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| http://can2-prod.s3.amazonaws.com/email_templates/logos/000/006/464/original/tea_small.jpgTEA Tidbits--February 11, 2021Dear TEA members,TEA Grant Opportunity!Dear TEA members,The TEA Achievement Grant Committee is excited to announce they have received $4,000 for the 3rd and 4th quarters of the 2020-2021 school year, to fund small grants for teachers to ensure their students the best experience possible in these extraordinary times. Funds are to support NON-Tech based activities (see examples below), and you must be a member of TEA to apply. Applications will be reviewed quickly and recipients must commit to executing their project whether students are learning in-person or virtually.  Successful applicants will also be given $28 (the equivalent of one hour of the district extra-hours rate) to honor the time it will take to order materials, plan, and write the required reflection.These grants will be a one time and mostly first come, first served opportunity so don’t put off getting yours turned in! ***Although you*** **are welcome to *rea*pply if you received a grant last semester, priority will be given to first time applicants**.**The application window opens at 8am on Saturday, February 13!**There are three categories available:* General supplies [up to $100] – For example, money can be used to purchase colored pencils, glue sticks, construction paper, etc.
* Social emotional Learning outreach [up to $200] – For example, money can be used for happy snail mail supplies, SEL Read Alouds or little student of the week gifts [NO GIFT CARDS]. Get creative here on how you could help and encourage your students.
* Project based learning [up to $300] – For example, money can be used for supplies for a project kit with a specified outcome or product [e.g. building a cardboard trebuchet; a cooking kit; a PlayDoh modeling kit].

**Steps to apply**:1. [Read through the online presentation](https://u1584542.ct.sendgrid.net/ss/c/atcYNHk4Eh2YdGnwBh-YDPv3clx2dGXe5ZNSelIENwGFWc6m_1GT31IHObUutgjcHyXBpfoWcgel4Wqia-i8mBnT2k45oLLkLhaAk11i7qaNOLOzmonShItNJhae-zjwMNSj0CHeOoc6KkqxGJCm_Vh2GmgtiNMuC47OZ0C03tH0TLgqKjkxkX5uFkEosFZS5UABOTcFuYlUax_JVOWVH534i6uIw2nW87jt70O7my1ga_KRAZcdgNRELIwqbmJq7yNTXIldGqNxvBa9UpCCRQ3NdGVrii3ADKWuQmiDS5kbelaViaOcG97zFsYW_8ohp_V9ri9Z_TZcyvtIxyAKyu6sRYP_JmB0m7XjUFmAUgPHza7nwE5EkUBMMSmiP3xdC8lSTZAnN0SLuvpvi0UWwBzE5-7J0mSndD3mBH_mJ3AvTz2FbSt_qDCz1CbdV1NPrGYcKYaZ2mxKq-CAKuoZJ3Kw6ZEl6hwucr31HKDocW8YNkOYbW2I9mZTtm9w4_OH9rKA_DrFlA8gsjpIhPamEFdoCQ74fk52HEWJF296lD2huS4163ORgkHGhhUJS1Ww/39c/hj0w1l7WRaOhXJ7ulE_0sg/h0/HgGxLZ2j6OiernjEOE7QonfNDNGWee6CdcwPQCr0gEE) to