

SEPTEMBER 2024

THE FONTANAN

**CELEBRATE
HISPANIC HERITAGE
MONTH**

**VOLUME 45
ISSUE 2**

Hispanic Heritage Month

..... T H I N G S T O K N O W

01 Hispanic Heritage Month in the U.S. runs from September 15 to October 15, declared by President George H.W. Bush in 1989.

02 Hispanic Heritage Month honors the cultures and histories of Americans with roots in Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, Central, and South America.

03 Hispanic Heritage Month started as National Hispanic Heritage Week in 1968 under President Lyndon B. Johnson.

04 Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua celebrate Independence Day on September 15. Mexico follows on September 16, Chile on September 18, and Belize on September 21.

05 There are 20 Hispanic countries and one territory, including Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Puerto Rico, Spain, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

06 A person identifying as Hispanic has origins or ancestry from Spanish-speaking regions, including Spain due to the official language being Spanish.

07 The term "Hispanic" was officially acknowledged by the U.S. government in the 1970s following data collection prompted by Mexican-American and Hispanic groups.

08 In 2022, Pew Research Center reported 62.5 million Hispanics in the U.S., representing 19% of the population.

09 Latinx individuals, including those who identify as Latino, Latina, or Latine, celebrate their own cultural festivities separate from Hispanic Heritage Month.

10 While Hispanic and Latinx individuals have diverse histories and cultures, many are connected through the Spanish language. The Cervantes Institute reports 595 million Spanish speakers in the world, with 496 million being native speakers.

FONTANA TEACHERS ASSOCIATION NEGOTIATIONS



MEET THE 2024-2025 TEAM

DENISE BENNING, COUNSELOR AT SUMMIT HIGH SCHOOL

Denise Benning has dedicated 23 years to the Fontana Unified School District, currently serving as a school counselor at Summit High School. Her career began as a substitute teacher, during which she earned her CTE General Education credential. Denise spent 20 years as an Educational Specialist at Fohi, five of which were in an inclusion setting with General Ed. She has held various leadership roles, including Department Chair and PBIS, and served as site representative at both Fohi and Summit High School. Denise has actively participated in the FTA's Social, Organizing, Equity team, and PAC committees, receiving the WHO's award in 2019. She has been a member of the Negotiation team for seven years and remains a steadfast advocate for students and bargaining members.

COLLEEN GERKE, RSP TEACHER AT HEMLOCK ELEMENTARY

Colleen Gerke is a dedicated RSP teacher at Hemlock Elementary, bringing 23 years of experience in the FUSD to her role. Throughout her career, Colleen has been actively involved in various leadership positions. She served as an Alternate Representative for five years, contributed to negotiations for one year, and took on the role of Elementary Director for two years. Additionally, Colleen represented her peers as an RA representative for four years and served as Membership Chair for one year. Her extensive experience and commitment to education make her a valued member of the Hemlock Elementary community.

LUIS RETANA, FOURTH GRADE TEACHER, LIVE OAK ELEMENTARY

Luis Retana is a seasoned educator with 25 years of teaching experience, currently inspiring young minds as a 4th-grade teacher at Live Oak Elementary. Throughout his career, he has embraced numerous leadership roles, such as site representative and site alternate. Now in his fifth year, Luis continues to contribute significantly as a member of the negotiations team, showcasing his unwavering dedication to education and his commitment to fostering a supportive learning environment.

KIMBERLY JENNEX, 2ND/3RD GRADE COMBO TEACHER, ONLINE LEARNING

Kimberly Jennex, a dedicated educator in the FUSD for 24 years, has a rich history of teaching at Southridge Middle School from 2001 to 2020. Currently, she teaches a 2/3 combo class in the VLP program, having started with 2nd grade. Her commitment extends beyond the classroom; she has served as a site representative for five years and as membership chair for three years. Kimberly's passion for education and leadership has made a significant impact on her students and colleagues alike.

