

Susan Richards, TBD:



April's iHistorian

Many teachers come to the profession knowing this is what they want to do; others follow a different path. Susan Richards is one such teacher. She came to this profession following a series of unfortunate events, but is eager to begin. Her story shows that changing careers is

[<<more>>](#)

Elementary Teacher NEWS!

1. There were some delays in the Agua Caliente Native American Curriculum rolling out this month. Even with the delays, teachers were teaching lessons, preparing for the field trip, and

[<<more>>](#)

Common Assessments (6-12) - UPDATE

This year's Common Assessment deadline has come and gone. Thank you to everyone who made exhaustive efforts in the name of promoting literacy in your students.

[<<more>>](#)

17 Things You Can Do While Actively Monitoring a Standardized Test

With state testing coming up, here are some ways to keep from unending boredom. Try some or all of these

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"Tweeting" Around the District

Each week, something amazing is going on from site to site. Saving up to write about it in this newsletter leaves somethings without the recognition it deserves. To better document all your amazing work, both a Twitter

[<<more>>](#)

Resource Review

- [TED: Ideas worth spreading](#) - is a nonprofit devoted to spreading ideas, usually in the form of short, powerful talks (18 minutes or less). Most teachers have seen one or more TED Talks as part of PD Days, Welcome Back Presentations, or Motivational Talks. But did you know, there is a whole TED genre devoted to KIDS? While doing

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Textbook Adoption Training Dates SET

The PSUSD Board adopted texts of Impact by McGraw-Hill for grades 6-8 and History/Government/Econ Alive! by TCI for grades 10-12 training dates are set. Teacher's need ONLY attend

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Upcoming Dates

- 4/1 - [April Fools' Day](#)
- 4/4 - MS Units of Study / Common Assessment Collaboration Day
- 4/5 - HS Units of Study / Common Assessment Collaboration Day

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always a possibility when you follow your passion.

Susan was born and raised in Glenville, Long Island. Having lost her parents, she, along with her aunt, helped raise her brother. While in high school, she met her future husband.

While not interested in college at the start, Susan decided to pursue acting in Los Angeles. When this didn't pan out, she reconnected to the love of her life and went to work for his scientific research and development company. She spent years as the company's Chief Financial Officer - now a multimillion dollar company. This background, prompted her return to college and business degrees. She specializes in accounting and marketing.

She will be starting with PSUSD as a part-time economics teacher, traveling from site-to-site, while building a new structure for a "Business Academy" at each of the schools. She is particularly proud of the social work she does for teen girls to achieve their full-potential.

While the scope of this new position is not yet fully developed, it is truly **fantastic** to have such an accomplished individual as Susan joining our **super** team of teachers in the district. If you **see** her at the Welcome Back, be sure to say hello.

Next month, we will be highlighting one of our very own living super heroes in honor of Memorial Day. Who will it be? Stay tuned next month to find out.

Are you doing something innovative, creative, unique? Know someone who is? Send an email with details to reves@psusd.us.

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Resource Review

- [TED: Ideas worth spreading](#) - research for another project I came across a blog post on [WeAreTeachers.com](#) entitled: [26 Must-Watch TED Talks to Spark Student Discussions](#). I'm working my way through the list, and in typical TED fashion, most are fabulous. Preview the list, see what might attract the intellect of your students. TED has lists of their own with more resources:
- [TED Talks to Watch with Kids](#)
- [TED Under 20](#)
- [TED Search "Kids" and 1937 results](#)

(Have a suggestion for a great resource you'd like to share, email reves@psusd.us or check out other resources @ www.psusdhistory.us.)

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Textbook Adoption Training Dates SET

ONE of the two-day sessions. The dates are not in PDLinks yet, but here are the dates for you to block them out:

Middle School - attend one of the two-day trainings

* M/T, June 10 & 11 ... OR

* M/T, June 17 & 18

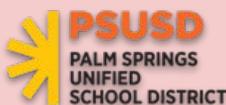
High School - attend one of the two-day trainings

* US/World - M/T, June 10 & 11 .. or .. W/Th, June 19 & 20

* Civ/Econ - W/Th, June 12 & 13 ... or ... M/T, June 17 & 18

You will get paid the "new" PD rate for these trainings. If these dates don't work, there will be a one day follow up training after the new school year starts. It will be on a workday and will not include the PD stipend rate.

If you have any questions regarding the program or process, please seek out one of our super pilot teachers at your site or email reves@psusd.us.



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Elementary Teachers NEWS!

making the best educational opportunities for their students. I appreciate all of your patience and hard work.

2. Help Wanted - the dedicated website to everything “history/social studies” related (www.psusdhistory.us) is in its early stages (especially in elementary resources). There has been revisions to resources already present and addition of new pages ready to be filled. This is a work in progress. To help build out the K-5 side of the site, I would love to come out to your site and visit a history / social studies lesson you have going. Just send me an email invite with details, and I will make every effort to make it to your special day.

Email me with resources or invites @
reves@psusd.us.

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Common Assessments (6-12) - UPDATE

In April this year, a group of teachers from each site will be meeting to update the current Units of Study (to reflect the newly adopted curriculum) and create short-cycle assessment for next year. Stay tuned (or check with your lead teacher at the end of the month) for more details. FYI - Next Secondary H/SS Lead Teacher meeting will be April 30.

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17 Things You Can Do While Actively

Monitoring a Standardized Test

during the upcoming testing season and watch it flash by. This list is brought to you by [We Are Teachers \(click on the link for more details\)](#):

1. Memorize your students’ first, middle, and last names;
2. Keep a small amount of Silly Putty in your hand and challenge yourself to make various shapes without looking;
3. Think about how you would describe the color red (or any color) to a person who cannot see;
4. Think about your responses to these “Would you rather ...?” questions or create some of your own;
5. Pretend to be a car;
6. Pretend to be a spider making a web;
7. Pretend to be a ninja;
8. Think about what you would want your last words to be;
9. Put ice cream in a nondescript cup or mug in the back corner of the room just before testing;
10. Find things in the room that rhyme or almost rhyme;
11. Print out a sheet of riddles in a small font and put it somewhere only you will be able to see it;
12. Listen to the soundtrack of a musical just before testing and enjoy every single song being in your head for the next eight hours;
13. Send each child positive vibes, one at a time;
14. Arrange to have a specific treat after each day of testing;
15. Think about what school would be like if you were the principal;
16. Do something healthy;
17. Think about what you would get on a vanity license plate.

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Tweeting Around the District

(twitter.com/psusdHSS) and a Facebook ([facebook.com/Palm Springs USD History Social Studies K12](https://facebook.com/PalmSpringsUSDHistorySocialStudiesK12)) page have been set up to share. Other, mid-month announcements will be pushed out through these as well.

You can follow us on either of these or watch the updated feed right on the homepage of www.psusdhistory.us.

If you have something going on, send me an email and we will get it documented, @ reves@psusd.us. Your colleagues and I appreciate it.

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Upcoming Dates

- 4/15 - 4/26 - [Spring Break](#)
- 4/15 - 4/26 - [PDLinks](#) Events
- 4/15 - 4/19 - [HS Voter Education](#) Week
- 4/22 - [Earth Day](#)
- 4/30 - H/SS Secondary Lead Teacher Meeting

Do you have upcoming events at your site others should know about? Email reves@psusd.us and let us know.