

Subject: DCTA Slate - Teacher Appreciation Week

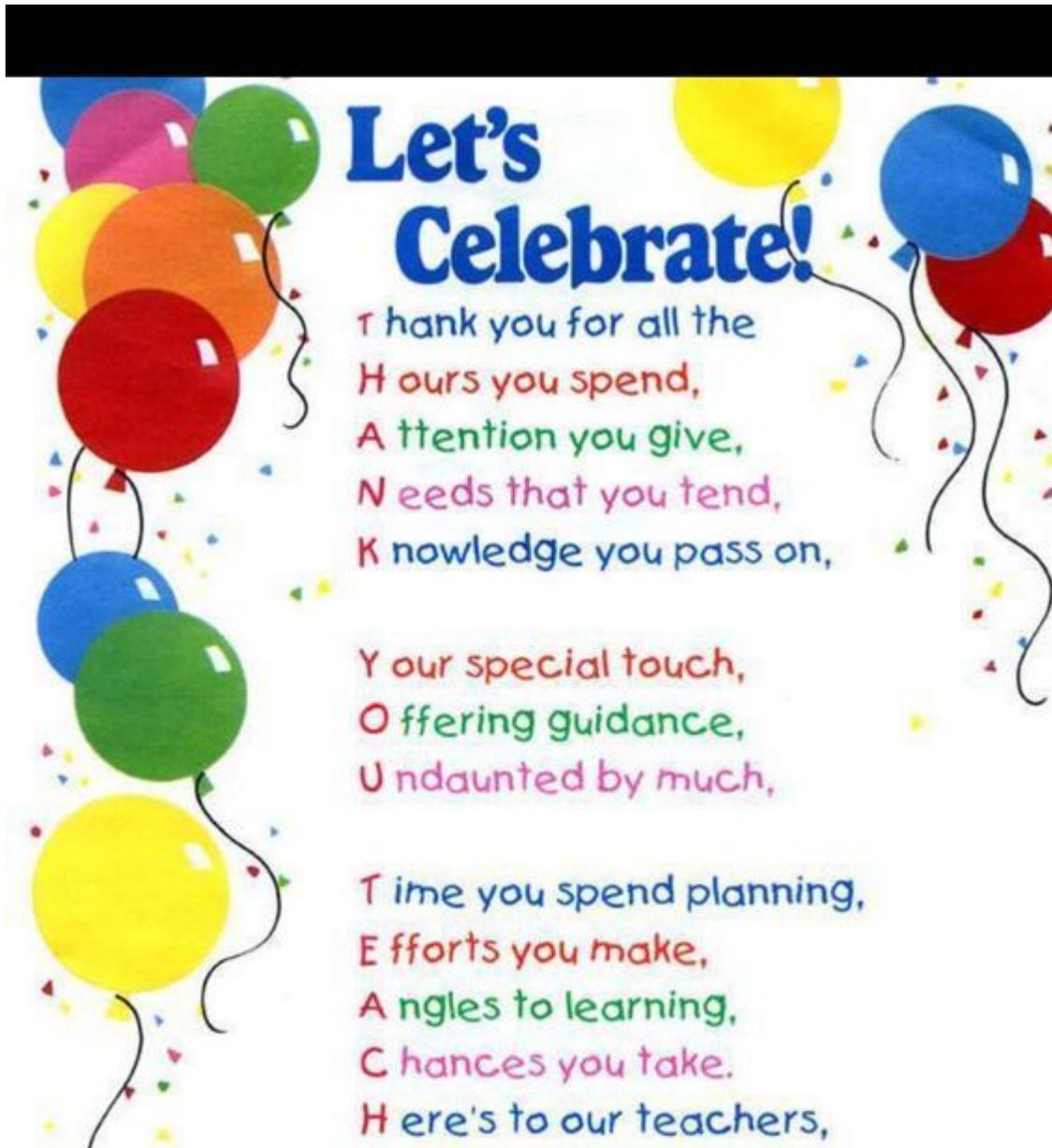
Date: Tuesday, May 5, 2020 at 3:07:20 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: DCTA

To: Howe, Alex [CO]



Teacher Appreciation Week





Each one a gem.
Recognized now; we
Salute them!

Teacher Appreciation Week is more meaningful than ever, given the extreme circumstances we are under. DCTA, CEA and NEA are celebrating and advocating for all educators this week — the teachers and education support professionals who are demonstrating their fortitude, optimism, creativity and unwavering love for all students before, during and after the pandemic. View this [letter](#) from DCTA President, Tiffany Choi, this [video](#) from NEA President Lily Eskelsen García and this [public message](#) from CEA President Amie Baca-Oehlert.

We Know You Are Wondering

DCTA is aware of the uncertainty surrounding how the next school year will look. We want you to know that we are working for you and will communicate with you as information is available. Meanwhile, we welcome suggestions and considerations from educators like you who are on the ground. Please email your thoughts to DCTA@coloradoea.org.

Trying To Decide Whether Or Not To Opt-in For A 2019-2020 Evaluation?

DCTA is scheduling town hall meetings in order to help you make the decision. The town hall schedule is:

- Tuesday 5/5 at 7 p.m.
- Wednesday 5/6 at 12:00 p.m.