GREG NELSON, TEACHER, FONTANA MIDDLE SCHOOL

A dedicated educator at Fontana Middle School, Greg has been an active member of the Fontana Teachers Association since 2001. Throughout his tenure, he has served as a site representative for multiple years and recently participated in negotiations for the first time. Greg has also held positions as both an Elementary and Middle School Director. His unwavering commitment to advocating for members and advancing collective interests underscores his ongoing work with the association.

JENNIFER BARRETT, SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST

Jennifer Barrett has been a dedicated Speech-Language Pathologist for 23 years, all within the Fontana Unified School District. Currently based at Juniper Elementary, she serves as an itinerant specialist, providing speech and language support across various school sites and programs. Jennifer has extensive experience with students of all ages and grade levels, including preschool, elementary, middle, high school, and adult transition programs. Her expertise spans general education, mild/moderate, moderate/severe settings, and home/hospital environments. Additionally, she has been an FTA Representative for over 15 years and is in her 7th year on the Negotiations team.

TIFFANY CURRY, RSP TEACHER, CITRUS HIGH SCHOOL

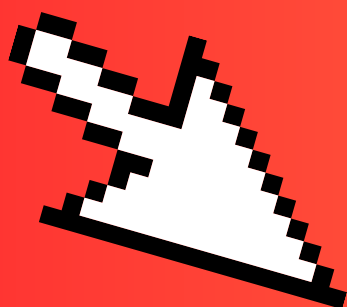
Tiffany Curry has been an Education Specialist for nearly 7 years, primarily working with students with mild to moderate disabilities. Currently an RSP teacher, she also has experience in special day class settings. Actively involved in union work with FTA for 2 years, she has served as a site representative and communications chair. A CTA intern through the EMEID program, Tiffany is pursuing her third graduate degree as a doctoral candidate in psychology, focusing on culturally relevant care in education and mental health services. This is her first year on the negotiations team, where she is eager to learn and contribute.

CONNIE ROSALES, CTA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Connie has dedicated 24 years to the California Teachers Association, serving the last 4 years as the Executive Director of the Fontana Teachers Association. Her extensive experience and leadership have made significant contributions to the organization.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE EMAIL NEGOTIATIONS@FONTANATEACHERS.ORG

**Trainings
are due
by
October
1st.**

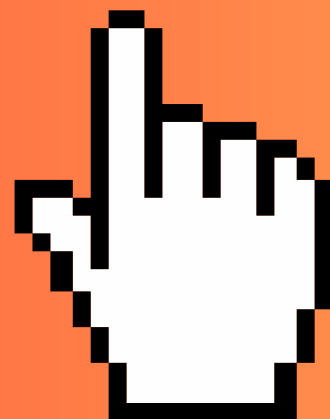


**You are
allowed to
work on your
online
trainings
during lunch
or your prep
time.**



ONLINE TRAINING ASSIGNMENTS

**If your admin
says otherwise,
please contact
the union office
immediately at
909-829-0940.**



Unmasking the Illusions of Appreciation in FUSD

Dearest readers,

It has come to my attention that certain members of the District staff have recently been “celebrated” for their years of unwavering service. Yet, one cannot help but wonder if this is nothing more than a theatrical performance designed to obscure the lamentable treatment of our teachers and staff throughout our cherished district.

Take, for instance, the curious case of campus security cameras. Once intended for the protection of students and staff, they now serve a more sinister purpose: the surveillance of our beleaguered educators. Quite the charmingly Orwellian twist, don’t you think?

And let us not overlook the scandalous deprivation of gate keys, which leaves teachers imprisoned on campus during their meager 30-minute lunch breaks. Yes, dear readers, you heard it correctly. These dedicated souls are denied the simple liberty of an unlocked gate, forcing them into a mad dash across campus to find an open exit, consuming what little respite they might have had.

