



## HACK'S FLACK By Gary Hack...AEA President

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As a long time teacher in public education, I often think of all those professional experiences which have been part of my life. I often think about my colleagues over the years and what I've learned from them. At times, it seems surprising to me how much I've seen and how much I've come to know over the years. However, it's even more shocking to me, at times, to be aware of those things which I've never known. Things like:

- I have never known a teacher who came into the teaching profession looking for fame and riches.
- I have never known a teacher who doesn't care for kids and their success in life.
- I have never known a teacher who doesn't feel that sometimes days seem to last forever, but weeks just disappear.
- I have never known a teacher who only works 7 hours a day or for only the required number of days a year.
- I've never known a teacher who doesn't have their students' best interests at heart.
- I've never known a teacher who isn't always constantly looking for new materials to turn his/her students onto the subject matter at hand.
- I've never known a teacher who doesn't spend personal money to purchase something to help their students "get it."
- I've never known a teacher who doesn't change the lives of the students in their classrooms.
- I've never known a teacher who doesn't make every effort to make their classroom more enticing and user friendly.
- I've never known a teacher who doesn't appreciate positive parent help and support.
- I have never known a teacher who isn't eager to spend extra time with a student who wants more help.
- I have never known a teacher who doesn't get excited at an "AH-HA" moment for one of their students.
- I've never known a teacher who doesn't appreciate an administrator who supports them up-front.
- I've never known a teacher who doesn't know what "pro-bono" means.
- I've never known how few times we take the opportunity to thank all those teachers in the AUSD for all of their attention, encouragement, time, help, consolation, support, devotion, professionalism, compassion and caring for their students and their colleagues at all levels.

So, at the midpoint of the 2009-2010 school year, as President of AEA, I say to you:

## THANK YOU!!!

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### AN FYI:

As we all know, the Haitian people suffered through a horrible natural disaster less than 2 weeks ago. The AEA has joined with the other local teacher associations in ALCOSTA to help those in need through a financial donation to the non-profit mission "Brother Helping Brother."

Our CTA staff person in Concord, Rosemary – started the "Brother Helping Brother" The Foundation has built a school that offers recent project has been to dig wells in safe water. And, now, of course, the to helping the victims of the earthquake.



Louissaint, and her husband – who is Haitian mission to help educate children in Haiti. free education to children K-6. Their most isolated communities for fresh, clean and immediate direction has temporarily shifted

Our tax deductible donation – combined with the other Associations in ALCOSTA – will make a difference in their lives. Good for them ... and, Good for us!