

August 2016

# SANTA ROSA PROFESSIONAL EDUCATORS



## August Calendar

8th - Pre-Planning  
12th  
15th 1st Day for Students  
15th- Early Primary Voting  
27th 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM  
18th School Board Meeting  
9:00 AM



**Do you know who your worksite SRPE representatives are?**

## State of the Union

SRPE welcomes each employee to our 2016-2017 school year. There are many new faces. Over 250 employees attended our New Employee Orientation on July 28th. There was so much to learn, do, and remember, not only on a district level, but on our worksite level too. The best advice ever given: "**Never** be late to lunch and **never** be late in picking your class up from lunch." **Back then, we still had daily duty during our lunch periods.** So being late wasn't really a problem. Now... with our duty free lunch periods, it has problem possibilities. Let's take our coworkers under our wings - our experience has its wisdom.

You may have read with the revised grading system, of the 22 'A' rated Florida school districts in 2015, only 3 districts maintained their A ratings. SRCSD's preliminary rating dropped from an A in 2015 to a B in 2016. We have 11 fewer A schools this year than in 2015. Throughout Florida, A-rated schools dropped from 1,184 to 741. School districts can appeal if they feel the marks are incorrect. The drops in 'A' scores will affect the previously top performing schools. These schools lost a chance at extra state money. <http://schoolgrades.fldoe.org/>

Liz West, Director of Human Resources, emailed important Best and Brightest information to all employees on 5/16/16. SRPE urges you to take advantage of this bonus opportunity. Classroom teachers who are evaluated as highly effective during the 2015-16 school year and who have an ACT or SAT score in the 80th percentile or above are eligible to apply. Deadline for the application process has been set for November 1st.

The ACT is being offered on September 10. If you wish to retake the SAT test, the remaining dates for it is October 1st. If you applied for the scholarship last year, you will need to re-apply when the time comes, however, you will NOT need to resubmit your ACT/SAT scores. Should you have any questions, please contact Liz West or Judy O'Mary. (850) 983-5108

*In Unity*

## In the News

### [Florida Releases School Grades](#)

Florida's annual A-to-F school report card released Friday showed that far fewer schools earned top grades this year compared with last year, as campuses were judged under a new, tougher formula.

### [Common Core Costs Billions & Hurts Students](#)

The people who wrote the Common Core standards sold them as a way to improve achievement and reduce the gaps between rich and poor, and black and white. But the promises haven't come true. Even in states with strong common standards and tests, racial achievement gaps persist.

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## Sentator Evers Speaks at AR Training

ARs attended our July 19th beginning-of-the-year training. This training helps your AR in assisting you at your worksite. ARs form a community in the workplace, and they can help you understand your rights, and provide an avenue of voicing these rights. Your AR is there for you.



## PERC Ruling Update

SRPE members filled the room at the July 7th PERC ruling appeal. Members traveled to Tallahassee to see and hear firsthand the issues of appeal. Within a just a week's time, PERC rendered its decision to uphold the hearing officer's findings. Her findings were based upon and supported by competent substantial evidence received in the preceding. Accordingly the unfair labor practice charges are dismissed.



**SRPE Members Travel to Tallahassee for PERC Ruling**

SRPE is the REAL DEAL. Bargaining unit members have a winning hand with SRPE.

## Thank You for Sharing What's on Your Summer Bucket List!

### Kim Aldridge at Jenny Lake and the Grand Tetons



**Hilary and Joshua Simmons**  
**30 countries in 30 days before I turn 30!**

## Teacher Discounts!

As we begin to supply our rooms for the upcoming year, you may want to check out this site:

[SimplyKinder.com](http://SimplyKinder.com)

## Back to School

*Are You Ready?*



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