Ah, and the matter of safety—how delightfully ironic! In the unfortunate event of a genuine emergency, such as a campus shooting or fire, the very gates that imprison our teachers also ensnare our precious students.

One might think that safety measures would prioritize, well, safety, but alas, not in this grand production.

The District, in its infinite wisdom, professes a desire for teacher input on matters such as curriculum and school culture. Yet, this too appears to be a mere charade. Most mandates, curriculum guides, and policies are issued by those who haven’t graced a classroom with their presence in over a decade, if ever.

Teachers are shuffled around to new assignments at different schools with all the finesse of a poorly played game of musical chairs, receiving little information or warning. Programs are altered without so much as a courteous conversation with the teachers they affect.

So, I must inquire, what exactly are we celebrating? The remarkable endurance of our teachers and staff in the face of such blatant disrespect? One must do better, Fontana Unified School District. The masquerade has grown tiresome.

Yours truly,

Lady Pencilsdown

FTA MEMBERS ONLY

Our FTA Members Only forum has reopened. If you would like to be added to the page, please email ftaoffice@fontanateachers.org with your info to be added.

- The page is for posting questions & comments regarding FTA, CTA, & NEA.
- No internal campaigning permitted.
- The page is not monitored 24/7. The comments posted are the responsibility of the person posting.
- Comments that violate any member's rights or protections will be removed,
- Post appropriately or be removed.

UNION CODE OF CONDUCT

- I will not criticize any union colleague except to the individual directly.
- If any union colleague is being criticized in my presence, I will confront and ask that it stop.
- I will not participate in any conversation with management that criticizes, or negatively speculates about any union colleague.
- I will settle my differences with colleagues within my union.
- I will engage in debate, offer others every opportunity for debate and respect minority viewpoints, but I will observe and support the majority mandate of my union.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP GET HIM ELECTED?

➔ Postcard Writing



Join us at the FTA Office on September 12th from 4:30pm to 7:30pm to assist in writing postcards to registered voters in the Trustee 4 area.

We have safeguarded all the treasures – supplies, delicious treats, drinks, and even marvelous raffle prizes!

➔ Neighborhood Canvassing



Come and join us for neighborhood canvassing, just for a quick 2-hour session on a Saturday. We are canvassing every Saturday until Election Day. Please sign up for any Saturday you are able to help out.

Homes are screened to avoid impolite encounters. You can have a buddy for support or bring a friend. Lunch is provided after.

➔ Social Media



Help boost our candidate by sharing on your personal social media and motivating residents to support them at the polls.

Many of us have acquaintances living in these regions. Sharing on your personal social media could motivate them to vote. These roles are often overlooked due to a lack of candidate awareness. Consider posting multiple times to raise awareness.

To sign up for canvassing:



FONTANA TEACHERS ENDORSE

JOSHUA CHRIST

The Fontana Teachers Association supports Joshua Christ for School Board Trustee Area 4 with these key points:

- His dedication lies in prioritizing Fontana students' well-being and involving them in important decisions.
- He advocates for fair and wise allocation of public resources to cater to Fontana students' educational requirements.
- Diversity and promoting community harmony are integral to his vision.
- He is committed to preparing students for various post-secondary opportunities.

Additionally, his significant contributions as a teacher and union member in advocating for the rights of students and educators are commendable.

Find out more @christ4fontana

To sign up for the postcard party:





CALLED INTO A DISCIPLINARY MEETING WITH ADMIN?

The US Supreme Court has ruled that the National Labor Relations Act gives workers the right to request union representation during investigatory interviews by supervisors, security personnel, and other managerial staff. An investigatory interview occurs if 1) management questions you to obtain information; and 2) you have a reasonable apprehension that your answers could be used as a basis for discipline or other adverse action. You must ask for union representation either at the beginning or during the interview. Management does not have to remind you of this right. If your request is refused, and management continues asking questions, you can refuse to answer. Your employer is guilty of an unfair labor practice and charges may be filed.

