

April 2015

Etiwanda Teachers Association

Message from the Vice President

Happy Spring!

Greetings to all of you dedicated and hardworking teachers of Etiwanda. It's hard to believe we have less than 5 weeks left in this school year. This past year, you have implemented many new common core lessons, lived through a new math adoption laced with technology, shared a new report card with parents and students, supported a new Elementary PE program that gave elementary teachers weekly prep time, and laced lessons with technology using Chrome Books, bringing the 21st Century into the classroom with a bang! So if you are feeling tired, it's no surprise with all that you have accomplished this year. Celebrate all of the new learning curves you had this past year as we look forward to next year, when so much of this will be so much easier! Congratulations to all of the survivors!

Our Catastrophic Leave Bank has unfortunately been needed for our fellow teachers. As of this date, the Leave Bank is empty, but sick leave days are still in desperate need to help one of our own. PLEASE see if you can donate a day to help someone who is not only dealing with medical issues, but financial issues as well. The form is found on the Etiwanda Teachers Association Web Site. Send the completed form to Michelle Carney at Etiwanda Colony. Thank you so much!

Negotiations

At our last site rep meeting, Carl Strub and the negotiations team shared the current offer of both ETA and ESD for them to take back and get input from each site. The team is working hard representing everyone. Remember, salary is historically the last issue to be negotiated, and our team is dedicated to continue the negotiation process with the district.



Upcoming Events

ALL Site Rep meeting @ DCIS @ 3:30

May 12, 2015

Snacks and water provide

School Board Meetings

The following are the dates of our school board meetings. We invite ALL teachers to attend at least one board meeting to show support for the board and for Etiwanda Teachers. Below is a suggested schedule, BUT PLEASE FEEL FREE TO ATTEND ANY MEETING!

May 14th: Intermediate School Personnel

Again...if the date doesn't work for you, plan on attending one that does. I apologize if any group was not listed....we tried to include ALL!



Look for details about
ETA Elections.....coming soon!

WE NEED YOU!

Insurance Update

Carl shared information about options that could be offered during our upcoming open enrollment. Discussed was increasing the amount of Life Insurance to either \$75,000 or \$100,00. Our contract outlines this policy and the District currently pays \$7 per month for each employee for a \$50,000 life insurance policy. Since an increase would also have to be noted in the contract, it is a negotiable item. (next year)

Dental Insurance is limited to two options. Everyone thought offering a no deductible option was very important. Other dental options included increased orthodontia coverage.

For vision, currently our coverage includes \$75 for frames and \$100 for contacts. Carl presented two additional options for increasing both frame and contact coverage. All of the input from the Site Reps was shared with Doug Claflin as he prepares for Open Enrollment. Thank you to everyone for giving valuable input into our insurance packages.

Open Enrollment will be coming soon! Make an informed decision. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask!

Questions and Answers

Taken from site concerns voiced and written down at the April Site Rep Meeting

1-Concerns were voiced over the cleaning of desks at some sites that are still sticky from Valentine's Day. Is there a checks and balance system in play to check the work of the crew? If they can no longer use bleach, what is being used to clean the desks?

The products that are being used are: ProForce Sanitizer, Formula 409 and ProForce Lemon Fresh Disinfectant Cleaner. Steps to cleaning a desktop are as follows:

1. Removal of crayon, glue, tape, ad stickers as needed
2. Spray clean microfiber cloth with disinfectant cleaner to prevent overspray
3. Wipe clean cleared open areas of desktops and rinse cloth with hot water

****Repeat Method with unsoiled microfiber cloth for each classroom.**

Guanartee's Quality Control Supervisor visits sites on Tuesdays and Thursdays each week. Martha personally visited sites over spring break. Guarantee's staff receives new microfiber cloths twice per month. However, if necessary they provide new batches as needed. Each site has the phone number for Martha, to contact her directly if you have specific classroom and/or site concerns.

- 2. Is the district aware that grading is taking an extended amount of time, even at the primary level? In ELA we have a blueprint to use and a list of resources, but additional time is necessary to implement.**
The district is aware and appreciates everything the teachers are doing. A decision was made to not add anything else to our plates this year. The surveys were clear and the district heard what teachers were thinking loud and clear.