understand the parameters of the grant
2. [Complete the budget for your proposal](https://u1584542.ct.sendgrid.net/ss/c/atcYNHk4Eh2YdGnwBh-YDPv3clx2dGXe5ZNSelIENwGFWc6m_1GT31IHObUutgjcI8OkTbVaW_YV-hm1pDKdoYYSaYAej-9dV6kTFGOurRk2xoATz7Jf4OXq-cUVteG8mSKP_17xpd_0xcYgZDKpSS4hFnTKE6GNUHOszi5krLcDHvVXHJU7S8LaLhhAiTo4VAaZUy3sV6L69r78gBNIzgVIAG5vQrSPi5Wcj5OEyB7szgdZozpRy0-CJKjT54WmrsXzaGpEGO5Yvf3sB9rBlnMqcgbUkn1z9RjPd32fWwDgUyg3uNMQg3DnjF2OdpQ06LrL6s2TMBkB3q9m4VOcClPWWyBHzRvWq5OvPbYX8eJUscaj_pxj5yzQ8hXMscSuDzC5_2g8Xep607eqcWXMsOzSnKflZkO7Zf6GQ0DGZPdU0yRBGPH72bIMGc0KJ-m-4A85Xnz1w3AfQmT2lb1ADsagi-rk82Tyh9DeIX1Jx-lKPWlw1iy2UIREB2eDQKu3-Vg1BKki1ogg6f-BE7PUeWdtO7ub9Ir-wPq1eWy8MUM/39c/hj0w1l7WRaOhXJ7ulE_0sg/h1/EfVZmSS7DNSymryV8A6Jm30wRYz6XvCVZH-j8t2GGlw) (clicking the link will force you to make a copy; please rename the document with: last name\_budget)
3. [C](https://u1584542.ct.sendgrid.net/ss/c/atcYNHk4Eh2YdGnwBh-YDPv3clx2dGXe5ZNSelIENwGFWc6m_1GT31IHObUutgjcUNtKVHuslGbXBkcaWRfDa3QrrDOnM6RTmtR2wkZf0ngKQFEPIqPPs_Mrj_1k29MGR_qkgA7wKhfiFUo7dfyggJG70eYvB8t12p6o1aOjmOJHqlr9D2PnT7KvdihivZGvbTOzzHrPfEWWeNoroERrUgErf5jI-6mTzwEz1XLQRU5sbNKe8eWaTEo7oIJPbjH_yoLwVNDcy_sH_DDUBFXtcBdLqAmgAPcyWqb_I0kPYul2th7tVHhz10g-LPOTVq6q3NZrzsGyuRRP0XuqtRmS2oCIJer5PRIBih2LxbSbGScrVmVHsvGemLoTE_eoHyZ-4IeHMz9nyYVPoKZQwUQjotiY6ytdV9Y_6oVqp72yTnkQPLPnLn4i_hG_ByOBcMdxISgjkSKb18KlOY66Hx10iwXoyG5P9XlxFgyCm3SENwZFYtQw54DfGa08ukhClRIY0EYncy77hfODfoOhdet9dL4iSnpCRnJ2jotrd5kJRE3LVPkLjuqhHFKc2eYzTu3xM09FehxOhfX0O5xWw4HPSA/39c/hj0w1l7WRaOhXJ7ulE_0sg/h2/tHE2wj6Ack_iabIKxnCcrKhb9xAzbAoS8pvFFyX7wJY)[omplete the online application](https://u1584542.ct.sendgrid.net/ss/c/atcYNHk4Eh2YdGnwBh-YDPv3clx2dGXe5ZNSelIENwGFWc6m_1GT31IHObUutgjcUNtKVHuslGbXBkcaWRfDa3QrrDOnM6RTmtR2wkZf0ngKQFEPIqPPs_Mrj_1k29MGR_qkgA7wKhfiFUo7dfyggJG70eYvB8t12p6o1aOjmOJHqlr9D2PnT7KvdihivZGvbTOzzHrPfEWWeNoroERrUgErf5jI-6mTzwEz1XLQRU5sbNKe8eWaTEo7oIJPbjH_yoLwVNDcy_sH_DDUBFXtcBdLqAmgAPcyWqb_I0kPYumWWTTcqj6S23NR7xhhYQF2o1mCirAozBSn5xAh-AqdUfkXe0rE38e_soXPV14XG8LyQUohQAmHFQiR1aUfhenFheSzbcuHm1Hb2CwN19RP_p6yxS9j-XYolvwlcn_-FJCetCSHsLVy2vtYh-hXuaIf4pou9-8DhTtvGLknsXMOPX0HWC0H0NvGnFjOLbkWNZKFp-xiNZvEexAweOIxuwtxDUq7H7NM2dd5lggKZL279jyDr4yb94ytqdVqGhPpCwmQTXq4l1NJMbGxmj616-1jF3dDCuz3neKP5UkkhZp_6Q/39c/hj0w1l7WRaOhXJ7ulE_0sg/h3/wes_8yvCmLebtkmj0WLyj-_BF6ipav3GeCRb64rKrCg) (the application must be completed in one sitting; feel free to preview it to prepare your responses if needed. To add your budget file, choose “My Drive” after clicking “Add File,” then locate your budget document, click on it, and choose “Select”).