Click on the following zoom link at the desired meeting time to participate.

<https://coloradoea.zoom.us/j/6212478893>

Stand Up For Education Funding

We know the COVID-19 pandemic has consequences for our state economy and the people of Colorado, but we can't allow economic issues to be solved by depriving schools of the necessary funds to educate students. [Take action](#) now to tell the state legislature, the DPS School Board, and Superintendent Cordova that they can't balance the budget on the backs of educators and students.

Keep Students Learning And Educators Working

We are in the deepest, quickest economic downturn in our nation's history. States are losing massive amounts of revenue and this will have a massive negative effect on our public schools. Students stand to lose out when they need us the most. NEA is calling for an additional \$175 billion to stabilize education funding. A decade ago, during the Great Recession, state and local governments scrapped essential student services and laid off tens of thousands of educators. We can't let that happen again. [Email your members of Congress here](#) and tell them to keep students learning and educators working.

Email The Capitol Budget Negotiators

The coronavirus outbreak will force our lawmakers into difficult decisions, but they can't continue to balance the state budget on the backs of students and educators. The vast majority of our students have never attended a fully funded school and many suffer from the ramifications of four-day school weeks, large class sizes, reduced options in curriculum, meals, and school transportation, and a massive educator shortage. [Join us](#) in sending the Colorado Legislature's Joint Budget Committee an email telling them to fill the budget gap somewhere else.

DCTA Elections

DCTA Elections are underway. The deadline to vote is May 12th at 11:59 p.m.

Stimulus Pledge

We are currently living in a time of financial uncertainty, and as we begin to recover from a pandemic, the longer lasting impacts on the economy will be felt by all, including educators. The state is currently looking at a 2 billion dollar deficit that could possibly impact members salaries next school year. DCTA leadership would like all members to make responsible financial choices to prepare for this uncertainty. However, some DCTA members are extremely grateful for their continuing paychecks and stimulus checks, and they are becoming increasingly worried for the working families of their students who are hardest hit. View a story about the pledge [9News](#). We are providing all interested teachers who are able the opportunity to pledge to donate to a relief fund that will support Denver/Colorado families. [Take The Pledge](#)

It's Time To Celebrate Cinco De Mayo!

Do you know your Mexican history? Many people confuse Cinco de Mayo with Mexican Independence Day. Mexican Independence Day occurred on Sep. 16, 1810. Cinco de Mayo is a celebration of the victory over the French in the Battle of Puebla which occurred on May 5th, 1862, about 50 years after their Independence Day.

In these times of physical distancing, Denver has had to cancel events to celebrate this

important day. But there's nothing stopping us from recalling the victory by General Zaragoza's troops with either homemade Mexican food or Mexican food to-go!

Know Your Rights

DCTA would like to offer 1.5 hour Rep Training sessions on 2 or 3 dates this June. You would be able to choose the topics that interest you such as: Know your contract, How to file a grievance, How to organize your building, The contract in a virtual setting, What to do if your school is going Innovation, Political engagement, etc. Training is vital for new Reps to attend. Veteran Reps are also welcome to attend and expand their skills. Interested? Let us know by emailing us at DCTA@coloradoea.org

Retiring Teachers & SSPs---Join DCTA-R Now!

Membership in DCTA-Retired provides you with an active, organized proponent voice to support Colorado public schools and our PERA pension benefits. Your participation in DCTA-R will keep you in touch with the statewide and national activities of your peers and your profession. As a member, you will be informed about important issues, such as retirement, medical and insurance benefits. Your eligibility for NEA Member Benefits programs will continue, and you can continue to support your colleagues, public education and children. [DCTA-R Membership Form](#)

COVID-19 Response Grants Available

In response to educators' emerging needs, **The NEA Foundation** is offering **COVID-19 Rapid Response Grants** of up to \$5,000 to address the effects of the pandemic on teaching and learning. The funds will support educator-led initiatives to adapt to unique circumstances this summer, such as:

- Addressing student social and emotional needs;
- Supporting distance/virtual learning and instruction;
- Addressing students' summer learning loss;
- Preparing for the transition back to traditional schooling;
- Meeting the nutritional needs of students.

Proposed projects must address educational inequity and educational opportunity gaps. Three rounds of applications end **May 14**, **May 28** and **June 11**. [Find details here](#).

Benefits Open Enrollment Closes May 8th

This is your opportunity to select medical, dental, vision and supplemental benefits for you and your family. You must take action this year to select or waive your benefits regardless of whether you wish to maintain your current plan membership.

The most up-to-date, accurate information on medical options, supplemental benefits and more can be found on The Commons [Open Enrollment](#), whenever you need it.

- **DCTA Elections Close**, Tuesday May 12th, 11:50 p.m.
 - **DCTA Board of Directors**, Tuesday May 12th, 4:30-6:30 p.m. Virtual
 - **DCTA Rep Council**, Tuesday May 19th, 4:30-6:30 p.m. Virtual
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Sent via [ActionNetwork.org](https://www.actionnetwork.org). To update your email address, change your name or address, or to stop receiving emails from Denver Classroom Teachers Association, please [click here](#).