



MEETING THE CHALLENGE OF CHANGE

TOTEM FORUM

TOTEM ASSOCIATION OF EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT PERSONNEL

Volume 2021/2022 ISSUE 2

December 2021

2021-2022 TOTEM Board Members

President Sandy Thompson
Vice President Alicia Woods
Secretary Felicia Woods
Treasurer Amey Tamagni

Members at Large

Ebony Adams-Copeland
Erin Connolly
Rozlyn Grady
Tammy Hanson
Denise Tilley

EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVES

Cindy Agron 742-1205

Alaska Native Charter, Aquarian, AVAIL, Eagle Academy, Family Partnership, Frontier Charter, Highland Tech, IT/Data Processing, Facilities/Maintenance, McLaughlin Secondary, Music Dept, Operations, PAIDEIA, Purchasing, Rilke Schule, SAVE, Special Schools, STREaM, Winterberry

Denise Buchanan 742-5220

Abbott Loop, Benson Secondary, Bowman, Central Middle, Denali, Hanshaw Middle, Huffman, Inlet View, Lake Otis, Polaris K-12, Rabbit Creek, Service High, Spring Hill, Steller Secondary, Student Nutrition, Transportation, Turnagain, Willow Crest, Williwaw

TOTEM Office 562-1183

Kasuun, North Star, Northern Lights ABC, Northwood ABC, Rogers Park, Russian Jack, Taku, Trailside, Tudor, Wendler Middle

Amey Tamagni 742-3895

Airport Heights, Bartlett High, Baxter, Begich Middle, Chester Valley, Clark Middle, Chugach Optional, College Gate, East High, EISC, Fairview, King Tech High, Mt View, Muldoon, Nunaka Valley, Ptarmigan, Scenic Park, Susitna, Tyson, Wonder Park, Whaley

Sandy Thompson 562-1183

ACT, Alpenglow, ASD Ed Center, Aurora, Bayshore, Bear Valley, Birchwood ABC, Campbell, Chinook, Chugiak Elem, Chugiak High, Creekside Park, Dimond High, Eagle River Elem, Eagle River High, Fire Lake, Girdwood, Gladys Wood, Goldenview Middle, Government Hill, Gruening Middle, Homestead, Kincaid, Klatt, Lake Hood, Mears Middle, Mirror Lake Middle, O'Malley, Ocean View, Romig Middle, Sand Lake, South High, West High

HOLIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

A Note from the President...

As we draw closer to the end of 2021 and look forward to a New Year, I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued dedication and commitment to the students, staff, parents, and community members of this District. I know how much energy and caring you give to your jobs on a daily basis, with little recognition or a thank you. I want you to know how very much I value each and every one of you and the work that you do. You have my sincerest thanks.



During this season, what are your hopes? What are you thankful and grateful for? I am hopeful that 2022 will be a brighter year, both personally and professionally. I am hopeful that TOTEM will receive a fair contract with recognition of the work we do. I am thankful that we live in this beautiful state of Alaska. I am appreciative of the support of the TOTEM Board, Employee reps and APEA staff that lift me up when things aren't going well and who work tirelessly for you, our membership, every day. I am grateful for my family, who try and keep up with my crazy schedule.

I encourage you to stop and reflect on those things that give you joy, that make you happy and make you grateful for this time of year. I encourage you to thank a colleague for the work they do, pay it forward at any opportunity you are given. Take care of each other, and yourself, and lift each other up in kindness, patience and grace.

Happy Holidays! -Sandy Thompson Wallace, TOTEM President

TOTEM NEEDS YOU AS A SITE CONTACT!!!



We are working on activating our Site Contacts this year. Site Contacts are not Employee Reps, but a liaison between the Board and members at school/building sites. They are responsible for updating the staff bulletin boards, distributing materials provided by TOTEM, and being a resource for new employees welcoming them to ASD. Please contact the Sandy Thompson at the TOTEM Office (president@totemassoc.org) to volunteer.

WEAR GREEN ON TOTEM TUESDAYS!!

As we head into arbitration for our contract, remember to wear green on Tuesday to show our presence. Let everyone know you are a proud TOTEM Member!

The TOTEM Scholarship Applications for the 2022/23 School year will be available on the TOTEM Website on January 10.

Upcoming TOTEM Events

Mark Your Calendar for these upcoming events:

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 5:30 PM:

PSP Certification Workshop

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11, 11 AM:

PSP Certification Workshop

If you are planning to attend a TOTEM PSP class, please sign up on mylearningplan.com.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 25, 6 PM:

TOTEM New Employee Orientation

Please register for the New Employee orientation using the Zoom link on our website.



Paid Holidays

To be eligible for holiday pay, you must be in paid status (at work or on paid leave) the last workday before and the first work day after the holiday or break.

During Winter Break, December 23, 24, 30 & 31, 2021, will be the paid holidays. For school based, you will need to be in paid status Friday, December 17th and Monday, January 3rd. For non-school based, the dates are Wednesday, December 22nd, and Monday, January 3rd.

KUDOS TO ALL THE FOLLOWING PSP CERTIFICATE RECIPIENTS!