General questions should be directed to the TEA Achievement Grant committee chair, Jill Date, at jill.date@thompsonschools.org.Questions about the Grant Application itself (technologically speaking) can be directed to Carin Barrett at carin.barrett@thompsonschools.org.We hope you are as excited as we are about the possibilities this additional funding could bring for Thompson students.        **TEA Achievement Grant Committee**Carin Barrett, Jill Date, Janelle Joers, Michelle Keenan-Harte, Donna Pabst  Read Across America materials pickupIf you are one of the 50 participants in TEA's Read Across America program, you can pick up your books next Wednesday or Friday, Feb. 17 or 19, between 3:30 and 5:15 PM, at the TEA office, 809 Colorado Ave. If you can't make either time, please email Andy and we can make alternate arrangements. Weekend Building AccessTEA has successfully advocated with the district to allow educators to access buildings between 8 AM and 4 PM on Saturday and Sunday (just be in the building by 4 PM, not leave by 4). If you require emergency access, please contact your building principal. We are excited that the district was responsive to our requests. Town Hall meeting with Rep. Hugh McKean on 2/13**Virtual town hall meeting** with Rep. McKean this Saturday, 9 AM: [https://fb.me/e/1VZ3iB82E](https://u1584542.ct.sendgrid.net/ss/c/A7GQnnr_XzUYyessq5BiRDkqHMwG3CYAu9GfseJcv71VLbi8LBr7nXmXcXWANpZXtMDXzMLPlz4jMNbmTwsEWN7lfEJuEmryy4Am5X6309tWKNZw-6UADgwMcftdHKhvdEDpHt1ygw6bTwpqlTnD0wGL40utMdxQXUw4dw7uJXCrRi2vPfEblsu5T8CITeCULghTLUCLaGhEtSH7iP5MEzKpjCmBFnPhAn1GUa2WFKy_XaRW-uheNPv1otm_pzDF/39c/hj0w1l7WRaOhXJ7ulE_0sg/h4/RrKFyHkIfD5e_Qp0pOk2Yu7XEhSR4QyZklGQ-i62BRA)Ask him to support pausing CMAS testing this year--tell your own story! Negotiations updateLarge group negotiations start on February 24. On Feb. 10, the 2+2 committee, made up of Bill Siebers (HR), Dawne Huckaby (LS), Kayla Steele (BHS, negotiations chair), and Andy Crisman (random person), met and agreed upon the critical questions that negotiations will address this year. They are:1. How can we provide opportunities for effective professional development within the district?
2. How do we create a system that maximizes teachers' ability to shape their own professional activities?
3. How do we provide a continuum of services that ensure a safe learning and teaching environment to meet the needs of a diverse student population?
4. What are the quality learning and working conditions for specialized programs and schools, including K-8 schools?
5. How do we structure time within the contract day to maximize student learning and teacher effectiveness?
6. How can we recruit and retain quality teachers?
7. How do we address Memorandum of Understanding cleanup?

Vaccine UpdateHere's what TEA knows right now (okay, what Andy can remember right now):* HR, at TEA's urging, has committed to covering classes for vaccine appointments without the employee having to take annual leave. This is an admirable step. While we know there may be some coverage snafus, we are grateful for the consideration.
* The district has given UCHealth a list of employees, in a priority order based on the percentage of the day they spend with students.
* Having said that, there seems to be evidence that UCHealth, after the first "flight" of educators (SHOAs, ILC, etc.), may have mixed the rest of the lists together.
* If you get an invite to make a vaccine appointment, it is for you ONLY--an invite did not necessarily go to your teaching partner. The number of invites will be based on the number of vaccines available that week/day, and people are getting called in random order.
* TEA is talking with the district about scenarios for secondary students returning to learn. Our position is that teachers need to be at least 2 weeks past their second vaccination; students still spread the virus; vaccines aren't available for students under 16; physical distancing, masking, and sanitizing measures still need to be taken; any return to full time learning needs to take these safety measures into account (i.e., students still need to be at least 3 feet apart, masked, etc.).