I REQUEST REPRESENTATION

If you are called into a meeting with management, read the following when the meeting begins:

If my responses to your questions could lead to my being disciplined or terminated, or adversely affect personal working conditions, I respectfully request that you summon my union representative. Until my representative arrives, I choose not to answer any questions.

Hispanic Heritage Month



Check your district email for some wonderful suggestions from Amanda Nava on how you can creatively and meaningfully celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month in your classroom. Amanda has put together a variety of activities and ideas that will help you engage your students and bring the rich culture and history of Hispanic communities to life.

Additionally, don't forget to mark your calendar for an exciting event - the Hispanic Heritage Festival at FOHI is scheduled for October 12. This festival promises to be a vibrant celebration, showcasing music, dance, art, and delicious food that reflect the diverse traditions of Hispanic cultures. It's an excellent opportunity for students, teachers, and families to come together and honor this important heritage.

FONTANA TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Join us for the love of reading
and bringing book pages to life

Equity Team Book Club



Discuss Pages 102-217

VIRTUAL • ZOOM MEETING
SEPTEMBER 25TH | 7:30PM

Sign up using this QR code



Join Us!

**Stay
connected
with FTA on
your social
media
channels to
stay updated!**



@FONTANATEACHERS



FTA MEMBERS ONLY

NEW HOME ADDRESS? NAME CHANGE?

Email the FTA Office with
your updated information.



Please



JOIN
US

**TO START
PLANNING**

Native American Heritage Month

All members are welcome to join at
the FTA Office on:

September 10, 2024 • 4pm

Fontana LGBTQIA+ Pride Fest

Love always wins!

October 24, 2024

Seeking:

- **Planning Committee Members**
- **Presenters**
- **Resource Fair Participants**
- **Volunteers**

Interested in volunteering?

Please contact Robert Trujillo



TRUJILLOTEACHES@GMAIL.COM

Presented jointly by LGBTQIA+ Chairs from FTA & USW 8599

FTA EQUITY TEAM

UPCOMING *Events*



9/20-9/22

San Manuel Pow Wow

The event will take place at Cal State San Bernardino and is open to the public. Admission is free. For more info, visit socalpowwow.com.

Sep
20
2024



6pm - 9pm

California Native American Day

Join us for a celebration of California Native American culture! Don't forget to bring your lawn chairs and blankets. Venue: Cal State San Bernardino.

Sep
27
2024



MORONGO 33RD ANNUAL
THUNDER & LIGHTNING
POW WOW

9/27-9/29

Morongo Thunder & Lightning Pow Wow

Come and experience the excitement at Morongo Casino and Resort, featuring the Morongo Indian Marketplace, drum calls, and much more. Admission is free!

Sep
27
2024

Virgo

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

VIRGO (8/23 - 9/22)

Oh, your meticulous nature will totally guarantee that every single one of your lesson plans this month will be absolute perfection. But brace yourself for the delightful pandemonium that will strike when you inevitably forget your own lunch. A Virgo without a meal plan? What's next, cats and dogs living together? Unimaginable!

SAGITTARIUS (11/22 - 12/21)

Adventure is in the air, Sagittarius! You'll drag your students on an "educational" journey that, for some reason, involves a treasure map and a questionable amount of imagination. Just a heads-up, the school janitor might not be thrilled about your DIY pirate ship parked in the hallway. But hey, who cares about a little mop water on your grand quest for knowledge, right?

PISCES (2/19 - 3/20)

Brace yourself, Pisces, because this month your creative genius is going to be off the charts. Your students are in for a real treat as you dazzle them with your artistic flair and those whimsical lessons that seem to float right out of a fairy tale. But here's the kicker: don't be too shocked when you drift off into La-La Land and, surprise surprise, misplace your coffee mug for the umpteenth time. Seriously, maybe tie it to yourself or something?

