**Cyit 2016 ways to celebrate ideas**

**Did You Know that March 15, 2016 is designated as California Youth in Theatre (CYIT) Day by the CA Senate and the month of March is designated by AATE and EdTA as Theatre in our Schools, a national celebration of educational Theatre.**

**Below are some ideas on how to celebrate your Theatre program.**

**CA Youth in Theatre Day**

**Ideas for all theatre departments**

**• Make a video of the different theatre jobs students do and what skills are used.**

**• Hold a demonstration of theatre skills (acting and tech) day/evening. Set up stations around the theatre. Bring in alumni to share**

**• Lunchtime activity of ComedySportz games and people learning them, a tech challenge, and tech demos.**

**• Theatre Faire-like club rush. Musical Theatre, ComedySportz, Tech booth**

**• Letter to the editor of the school paper, and local paper, about importance of theatre to learning life skills**

**• Theatre Festival**

**• Put the Thespian or Drama Club president on the agenda to speak at a school board meeting**

**• Make lists of skills that are transferable to the “real world” and tweet them, post on FB, put on the daily broadcast.**

**• Tour/walk in of theatre for community.**

**• How theatre affects the students using a flashmob technique**

**• Host free workshops**

**• Survey of students and alumni and how they have been affected by theatre-using social media**

**• You tube video about importance of theatre with a hashtag. Get other thespian troupes to do the same hashtag.**

* **Arrange for a space in the front office’s showcases to decorate with theatre memorabilia, trophies, programs, candid and cast photos for the month of March.**
* **Reserve a space on the school quad’s announcement marquee to place a CYIT poster with appropriate, accompanying 3D memorabilia.**
* **Recognize in each morning’s bulletin, throughout the 2nd week of March, theatrical facts, famous alumni in the business.**
* **Ask to be recognized as a CYIT participating school on the school’s electronic marquee.**
* **Ask to have the PA system out in the main quad on the day for command performances of semester one superstar finals, or as many forms of theatre as time permits: mime, monologue, song & dance, etc.**
* **Inquire with the local city library if high school theatre students may perform staged readings on the weekend day(s) prior for children.**
* **Hold a “Brown Sack Review” at lunch in the theatre/cafetorium where improve-style activities or performances of theatre class projects may be enjoyed over lunch.**
* **Ask the 3D art class to create a design for silk screening a CYIT logo on fresh, mildly worn t-shirts to be worn on the day and throughout the week at various “gigs.”**
* **Snapchat, Vine, Tumbler, Instagram, and Facebook all of the above events accompanying with eye-catching logo.**
* **Have a CSz match on the day, noting the day with specifically theatrical themed topics.**
* **Ask members of theatre classes and programs/groups to deliver theatrically inspired note cards to their favorite teachers telling them how much they appreciate learning all they learned in their class, because they used it in theatre work.**
* **Send emails to school staff with CYIT details.**
* **Create a CYIT team to carry-out accepted goals, distributing info, agreeing to deadlines, and monitoring follow-through .**
* **Purchase wide ribbon and make CYIT sashes with logo to wear on the day.**
* **Have a CYIT pizza lunch gathering with musical soundtracks playing.**
* **Invite guest performers to entertain or speak in the gym and invite a variety of classes to attend.**
* **Ask to present award winning performers to the board in March.**
* **Ideas from EdTA/Thespians Executive Director**
* Dear EdTA Leaders,
* Theater in Our Schools (TIOS) Month is here next week!  As a leader of EdTA, we encourage you to leverage your position of authority to support TIOS in your local area.
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* As you may be aware, TIOS is a program designed to raise public awareness of the value of theatre education and draw attention to the need for more access to quality programs for all students, jointly sponsored by the Educational Theatre Association (EdTA) and the American Alliance for Theatre & Education (AATE).
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* To build awareness of the value of school theatre, AATE and EdTA  enrolled our volunteer spokesperson, Kelli O’Hara, who has recorded video PSAs for TIOS, and we’ve put together [resources for members](https://www.schooltheatre.org/programs/tios) and friends to use in raising awareness, including templates for posters, buttons, news releases and more.  To date, nearly 90 troupes in 28 states have registered to hold a TIOS activity.
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* In addition to sharing TIOS information in your own social media there is another option for individual activity—**send a letter to the editor**.
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* In some ways, these letters are the original form of ‘user-generated’ content. Letters to the editor do not have to be limited to newspapers, as radio and television stations have websites and many of them offer opportunities for audience comments, where a ‘letter to the editor’ format is appropriate. Information and guidelines about such letters is generally available on the ‘contact us’ pages of media outlets’ websites.
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* Traditionally letters are tied to a topic being reported in the media. Attached is a selection of prompts or thought-starters that connect TIOS to a variety of timely and newsworthy angles. Each example is less than 300 words, which is a typical limit for such a letter. Feel free to use these concepts and customize however you’d like, or come up with your own “hook.”
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* If your letter is used by the media outlet, you can leverage it to spread the word even further:
* include a link to it in EdTA/ITS/AATE social media posts
* include a link in your own social media posts
* post it in the Theatre Education Community
* Thank you in advance for considering this to support Theatre In Our Schools