Tuition ReimbursementDid you know that, through a program negotiated by TEA, you can be reimbursed for up to $1,000 of your graduate level tuition each year? [Visit here](https://u1584542.ct.sendgrid.net/ss/c/mRshnjzLbfRUAJcmEcvG03xPgN-IGkuQShJp1-DHp7IO-ZdzwMMEryXQf3Jh3Ar1fg39CSUx7d08CMnmHv0cmihUJh4BNfe1FbFgDwhj-1CuTqSl8g9Lg9HnneeYCj-G-bACKzroN_kzk8LsfRT-_WKzGSMmojc4_cKkW3RKiiujzVsLUbqYfweGjDk4mEdIKXayUE6FkOzXFc4lVuQHzCRMd7UULlYV--vFkZeZVvSw4xyuZD8AXG1qNoCR75uHInQ8I8pmUnx2PV-rFKFj-ezBTYwAa-M1vlZNUxLWQlK4__3otlwVkBoLuxcLPXvl/39c/hj0w1l7WRaOhXJ7ulE_0sg/h5/2znYfDhCGkDEcx1wrBDurlZNEE4kqmXE__PBvWBTlxs) to learn more details and to see the form. It is due by June 1 of each year. Pause CMAS testing for this year[Sign the petition today!](https://u1584542.ct.sendgrid.net/ss/c/P8Elou2Rvc0qoMPEUZrMXcOpy_XqN4R2ZGjoK-5zZnluFByon7apZqwDRhkIf7EFI5IrwjCphhaX3DqDHDCJheQF9mdEw9__JFwCGMxXuuHsgm499VA9muqFHGGIxXHuDT37tVTx6Xv0kYWl_RzoL8Dvl4A7DpAxhXGNbl3IITQ_sNXC2LFd1lFQFiwi1UCMMGXZjeadM12D87C5cVkwFbYO3s13Ny6BTAPG1q_Kmcijn49dgHIJEpvokE_C9vKfByvtVKoy8ncwaWJmgaYcFgcMsYFThQqky0hs3V0On8c/39c/hj0w1l7WRaOhXJ7ulE_0sg/h6/qpzdFF_FCv7RMMuajNV9cP7VQvf1wi29CT14I40De-Y) If it shows up as "Andy", be sure to change your name.Retirement Planning? Read thisKarl Fisch is a retired Colorado math and computer teacher, and he has written [this book](https://u1584542.ct.sendgrid.net/ss/c/atcYNHk4Eh2YdGnwBh-YDPfqdXXuKe9ncCkE8ROuMoGy2mqNweBEU6IRQ3VEsufyLsig-Fbz9aBao4G5WKq1VHYC6DOo6WoXwrvmBkdfEX5fOKxjXVu12ar6PhOFLX9s_XoZDfhyPOF5IK9JODNCe8YVwRpIbItmcqwKHbZg3U2kqvhsLvL07ry-IqbArVb-A4RUx-MFcC8ZSexzrg-3nHG2dM6ddLK3tkhvKY0Z1gKvjfhPm31EIbqBmz7AnO5SyHXxggh2H-Ru72HL9PJQDA/39c/hj0w1l7WRaOhXJ7ulE_0sg/h7/lnv4Ix8N_askaPqQ1n-qt8FZRvLHBWMFuTWjRFYprYU) especially about retirement planning for PERA employees. It's free on Kindle if you have a prime membership, and $5 if you don't. I hope it is helpful. CEA legislative text updates: With the legislative session starting this week, make sure to sign up for **CEA text alerts**! [https://www.coloradoea.org/sign-up-for-text-alerts-from-cea/](https://u1584542.ct.sendgrid.net/ss/c/atcYNHk4Eh2YdGnwBh-YDJ43VtTsBt821n1lBQUHnZKb0Ml52ife3I0wpsHaGap0M-C3cPekPwJzKF5jp4MISmVG7vKcq19JqUHz7Qfryy7xN7s55x6vCsJaeavcsJVbXFFTLaAHua0YTEzPeuOq27zpJn2Ra_UGjkTNO8d7yyQrW34AyEvxqGzUFpmX38PHHjdiGKeacjw_Els5uJx2wJD9f9r0Xx2Lfg9CDCI_ekd-siKtJtVairlV6APB8XSGqq66SBgEL9hrC_vUvT30GtYPdgnITZoRIi_ABRy29_0/39c/hj0w1l7WRaOhXJ7ulE_0sg/h8/ZMH4QLWE7mObxgMv0HaXYuz9ObGpG-ZsWEUF9tdZ0hQ)One of CEA's biggest immediate priorities is to push for a pause on CMAS testing for this year. There are practical as well as social justice reasons for this.