
September 2014

Etiwanda Teachers Association

Message from the Vice President

Greetings to all the hard working teachers of Etiwanda,

I am honored to serve as your ETA Vice President this year. It is a challenging and exciting time in education with the technology explosion and full implementation of common core. After 30 years of teaching, I too feel like a new teacher with so many "new" parts to our curriculum and testing. As always, Etiwanda teachers set high standards for themselves. In doing so, take time for yourself to relax and remember, everything gets easier with time and practice. It definitely reminds me of how my students must feel when they encounter too much new information and technology.

I have wanted to be a teacher since I was 5, and still can't think of any other place I want to be. My husband and I raised 3 amazing daughters who all have selected fields in education: a school psychologist, a language and speech pathologist and a teacher. So many of you have opened your classrooms so that my girls may observe and learn what an outstanding educational program looks like. I feel so lucky to work with all of you and know that moving to Etiwanda in 1987 was the best decision I ever made.

I hope to use this newsletter as a monthly forum to keep you informed of what is going on in the district, feedback from the cabinet from the questions your representatives presented at monthly meetings, provide conference information and much more. Please let me know if you have ideas for your monthly newsletter.....I welcome any suggestions and enjoy hearing from you.

In October, a district survey will be distributed via your site rep. This survey is conducted every 3 years to recognize strengths as well as areas for growth. Thank you for your participation.

Never forget that you are not alone. All of your Executive Board is here to lend support, information and a listening ear.

Julee Barry
ETA Vice President



Upcoming Events

October 14, 2014

October Surveys out to teachers

November 18, 2014

December 9, 2014

January 13, 2015

February 10, 2015

March 10, 2015

April 14, 2015

May 12, 2015

ALL Site Rep meeting @ DCIS @ 3:30

Snacks and water provide

Executive Board Goals

#1 Improved Communication

#2 Bylaws ratified

#3 Increase membership involvement

Visit our website to download a copy of the current contract, read minutes from each ETA Rep Meeting and much more:

<http://www.etiwandateachers.org>

SPOTLIGHT ON CONTRACT LANGUAGE

ARTICLE X.....Extra Curricular Stipends

Article XVIII.....Salaries

Article X defines what an extra-curricular activity is, but the money associated with stipends is outlined in Article XVIII Part D & E under Salaries.

During negotiations last spring, after much discussion, we mutually agreed that a committee needed to be organized to look specifically at which duties receive a flat rate and which qualify for the hourly rate of \$37.50, as well as any additions to the list.

Please consider serving on this committee. Our goal is to have ALL groups represented during this decision making process. If you are interested please contact Julee Barry by **October 7th at 3pm**, in writing or via email. Please include current site assignment, grade level and a brief description of how you can best represent teachers on this committee.

I will confirm individuals' place on the committee by Oct. 9th.

Our first meeting will be October 28th at 3:30 at the District Office.



November Elections

You are encouraged to make an informed choice. Read up on who is running for our Board of Trustees and what they stand for.

Our Board sets the tone and gives direction to decisions made that directly affect each and every one of us in our workplace. Make your vote count!

Etiwanda Teachers Association does not endorse specific propositions or candidates.



WE NEED YOU!

Elections Committee

Send out notifications for open positions with forms to complete for intent to run, run elections on voting day, and be responsible for posting election results

Insurance Committee Chair

Attend monthly meetings during school and keep ETA membership updated on changes and how they impact us.

Bargaining Committee

Represent ETA during contract negotiations

REP AT LARGE

One Elementary School and
One Intermediate School

Rep to collect data to support contract negotiations and resolutions of ongoing issues

Look for interest forms to apply. A stipend will be paid for each position.

Questions and Answers

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

- 1. What is a teacher's liability when a chrome book must be taken off campus for a training?
Chrome books are insured for the first year, and do not need a check out sheet filled out by the teacher in order to take it off campus for a training or home to use it for planning.*
- 2. All Chrome Books are currently signed out to the teacher. Why can't they be signed out to each individual student like a textbook?
Chrome books were put into the classrooms very quickly and they were checked out to the teacher to make this happen immediately. Now that the beginning of school is behind us, the district is looking into signing them out to individual students just like a play-away or textbook. We look for this to happen soon.*
- 3. What are the districts' expectations for the use of the Chrome Books in the classroom?
The expectations are that students are given an opportunity to explore and get comfortable with the use of the chrome book and to learn the basics of signing in and out and simple functions. Try to replace paper and pencil activities with Chrome book activities such as Learning.com*

As for ear buds, individual mouse per student and carts...this is a site by site funded issue. It was suggested that sites request assistance from their PTA or the parents. Ear buds are sold in the library for the play aways currently. Encourage parents to purchase them for their child.
- 4. Substitute Teacher update:
We started the school year with 233 substitute teachers. A major issue is that subs take a job at the middle school, but cancel it if an elementary position becomes available. The district is currently in the process of hiring 42 substitutes JUST for the middle school and an additional 60 or so to the general sub pool. It is their hope that this will not leave us short of substitutes with approx. 100 more subs.*
- 5. Substitute Teachers Times
By contract a half day sub is any 3.5 hours of the day. For the most part, most teachers use the 7:40-11:15 as half day and 11:45-3:15 as the second half of the day. If you become ill at work, and need to call a half day sub, at 11:45 if your sub has not arrived, it becomes the responsibility of your site administrator to assign someone to cover your class until the sub arrives.*
- 6. We discussed at length, the time implementing common core is taking our teachers. The district said that what they have been seeing on their visits have far exceeded their expectations of implementation. They are very impressed with everyone and recognize how hard ALL of our teachers are working. Their hope is that the scheduled meetings with PDC and time collaborating with our grade level team, will help make us feel more comfortable with all the new curriculum.*



Educational Opportunities offered through CTA.

<http://www.cta.org/en/Professional-Development/Events.aspx>

CTA's many conferences - like the Good Teaching Conference or the Equity & Human Rights Conference - provide a place for learning, collaboration and networking for education colleagues from around the state. Take advantage of the many opportunities for professional growth by attending the multitude of conference sessions offered by experts in the field of education. Policy is made at our Governance conferences - the CTA State Council of Education and the NEA Representative Assembly.

Visit the CTA Website to access details of each of the conferences, trainings or workshops. Many have Grants that will pay for 100% of your conference accessed under the Professional Development tab. Scroll down and find 2014 Statewide Incentive Grants to get information and deadlines to apply for each grant.

We would love to see teachers willing to go to any of these conferences and share the information with our membership. If a grant is not available for a training you wish to attend, please contact Julee Barry and we will see how many we can fund from our budget.

Congratulations to one of our own, Carl Strub, who was asked to run for a position on our Insurance Board. I am proud to announce that he was elected as one of 5 labor reps who will work with 5 who represent Administration. We now have a voice on the governing board that makes decisions regarding our health care. We couldn't have a more knowledgeable representative.