



# Southwest Teachers Association



**AN INJURY TO ONE  
IS AN INJURY TO ALL**

**Stand United with VIP Students and Teachers**

**What: Sign Your Site's Pledge in Support of VIP**

**When: By Wednesday, March 11, 2020**

**Where: With your Site Representative**

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**MARCH SADNESS**

If you are a permanent or probationary teacher, you can be laid off if the school board determines that economic circumstances or student enrollment require decreasing the number of employees. If you are a temporary teacher, you may be dismissed at any time prior to serving 75% of the school year (Educ. Code Sec 44954).

**Permanent and probationary teachers should:**

- Check their membership status (**ONLY SWTA members are entitled to CTA representation**)
- Ensure SWTA has their current contact information

**Here is what you should do if you are a permanent or probationary teacher who receives a layoff notice on or before MARCH 15, 2020.**

- Confirm your seniority date (not hire date)
- Verified that ALL of your credentials/certifications are on file with Human Resource (Get Copies)
- Contact your CTA Chapter representative, SWTA President **Vanessa Barrera, 619-630-5125 swtapresident@gmail.com**

**KNOW YOUR CONTRACT**

**Article 6: Hours Of Employment**

**(Unit Member On-Site Work Day)**

**6.2.2** Members of the unit may be required by their immediate supervisor to perform teacher-related duties which include: parent conferences, educational field trips, student guidance assistance, Coordinated Compliance Review, one open house, SST team meetings, and Program Quality Review assignments. The total number of hours assigned to these duties shall be governed by the past practice in the District.

**6.2.2.1** The following duties shall be limited to a maximum of fifty-four (54) hours per school year: staff meetings, curriculum development and professional growth.

**Masked Member Revealed**

Thank you to those SWTA members who participated in January's Masked Member contest. The precious baby grew up to be Gigi Benitez, a Mendoza Elementary 1st grade teacher.



Congratulations to the winner Lorie Garcia, a Mendoza kindergarten teacher!

**MASKED SWTA MEMBER**

*One of the new features in our SWTA newsletter will be the "Masked Member." A mystery SWTA member will be highlighted. The objective is to use the baby picture and the clues in the write up to figure out the identity of the SWTA member. If your guess is correct, your name will be added to a drawing to win a \$10.00 gift card to either Starbucks or Target. The Masked Member's identity will be revealed, along with the gift card winner in the next newsletter.*

This debonair yet down-to-earth masked SWTA member has been a **central** figure in SBUSD for 24 years. Though a noteworthy reading specialist for five years in South Bay, this enthusiastic educator's **1st** and **2nd** love has been the classroom. Always **politically polite**, this person uses **subway** to transport nourishment to curb the cravings of colleagues. A fan of roots, rock, reggae as well as the blues, live music satisfies this man's soul. The youngest and sixth child of a teacher and a school secretary, this **generous gentleman** spends weekends surfing, playing sports and being out in nature with his two children and fox hound. Can you guess this masked member?



*Use your personal/home email to send your educated guess to [pmllock@cox.net](mailto:pmllock@cox.net) by **Monday, March 9, 2020**. Please put "SWTA Masked Member" in subject line of your email.*

