

MESA EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

Advocate for Excellence

# Special Edition Record

Affiliated with the Arizona Education Association and the National Education Association  
 August 1, 2011 Volume XLIII, Number 1



**MEA  
 Calendar of  
 Events**

**Wednesday, August 3**  
*New Teacher Breakfast,*  
 Brimhall JHS 7:00-8:30

**Wednesday, August 10**  
*First Day of Classes*

**Tuesday, August 30**  
*First Faculty Rep Meeting*  
 4:15 PM, Mi Amigo's,  
 1264 S. Gilbert Road.  
 (Gilbert/Southern)



Please Join Us As We Work Together  
 To Make Mesa Public Schools  
 As Great As It Can Be!  
**MEMBERS MAKE IT HAPPEN!!**

**MEA Record**  
**1032 E. University Dr.,**  
**Mesa, AZ 85203**

**(480) 833-8400 (Office)**  
**(480) 834-6890 (Fax)**  
**www.mesateachers.org**



**President's Message  
 Welcome to Mesa!!**

*By Kathy Ray, MEA President*

Welcome to Mesa public schools! I am Kathy Ray the Mesa Education Association President and I am honored to serve all of you. You can reach me at Taft Elementary, where I am the Title I School Improvement Specialist or at the MEA Office. I will be creatively job sharing my presidency this year with Shirley Thomas, MEA Vice President who teaches Spanish at Westwood High School. Between the two of us, you have a strong team of advocates working on your behalf! The Mesa Education Association represents you and WE ARE STANDING STRONG on behalf of quality public education for all students. Times continue to be challenging as we start the new school year, but I am excited and optimistic for the change we can all make in the lives of our students, profession, and communities. You Must Be the Change You Wish To See In the World ~ Gandhi



**Welcome!**

*By Shirley Thomas, MEA Vice President*

Welcome to the MEA and to Mesa Public Schools. I am Shirley Thomas, Spanish Teacher at Westwood High School and newly elected MEA Vice-President. Your MEA executive board, membership team and officers have been meeting and working over the summer and despite the obvious challenges ahead of us, we have a renewed energy and are determined to meet those challenges head on. I am inviting you to help us overcome those challenges by taking a more active role in your professional organization. Attend the 10 minute meetings at your school, attend faculty rep meetings, or call or come by the office. Together we can create a stronger voice for our students and our profession. I wish you all an exciting and productive school year.

**What have we done lately?**

- ⇒ Bargained for teachers' rights and salaries in these challenging times.
- ⇒ Ensured basic health care costs covered by the District.
- ⇒ Sponsored Cat-in-the Hat contests and celebrations for elementary schools in honor of Read Across America.
- ⇒ Assisted dozens of members in solving concerns and problems at their schools and sites.
- ⇒ Provided trainings for members in leadership and the evaluation process.
- ⇒ Contacted and worked with the State Legislature to voice concerns of public education
- ⇒ Continued to work on our promise of a quality public education for every child.
- ⇒ Lived up to our motto: **Members Make It Happen!**