

January 2012

CALIFORNIA
Kindergarten
 ASSOCIATION

California Kindergarten Association E-News

A Fantastic 30th!

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The 30th Annual California Kindergarten Conference, held in Santa Clara over the Martin Luther King Jr. weekend, was a weekend full of learning, re-charging and FUN! It was a busy weekend, beginning with our Pre-Conference Institute with Dr. Jean Feldman on Friday, followed by our Art Exhibit Reception Friday evening and finally our two day conference Saturday and Sunday.

With a sold out crowd of almost 800 people attending two keynote addresses and 30 breakout sessions, the hotel was abuzz with the energy only kindergarten teachers can muster at 8:00 in the morning! Our Saturday keynoter, Ronald Mah, kicked off the conference with an enthusiastic and thought provoking address reminding us of the importance of play in early childhood.

Our Sunday keynoter, Dr. Jean Feldman, began our second day getting our bodies moving in order to get our brains working - we learned on our feet *not* in our seats.

Our Transitional Kindergarten strand of workshops was attended by almost 200 of our participants, and our other workshops covered topics ranging from art projects that teach the standards to ways to empower parents and everything in between.



JOIN CKA and become part of a **network** of educators who want kindergarten to be the best it can be! This year CKA members can look forward to:

- TKP Implementation
- Common Core State Standards lesson plans
- More You Tube videos
- Development of a Members Only portal on our website.

[Click here to join!](#)

CKA on Facebook!

Have a comment? Want to chat about kindergarten issues? Wondering what we've been up to? Come join us on Facebook and connect with other CKA members!

Be sure to check out our "Tuesday Teaching Tip" every week on Facebook!



The 23rd annual Young Children's Art Exhibit transformed the hallways of the hotel, giving our participants many creative ideas to take back to their classrooms. Thank you to the art committee for the countless hours of work they put in to create the exhibit each year, and another thank you to the teachers who send in the fabulous artwork. And of course, thank you to all who attended!

We are already looking forward to next year - we hope to see you back for our 31st in 2013!

Conference Name Change

In 30 years, we've gone from the Bay Area Kindergarten Conference, to the Northern California Kindergarten Conference to the California Kindergarten Conference. Now we're ready for another change!

Over the years our conference has branched out to include all early childhood educators - from preschool through first grade...not just kindergarten teachers. We'd like our new conference name to reflect that.

Do you have any good ideas? If you do, please email your suggestion to our office at cka@ckanet.org. If your suggestion is chosen you will win a registration to next year's conference!

Legislative Update with Senator Simitian

The Kindergarten Readiness Act was signed into law on Sept. 30, 2010. School districts in California have been planning and implementing the entrance age roll

back and Transitional Kindergarten. On January 5, 2012, Governor Jerry Brown stated in his budget proposal, "The budget recognizes that this is a time for reinvestment and reform, not for expansions. As such it does not fund the new Transitional Kindergarten program created pursuant to Chapter 705, Statutes of 2010. A decrease of \$223.7 million of Proposition 98 General Fund to reflect the elimination of the requirement that schools provide transitional kindergarten instruction beginning in the 2012-2013 academic year.

Thanks to our Sponsors!

We would like to thank the sponsors of the 30th Annual Conference!

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Santa Clara Convention & Visitors Bureau

On Friday, January 13th at 1:00 p.m., Senator Simitian held a press conference at the Santa Clara Convention Center. California Kindergarten Conference attendees were invited to attend. The Senator explained that the Kindergarten Readiness Act cannot be changed by the Governor. It is a law and only can be altered by legislation. The Senator feels there would be little support for legislation to change the law. The budget trailer bill language may be available in February.



Most districts are continuing to plan for TK implementation and the entrance age rollback to Nov. 1 in the 2012-2013 school year. Contact your own district for specific policies.

For now you can access more information on www.preschoolcalifornia.org, www.tkcalifornia.org and an updated FAQ on Transitional Kindergarten at the CDE website www.cde.ca.gov

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