

## **PTA Article**

**Submitted by Joseph A. Ovick, Ed.D.**

**December 11, 2009**

First and foremost, I want to wish everyone a happy holiday season! The Ovick family always enjoys this time of the year to get together with one another and with friends, and I would hope that you will have the opportunity to do so, as well, with your own family and friends.

Once the holiday season is over and we enter 2010, the Governor in January will announce his proposed state budget for 2010-11, which will take effect July 1, 2010. In the last 20 months or so, K-12 education has been reduced by 22%. As a result, as other states in the nation are “racing to the top,” we in California have secured the bottom position of all 50 states in terms of resources for our children.

This lack of resources will ensure that our children will remain on a collision course with the future. We know California’s economy is evolving into a knowledge-based economy. This is not the time to deny educational opportunities to our young people. I would ask each and every one of you to be adamant in your advocacy to demand that we not place the burden of the recession on our children’s shoulders and their future.

Please work collaboratively with PTA, your local school staff, and the educational leaders throughout the county to insist that our children receive a quality education that is adequately funded, as it was in California in the 50s and 60s when I benefitted and prospered from an outstanding public education in this wonderful state.

I am hopeful that 2010 will be a better year for our children than 2008 and 2009 were.