Deanna Bates

Julianne Bourdon

Jennifer Cryder

Debbie Green, CEOE

Laura Hoosier

Marie Ann Nidoy

Sonya Rickard

Tammy Foster

Noelle Holt

Saena Lee

Jhoana Olivares

Sylvia Smith

KUDOS ALSO GOES TO THE FOLLOWING TOTEM MEMBERS WHO RECEIVED THEIR CESE/CEOE DESIGNATIONS:

Debra Andrus, CESE

Adela Baliton, CESE

Theresa Barnard, CESE

Chanphone Kittivong, CESE

Tina Parks, CEOE



TOTEM 21/22 School Year Spotlight

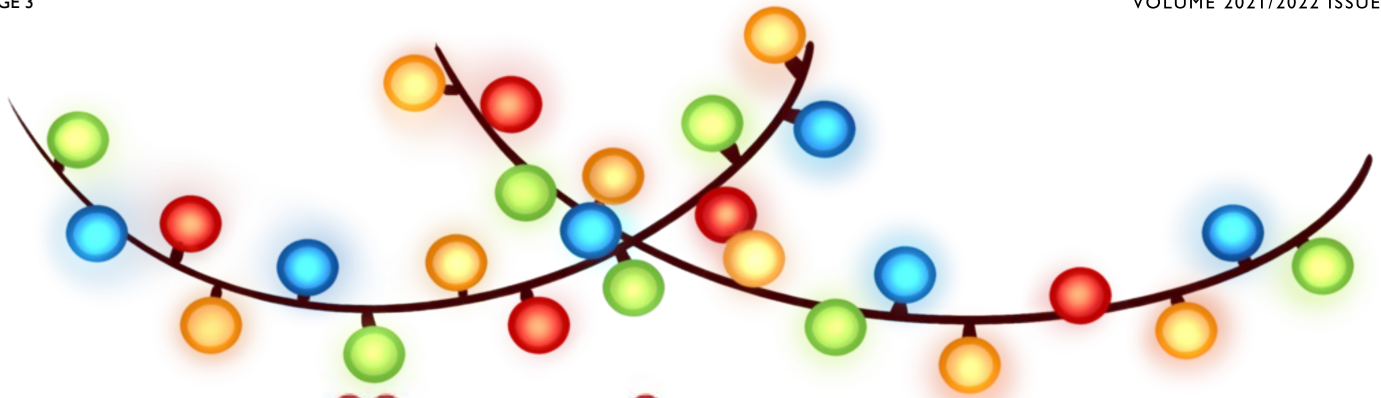
The TOTEM Awards & Recognitions committee is working hard to recognize the diligent work and consistent effort that our employees give to our students, community, district, and schools every day. Your hard work has not gone unnoticed, and we want to recognize you for all you do.

I would like to spotlight those individuals who have been dedicated and committed to our students and each other, to make our district better. Be on the lookout for more information in the next newsletter, the link will be on the TOTEM website, and our Facebook page.

Don't forget to wear your green on TOTEM Tuesday, then post a picture of yourself or a group on our TOTEM Facebook page, @AKTotemAssociation.

Thank you for all you do. We are in this together moving forward in this difficult and uncertain time.

**Denise Tilley, TOTEM Member at Large
Chair, Awards & Recognitions Committee**



Emoji Holiday Game

TOTEM is giving away Spirit Wear!!! Enter to win one of 5 TOTEM t-shirts by guessing the holiday movie titles represented by the emojis and returning this form to TOTEM by Wednesday, December 8. You can fax (907.562.0866), email (office@totemassoc.org) or send the completed form back through interschool mail.

Name: _____

Work Location: _____

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TOTEM Association, APEA/AFT
3310 Arctic Blvd, Ste 200
Anchorage, AK 99503



Get the latest updates!

www.totemassoc.org

Are You Missing Out On A Bigger Paycheck?

Dear TOTEM Members-

Did you know that as a member of TOTEM you might be eligible to apply for the Professional Standards Program? Section 507.1 A of our bargaining agreement gives a small glimpse at the pay increases next to each level of certification a member might apply for. This program is one of the benefits of being a TOTEM member, yet so many of our group have never heard of it or have never taken the time to reach out and find out more. The PSP program is based on job experience, post-secondary educational background, membership with TOTEM, continuing education, and subsequent membership with the National Association of Educational Office Professionals (NAEOP), who sponsors the program.

The education an individual brings to the table determines the percentage of pay increase between 2% and 7%. The PSP certificate is recertified every five years, requires continued membership with TOTEM and NAEOP, and 60 hours of continuing education. **Let's stop leaving money on the table!** I encourage all members to take advantage of this program to show the district just how educated and highly qualified our Paras are! If this sparks an interest in the PSP program, watch for workshops being listed in My Learning Plan each month and sign up. Class sizes are limited to 10 while we mitigate COVID safety issues. There is no current wait list for each. Class enrollment does close 24 hours prior to the workshop.

Amey Tamagni, CEOE

TOTEM Treasurer and PSP Chair