# SWTA SUPERSTARS!

**SWTA Superstar that is what you are**

**Coming from afar, reaching for the stars**

**Helping kids succeed and achieve their dreams**

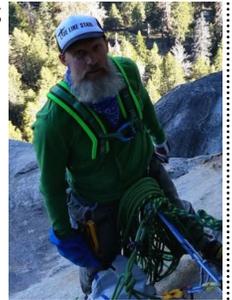
**As you rely on each other, uh-huh**

**While striving together, uh-huh**



**“If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together!”** This African proverb has been the mantra for SWTA Superstar, Maureen “Mo” McElroy. An adopted child, she grew up in San Fernando Valley along with two brothers and one sister. Mo made the trek to the central coast where she earned a Bachelors in Speech and Hearing Sciences from UC Santa Barbara in 1986. Afterwards, Mo moved down south to pursue graduate work at San Diego State University securing a speech therapist teaching credential and a Masters in Communication. Before a celebratory trip to Europe, SBUSD offered Mo a position. After a three week stay in France, Italy and Greece she began her career in South Bay. A bilingual speech pathologist at Central for 32 years, Mo has lent her expertise to other schools as well. Also, she is Central’s IEP and SST chair. This year Mo became SBUSD Diversity Committee Lead. The goal of the committee is to ensure that ALL students, families and staff regardless of their of sexual orientation, gender identity, immigrant status, disabilities, cultural/racial identity and/or religious beliefs feel welcomed and included. The committee has supplied each site with 35 diverse themed books for students and teachers with 2 more books on the way. Due to the committee’s effort all SBUSD psychologists received professional development on “Welcoming All Families” (Creating Safe and Inclusive Learning Environments for LGBTQ and Gender Expansive Students). Mo has personally gone to each site and posted the “Welcoming Schools/ Be Who You Are” poster. While at home in Talmadge, Mo spends time with her wife of 29 years, Lena and their dog, “Javier”. Also, she maintains contact with her biological parents and siblings. Mo’s warm and welcoming spirit makes her a **true SWTA Superstar!**

Mike Moran is an admirable, amazing and athletic SWTA Superstar. He has been a mild /moderate SPED teacher at Bayside since 2006. Mike, a tender yet tough teacher states, **“There is a balance between being able to demonstrate uber ultimate loving and nurturing of children and then still having the honest capacity to be absolutely direct and firm with them as well as their guardians. This is in everyone’s best interest.”** His outlook on life, both personal and professional, stems from his mother instilling in him the belief that one should pursue a life of service. Further influencing his broad perspective was his biological father a chaplain in the Navy and his step-father a Navy Seal. Born in Chula Vista and raised in the South Bay area, Mike excelled in sports and outdoor activities growing up. After high school, Mike went to Cal State Chico with the intention of being an engineer but changed his mind. He earned a Bachelors in Humanities with an emphasis in current US History. Afterwards in 1989, he obtained a Multiple Subject credential from National University as well as a Single Subject Credential in English. Mike followed Michelle, his sweetheart to Humboldt State University for her studies. He began to substitute teach while taking a few classes at Humboldt as well as owning and operating a coffee shop/bakery called **The Udder Place**. In 2004, he returned to Imperial Beach to care for his parents and family members. While pursuing graduate work at Point Loma Nazarene University in Special Education, he taught at Coronado Middle and coached freshmen football before coming to SBUSD to work with younger students. Mike states, **“I am going back to the beginning to make an impact”**. Married to Michelle since July 28, 1990, they live in Imperial Beach, and are the caretakers for Mike’s mom, Jean Ann. Still very athletic, Mike runs, surfs, skis and is a mountaineer. He walks or rides his bike to work. Mike loves serving his community as an educator making him a **true SWTA Superstar!**



Courageous and inspiring is SWTA Superstar Jenni Munroe, a third grade educator at Bayside. While most kindergarteners’ fear losing a favorite toy, Jenni underwent open heart surgery. The love of family and the dream of teaching fortified her during this life-changing ordeal. Jenni states, **“My poor younger brother was always forced to be a student while I pretended to be a teacher.”** Being a teacher never wavered for Jenni. During high school, Mr. Rey Vinole, her show choir choreographer/director reinvigorated her dream of teaching. He was an amazing educator who solidified Jenni’s calling. She earned a Bachelors in Liberal Studies with a minor in dance from SDSU in 1999. In 2000, she substitute taught in SBUSD for 5 years while paying off her student loans. Subsequently, she obtained her credential through National University. She was an impact teacher at Central before taking over a kindergarten class at Westview halfway through the year. During the next 7 years, she would work under 7 principals due to receiving a pink slip each year. In SBUSD she has taught kindergarten at West View; third grade at Central for 3 years; 1<sup>st</sup> grade at Oneonta for 1 year, and fourth grade at Bayside for 7 years before her current position as a Bayside 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher. Jenni has endured many health obstacles and personal hardships in life but she is a warrior and a survivor. Jenni’s students, her family and her two sons give her the will to make the best of what life throws at her. She states, **“I was put on this Earth to not only be a teacher, but a mom. I have two boys that are my light and my life, Damon, 16 and Devon, 3”**. This outlook makes Jenni a **true SWTA Superstar!**

## CHEERS AND HATS OFF!

Congratulations to our **2020 District Teacher of the Year, Angelica Goulding** ! Best wishes and continued success as you move forward. You make SWTA, South Bay and Emory proud!



**Save the Date!**  
**Retirement Brunch!**  
for  
**SWTA RETIREES**  
**April 26, 2020**

Invitation to follow!