator indicates that a parent has complained to him/her regarding something about you, and has requested that the administrator be present when she/he

[the parent] meets with you. Hold everything! Before you agree to such a meeting, you need to know your contractual rights regarding complaints. Article 17 1.1 states: "Complaints concerning unit members

(that is, PVFA bargaining unit members) shall be made DIRECTLY by the complainant (that is the parent) to the person against whom the complaint is lodged (that's you). Parents, community members, and District staff shall attempt to orally resolve concerns with unit members personally before filing formal written complaints with the District." This means that you have every right to contact the parent (usually a phone call is best) to find out the parent's perceived issue and an opportunity to clear things up with the parent BEFORE ever meeting with the parent and the administrator. This not only is your contractual right, but it helps you establish contact with the parent and hopefully come to a happy understanding. If you are unsuccessful, please be certain to document your date and time and basic content of conversation. Then, you initiate a meeting with the parent to resolve any issues. You are the teacher, you know best what is happening in your classroom, but if you do not know your contractual rights, you could show up to a hostile meeting that could have been prevented. You can always access your contract online at SBUT.org. Then click on PVFA, and finally click on Contract. There is a Table of Contents to help you find what you are interested in locating. Your PVFA representative is always happy to help, but you need to know your contract—it counts!

Paycheck Changes

You are receiving 11 paychecks for a school year, but they are not all the same. The September check may not have had all of your reductions included because they are on tenths pay, which means they will begin being taken from your October paycheck. You may have noticed that your contribution to STRS (your retirement) increased from last year and will continue for each paycheck at that new rate. However, the New Year may result in yet another change to your paycheck depending upon which health care program you select. For some, the cost of premiums will increase for others it may go down, depending if you have selected to move to a less expensive provider.



REMINDER: You have from now until October 7, 2016, to make a decision about your health care plan for 2017. Information is provided by the district at the PVPUSD website at: pvpusd.net/benefits. You can also download the enrollment forms and will you'll find links for related health benefits information at this site.



We know that knowledge is power. Boost your power by becoming familiar with your contract. If you have a topic you would like discussed or a question, email me at pvfa.bonniemae@gmail.com