3. **Since a new law requires teachers to stay until an IEP meeting has concluded, and cannot be excused, are subs going to be made available to cover my classroom if an IEP meeting extends into the beginning of the school day?** First, this is not a new law, but teachers need to stay until the end of the meeting for us to be in compliance. The excusal form IS NOT meant to excuse a teacher before the end of the meeting, but to completely excuse a teachers from not attending at all. Teachers may be excused once all the information has been shared and it's just a matter of wrapping up the paperwork. It MUST be documented in the meeting notes the time the teacher was excused. ****When a teacher is excused after all curricular decisions have been made, from a litigious standpoint, you've sign a legal document that you were present ,and as part of the IEP team that you agreed to everything that was put into the IEP. This includes anything that was put into the document after you leave.**
4. **Calendar questions:** September 28th and January 11th are Data Days. The October 19th is a student recess day which means it is a day off for us too! The day was strategically planned to help teacher exhaustion and for teachers to have a day off to look forward to each month.
5. **By what year does class size reduction reach 100%? What happens at sites that have no more room to implement class reductions?** Full implementation is the 2020-2021 school year. Please remember that class size reduction is an average number of students from TK-2nd grade. There are currently 3-4 sites left to be at or below 24-1. Our foothill schools are having the greatest difficulty. The district is aware and is working on it.
6. **How many teachers received pink slips by March 15th and what are the odds they will be rehired for next year?** There were 3 teachers non-reelected. Temporary teachers are released every year. This includes partial contracts and full positions. Out of the 30 temporary teachers, 6 will not be returning.
7. **When are transfers going to be notified?** Letters were sent out for April 10th. **Please remember that even if you got a letter, transfer requests are honored through the 1st day of school.**

You are encourage to attend the Board Meetings and maybe even address the School Board with concerns. Thank you for all who have spoken up or have shown their support by attending the meeting. We need to continue to relay our message and make our voices be heard.

You have a voice!

Good Teaching Conference

Thank you to Michelle Carney and Angela Daley for the wonderful presentation, using iMovie, on what you learned over the two day conference in San Diego. The presentation was full of excitement and energy!

I Movie Trailer in the Classroom.....this app has endless possibilities for application in the classroom. Templates with sound are already there. It is a fast and easy way to make a presentation. Since it starts with I you might think this is only for Mac's. Just google IMovie for chrome books and you will be good to go. This app leaves power point presentations in the dust!

This is an awesome resource for instructional resources and professional learning resources. Lesson plans are organized by grade level. The password was sent to us earlier in the school year and then we were to change it. Check those past emails to see if it's still sitting there.

Uncluttered Teacher

S4.....Sort.....Scale down.....Systematize.....Stay on top of it

They suggest you have 1 pair of scissors, 1 note pad, paper clips, tape, stapler, post its, 5 pens, 3 sharpened pencils and 2 stacking trays. Now I know I have much more than that on my desk and can't wait to scale down so everything is not out on top of my desk.

FREE Online Resources.....AMAZING!!!

<http://ctaipd.ning.com/page/common-core-standards-spirals> standards from k to 12 so you can see how the standards start out and how they progress each year.

<http://http://betterlesson.com> lesson plans already done

<http://ca.pbslearningmedia.org> search by grade/subject and/or topic

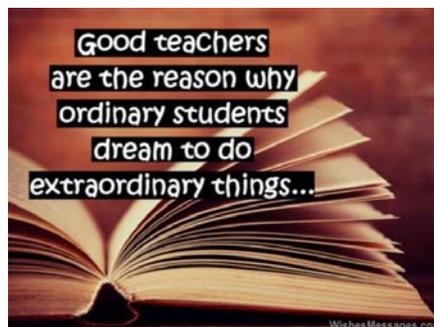
This site is kept very current and changes daily!

<https://www.schoology.com/learning-management-system.php> blogging for kids

Edmoto....it's like Facebook...great way for kids to network and share information & sites

Thank you Michelle and Angela for putting the iMovie presentation on the U-Drive for all of us to access for more information and to see a sample of iMovie too!

Martha Shauer also attended the conference. She will also be putting her resources on the U-Drive with topics such as Creative iPad projects, Scientific Inquiry through Literature and more.



Happy Teacher Appreciation Week!