GEMINI (5/21 - 6/20)

This month, your talent for multitasking will truly sparkle as you effortlessly juggle teaching and refereeing the latest pencil skirmish. Just be cautious of your own split personality—there's a good chance you'll end up in a heated debate with... yourself. What fun!

LIBRA (9/23 - 10/22)

Oh, Libra, brace yourself—balance is your middle name this month. You'll be the playground diplomat, keeping rival student factions from turning recess into a scene from a medieval battlefield. Just remember, while you're busy being the peacekeeper extraordinaire, try not to send that precarious tower of ungraded papers on your desk crashing down. Your legendary equilibrium can only stretch so far before it snaps, after all.

CAPRICORN (12/22 - 1/19)

Oh, Capricorn, your overachieving self is in full swing this month! Your unrelenting drive will have you scaling the educational ladder like it's a leisurely hike. And guess what? You'll be so insanely organized that you might actually find the time to dust off that novel you've been pretending to write. But hey, don't get too carried away with your literary genius—those essays aren't going to grade themselves, even if you secretly wish they would.

ARIES (3/21 - 4/19)

This month, your blazing passion for teaching will set your students' minds on fire. Just try not to literally set off the fire alarm with your over-the-top enthusiasm. Keep in mind, not everyone can deal with your level of excitement before they've had their morning coffee – or three.

CANCER (6/21 - 7/22)

Oh, Cancer, brace yourself because your nurturing side is about to take center stage this month. You'll be the emotional rock for your students—lucky you! And hey, you might even get a thank-you card for all your efforts. But let's be real, it's probably going to be a crumpled piece of notebook paper with a half-hearted smiley face scribbled on it. Enjoy the perks of being a saint!

SCORPIO (9/23 - 11/21)

Oh, Scorpio, brace yourself because your intensity this month is going to be off the charts. You'll plunge so deep into your subject matter that your students will be left in a state of awe—or maybe just sheer panic. They'll be buzzing about your lecture for weeks to come, or at least until you hit them with the next surprise pop quiz. Talk about making a lasting impression!

AQUARIUS (1/20 - 2/18)

Innovation is basically your middle name, Aquarius. This month, you'll unveil a shiny new tech gadget to your class that will either become the next big thing in education or turn the classroom into a chaotic circus. Either way, buckle up, because it's going to be one heck of an interesting ride.

TAURUS (4/20 - 5/20)

Oh, joy! This is the perfect month for your delightful stubbornness to shine as you wade through the thrilling labyrinth of lesson plans and bureaucratic nonsense. Who knows? You might even stumble upon that elusive stapler you've been desperately searching for—spoiler alert: it's been lounging in the staff room this whole time, probably sipping on a latte.

LEO (7/23 - 8/22)

Step right up, Leo! Your over-the-top theatrics are bound to make this month's lessons absolutely unforgettable. But hey, don't be too shocked if your students start referring to you as "Professor Broadway." Maybe start practicing your autograph now?

NEW EDUCATOR TUESDAYS

Welcome to the Exciting Journey of Teaching!

As you embark on this rewarding path, we invite you to attend our "New Educator Tuesdays" workshops. These sessions are designed to equip you with the tools and confidence needed to thrive (or maybe just survive) in your new role.

On each of these Tuesdays, we delve into crucial topics that will bolster your teaching experience. From preparing for observations to understanding how to manage expectations, our workshops offer invaluable insights.

You'll learn practical strategies to create a positive classroom environment and receive guidance on navigating the challenges of your first year.

Moreover, "New Educator Tuesdays" are a fantastic opportunity to connect with fellow new teachers. Sharing experiences and solutions fosters a supportive community, reminding you that you're not alone in this journey. You'll also gain access to a wealth of resources and support from experienced educators who are eager to see you succeed.

When & Where?

Next meeting is September 10, 2024

Location:

Fontana Teachers Association
16850 Seville Ave.
Fontana, Ca 92335

TO RSVP:

[CLICK HERE](#)

