

THE ADVOCATE

Our SDEA pop-up picket really POPPED!

On Nov. 8, Superintendent Cindy Marten and San Diegans city-wide saw something they haven't seen in a decade or more: Thousands of SDEA members taking to the streets all on the same day to demand a fair contract NOW. As part of our pop-up picket, members at 130 schools stood in solidarity to demand a L.E.A.R.N. contract:

- L:** Lower class size
- E:** Enrichment for kids
- A:** Attract & keep the best
- R:** Resources for students
- N:** No destabilizing schools

SDUSD requested four more bargaining dates, which is a good sign—but only if what the District brings to the table accomplishes our L.E.A.R.N. goals. If not, SDEA members are ready for a second wave of organizing in the new year as we continue to fight for the schools our students deserve. Wave Two of our campaign launches Jan. 17. See your Association Representative to learn more!



Clockwise from upper left: Members at Benchley Weinberger Elem., Marshall MS, SDHS, McKinley Elem. (plus City Council member Chris Ward!), Zamorano Elem. and Ocean Beach Elem. were joined by 130 other schools in demanding a L.E.A.R.N. contract NOW.



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Letters in Solidarity

Lindsay Burningham
SDEA President

Kisha Borden
SDEA Vice President



Are we ready to face the new year?

We hope you had a restful Thanksgiving break. It is hard to believe we are already in December and will soon be welcoming in a new year. We have had a busy and challenging first few months of the school year, but in typical SDEA fashion, members have risen to meet those challenges head on—challenges such as having to deal with the repercussions that come from the District issuing layoff notices to over 900 of our fellow educators. This was an ill-advised decision that brought about both fear and distrust in the District's vision for the future of San Diego's educators and students. District budget cuts have resulted in reductions to the level of supports and services that our students have come to depend on, not only so they may be successful in the classroom, but have the best possible chance of success in life as well.

In the face of continuous adversity, SDEA members have chosen to step up and commit to fighting for the schools our students and local communities deserve. We have committed to fighting for a L.E.A.R.N. union contract that calls for the District to make our students and classrooms a priority. When members speak with one voice, we have the collective strength to ensure that resources are being directed to our students and schools.

The start of the school year also marked the launch of the first wave of SDEA's L.E.A.R.N. campaign. In a matter of three months, over 150 school sites conducted site meetings, over 2,500 parents and educators signed petitions supporting the L.E.A.R.N. campaign, and hundreds of rank and file members signed up to mobilize their school sites by becoming members of their site's CAT (Contract

Action Team). All of the amazing efforts made by members at each school site culminated in educators from over 130 school sites taking to the streets on Nov. 8 as part of a District-wide day of solidarity and call to action. Members picketed in front of our school sites before and after school, demanding that the School Board and Superintendent come to an agreement on a fair and equitable contract NOW!

With every passing day, momentum builds as members prepare ourselves to face a new reality, both as educators and union members alike. Members are organizing to meet the challenges that threaten us at all levels, whether it be threats at the federal level from a Secretary of Education who is actively working to defund public schools so they may be privatized, or the threat of the Supreme Court that will most certainly overturn previous Court rulings that have acknowledged that every public employee who enjoys the benefits and protections of a union contract should pay their fair share, and contribute. No matter the threat, the best response and greatest weapon against those who seek to dismantle both the union movement and public education is ORGANIZING!

So, as we bring the calendar year to an end and take time to celebrate the holidays with our loved ones, we would like to say thank you! Thank you for all you are doing to fight for a strong union contract, and for all that you will do upon your return. Together we are stronger, and together we will build the schools our students deserve.

Lindsay Burningham
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SDEA President

Kisha Borden
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SDEA Vice President

Scholarship Announcement

SDEA annually offers scholarships for members and members' dependents. The Member Application is for current SDEA members who wish to further their education. The Dependent Application is for graduating seniors and current college-enrolled students who are dependents of a current SDEA member. To download a copy of the application, visit the SDEA website, www.sdea.net. The deadline to submit completed applications is Friday, May 4.

Let's fight the Devos agenda

Despite decades of underinvestment in public education, California's public schools are achieving record academic success for our students. Graduation rates are improving, dropout rates are going down, and for the first time in a generation, public schools are narrowing the opportunity gap between advantaged and disadvantaged students.

Rather than celebrate these successes, corporate billionaires continue to push a narrative that our public schools are failing, and that privatization of public schools is the answer. And now the billionaires have their greatest allies yet in Education Secretary Betsy Devos.

It's time for publicly elected leaders, as well as their political parties, to take

a stand against the billionaire privatizers, and support the heroic work of our students, parents and educators.

Join us for a day of powerful speakers, critical information, and awareness building around the politics of education. What do we as well as publicly elected leaders and their political parties need to understand about the education agenda championed by Betsy Devos and the billionaire "reformers," and what can we do to fight back?

When: Saturday, Jan. 13, 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Where: SDEA office, 10393 San Diego Mission Road, Suite 100.

The event is sponsored by SDEA, American Federation of Teachers Local 1931 and Educate for the Future.

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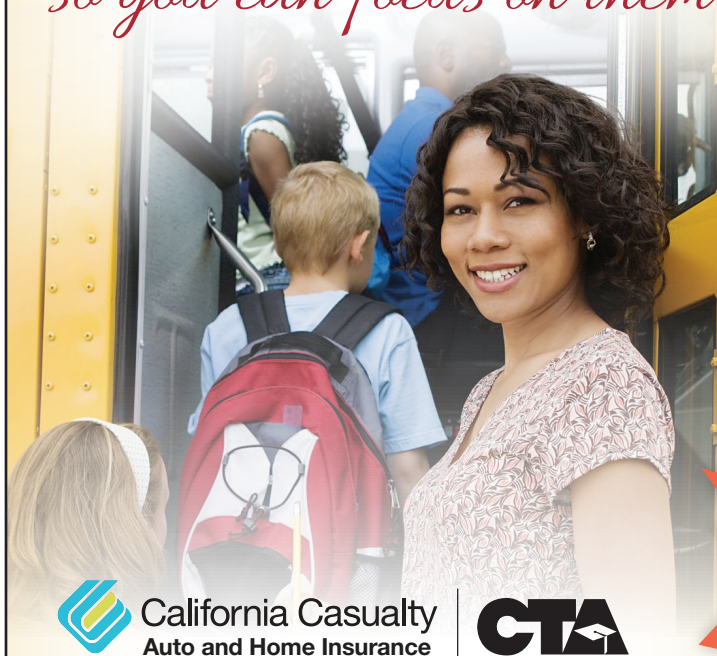
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2. Download your health plan app to your phone.
3. Become familiar with your nearest Urgent Care location and hours.
4. Get your flu vaccine at no cost at participating locations.
5. Keep an eye out for your new medical ID card coming in the mail.

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