[Here's an article on the racist beginnings of the SAT](nea.org/advocating-for-change/new-from-nea/racist-beginnings-standardized-testing?link_id=11&can_id=047b18ab66ee4249651eba0de142b82a&source=email-tea-tidbits-for-today-100&email_referrer=email_1074169&email_subject=tea-tidbits-for-today) and other standardized testing. o   **Early Career Educator Racial and Social Justice Series: Advancing Racial Justice in Education** - NEA's Center for Organizing, in collaboration with the Center for Social Justice, is hosting a series of webinars for Early Career Educators centered around racial and social justice, specifically focusing on supporting educators of color. The second webinar of this series will focus on examining and deepening the skills and knowledge needed to support leaders with racial analysis and implementing equity into organizations. You will learn to apply a race equity lens to your work and how to develop action plans meant to further racial justice in education. o   Wednesday, February 17, 2021 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM MT o   Register: [https://secure.ngpvan.com/tjX3Zm5Tt0SGv7u97NZogA2?ms=eceracialjusticeemail](https://u1584542.ct.sendgrid.net/ss/c/wehEm_vu1NBVXOKYSqOxTGqUUvizGNcDfVwUp_3c-ngej3k72P1G91wqwsGEwJIUp5wMURzzPhe2W0773ZB3liTjVX_BPj9OWe_1WlBkxK4kM5jzseFYnWHJQVBVBgpOX5_otLoUXUUv39nXmygNZt6jx-y1OUsVXzuU-_E-CjoAKi3WWN0wtXHbQbz7QENszKoUSgMDhuT-nwF9FjFlUc9eO6ee6gKY7kgbo7WAroHgqSBI9vhv8jmTXw8OISVP5uqCfoorppreYKbHeuHjsoZ3xdASMyHIA5w0cnmmHB6CR61moP-6HBk9-936QEW5/39c/hj0w1l7WRaOhXJ7ulE_0sg/h9/9b7d1A9Ib90X93hOB0OE3rB_3FuJL_SZBYy8Um6hr10)·         **Webinar:  Building Routine for Student Success in a Virtual Space** o   How can physical classroom routines (submitting work and getting help) be transformed for effective use in virtual spaces? This webinar will discuss how to teach students the necessary skills to confidently navigate virtual learning communities and also help students transition to virtual/remote learning that seems familiar to face-to-face instruction. o   Monday, February 22, 5-6pm MST o   Register: [https://www.mobilize.us/nea/event/365269/](https://u1584542.ct.sendgrid.net/ss/c/atcYNHk4Eh2YdGnwBh-YDJoV_SUko1NvDr4CKUKq--3rWitrvyChh9S1PfMgP-_IYuP0xJ7z7PllbbpMZSD3C2MVMqbtby-FFEyzL27A0JRqc_lfRk6FDpxkyUVnC5Ud5vNP2geb-x_XXiaoGQYYmgP_nUxrQ4SECgp1x4oSVyhN7A2ZiD5k9XJAaruyyYBn6pa5HWFAWguEuUSKBSOYVLWmcYbshLOVGZXACg587AVaSrxTRyJjtRDbyuphAvrPaKby38yPPOckKH3DHUm6uQ/39c/hj0w1l7WRaOhXJ7ulE_0sg/h10/HWxCBO5fywTpEpxBbXsAClfl_2OwnYQDnuh9v0dP778)**Solidarity!**Sincerely,https://salsa4.salsalabs.com/o/51019/c/147/images/Andy%20professional%20pic.jpgAndy Crisman tea@coloradoea.org [h](https://u1584542.ct.sendgrid.net/ss/c/zMhPeRdLSH9QavqI0KIPYbYYEpXzaTr0nk3JMyQs3ilVrsrBEQqvBO3l0oEHcMOHkgNyGkg6WlFiuJOd_wqVR6eqvh2YMPcEkWlUClqsBhW9hrKT-Xovsz_IGOcs93b-zHxNvAXzuQjEg8b361x4jOrUT_JZabzzWcmavb9foS3BZ6fJ7djUiyIqBMUtchCHRnMpBsF8pqgTphP5n05q6I91gha07Jz8LzoFht8FWrA9G_9KNmiPb9Mcw6o1l6gLgYriSCpRpLng5BbmBy5cyQ/39c/hj0w1l7WRaOhXJ7ulE_0sg/h11/j5CxwDKmhdZj-D5Jx_lxBFYFeOCV7MG9vBGc_x37u6Q)ttp://thompsoneducationassociation.org  |

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