



“DAY OF ACTION” PHOTOS
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INSIDER



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HACK’S FLACK By Gary Hack...AEA President

At the end of March, it's always easy to write about the negative issues that seem to surface every year: How many RIF notices were sent out and where everyone will end up by May ... the state of the budget both in California and the AUSD ... who's retiring, transferring (both voluntarily and involuntarily,) going on to other options in other districts, giving up on education or just hunkering down ... the increased “costs” and benefits in staying in public education ... etc., etc.

One of the blessings that comes from being the AEA President over the past decade is being able to visit every school site, watch students of all ages and see teachers at all levels in action. Regularly, day in and day out. I'm not sure anyone else does that. It's easy for me to be an unabashed advocate for teachers when I see what you do, when I see the effect you have on others, when I am in absolute awe of your dedication and efforts and when I see the caring you have for your students and each other.

So... with apologies to David Letterman, here are my “TOP 10” actions which teachers – that's **YOU** – show others that students are your top priority:

1. Because: you are the one who accepts anyone who comes in the door – without prejudice or preconception.
2. Because: you are, many times, the one who gives the only hug, smile, high-5 or “thanks” that some of your students will receive that day.
3. Because: you are the person who multi-tasks with the best of them – being called on to be an actor, friend, nurse and doctor, coach, finder of lost objects, moneylender, psychologist, substitute parent, politician, and the keeper of the faith ... plus a few others.
4. Because: you are the person who many kids feel comfortable approaching with their problems ... knowing that you will listen.
5. Because: you are willing to donate more pro bono hours to help kids than any other profession.
6. Because: you are able to work through and beyond both the external/internal pressures and the hoops required to show up in your classroom each day when the bell rings.
7. Because: you are one of those very special people who understand that the accomplishments of our lives are measured in many ways by those students who come back somewhere along the way to say, “Hi, remember me?”
8. Because: you are the architect of the most highly educated generation in the history of the world.
9. Because: you are the person to whom parents come at the beginning of every school year. They leave their most prized possession – their child – and ask that you make every possible effort to make that child a better person. You honor that request – day after day, month after month, year after year.
10. Because: you are that one person, more than almost anyone else, who give a *%&\$# about what happens to that kid in your class.

AEA’S D.N.E TEAM



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