

NTEA Connection

North Thurston Education Association

1619 State Avenue NE Olympia, Washington 98506-4554 360-352-5220
FAX 360-352-7361 cvanhoose@nthurston.k12.wa.us www.nteaonline.org

"As professionals, public school teachers are grossly misunderstood and devalued considering the dedication and amount of time it takes to provide each and every child with the skills that are necessary for them to become productive adults."



President's Corner



The special session of the legislature has convened, and the November 14, WEA Day of Action has concluded. Does that mean our voices, opinions and needs should not be heard? Certainly not! As professionals, public school teachers are grossly misunderstood and devalued considering the dedication and amount of time it takes to provide each and every child with the skills that are necessary for them to become productive adults. Our jobs are not 8:00- 5:00 with an hour for lunch! We know that, but does the general public and state representatives know what you do outside of school?

The below is an excerpt from a journal of a NTPS middle school teacher. How closely aligned are your everyday tasks with her teaching responsibilities?

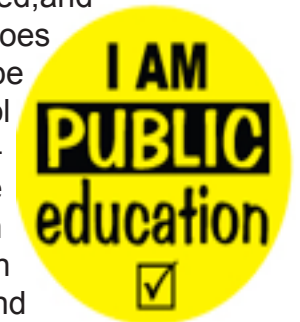
Teacher's Log - -Star Date, December 3, 2011

My first conscious thought on Wednesday morning was the well known saying, "If not me, who. If not now, when." My subconscious must have been busy processing all the intense conversations I've been having since my small dip into the world of civil disobedience on Monday. I didn't get dragged out of the Capitol by police officers, but I also didn't leave at 5:30 when I was told to. Standing for my students is too important a cause! Who is listening? Who has the moral imperative to listen? The people that come to our Capitol to make decisions on our behalf — those are the people who should have been listening Monday night. I didn't run across any of them. I asked the on-lookers in suits if they were representatives. "No," they just worked there. There were a lot of reporters. They were interested in the sensational drama, not the real drama — the 175 students that cross the threshold of my classroom each day — classes of 28, 1, 37, 18, 26, 28, 37; four different preparations each day — Pre-Algebra 2, Algebra 1, Math Support, Advisory — to carry out my mission my to create critical thinkers and contributing citizens for a better world. That is worthy news.

So here's my news report. Each day, you will receive the latest on what I've been doing for my 175 students. I begin today, Saturday, December 3, 2011.

- 6:45 Wake up
- 7:30 Yoga (local business, The Yoga Loft) — begin as many days as you can with gratitude
- 9:00 Coffee at a local business (The Bread Peddler); graded Algebra 1 test (solve multi-step equations) got through about 40 of the 74 tests; went out to my car to find a parking ticket (I usually come here on Sundays when it's fine to park in the Diamond lot ... that doesn't seem to be the case on Saturdays.

December 2011



"Perhaps you would consider revamping Washington State's revenue sources to find the money you need. Whatever you do, don't consider cutting anything else. We can't take any more cuts."



- I'm kicking myself over that waste of \$20)
- 10:25 Sign in to the Chinook Middle School after hours log; look around my classroom at all the undone work, make a list — make photocopies, laminate, cut, organize exploration materials, turn in office paperwork, Kleenex box empty (I have one more left from the student supplied boxes. If I want more tissues, I'll have to beg my students' families, who have already sent canned food, pennies, and \$2 for a school play in just this week alone, or I'll buy them myself.), grade group projects, grade math notebooks, grade homework, enter all the grade data generated, put together an assignment for a student going on vacation early, call parents to let them know that the plans we created at conferences aren't working, call parents who didn't come to conferences, wish I had time to first call parents whose children are being amazing critical thinkers and contributing citizens, gather curriculum materials for Monday's lessons, write substitute plans (the dentist doesn't work after my school hours), look for card stock, decide what to do if I don't have any more (buy it with my own money, write a PATS grant for it, order it from my department budget ... oh, that's right, there isn't any discretionary money in that budget). Too much already; start working on grading notebooks — get 20 of the 56 done. Helped students, who were at school working with Warrior Ecology to beautify our campus, by loaning them my camera; changed out the dead batteries and realized, yup, I bought the replacements with my own money.
- 12:25 Sign out of CMS and head to Jefferson Middle School to watch our Robotics Team compete in their first competition. This feeds my soul. I love watching kids at their finest. They were amazing! This program is completely supported by the volunteer hours of an incredibly dedicated parent and an incredibly dedicated science teacher.
- 4:30 Head home.



As I'm driving home I'm thinking about my personal finances. I didn't get my National Board Stipend in September. We are a one salary family. I kept my leadership commitments — building leadership responsibilities and district-level assessment writing responsibilities. The legislature, on the other hand, didn't feel compelled to keep its commitment to me (WAC 392-140-973). When I made financial decisions over the past four years, I did so with my National Board Stipend factored in. I would never have thought to refinance my house or replace an aging car if I didn't have the National Board money. I also don't ever remember being in a financial position, as I am now, where I absolutely can't buy the things that make my teaching job easier for me (dry erase markers, pencils, notebook tabs, post-it notes, tape, to name a few).

Perhaps you would consider revamping Washington State's revenue sources to find the money you need. Whatever you do, don't consider cutting anything else. We can't take any more cuts. Really. I mean it.

It's 7:00. I'm not sure how long I've been writing. I do know it's important. Don't forget, 175 students cross my threshold every day. I need to be ready for them. They deserve to have the opportunity to create a better world.

Holly Berchet-Hall, Chinook Middle School

"The levy is a replacement levy from 2010 -- not a new tax."

This represented one weekend day in the life of a middle school math teacher. I would welcome others to send me your log of any particular workday. It's time we shared what we do!

Have a great holiday break with family and friends,

Conni



Nominations Open for WEA RA and NEA RA

Ever want to see WEA or NEA from inside the decision-making process? Such an opportunity is open to all members in good standing by running to be a delegate at either the WEA Representative Assembly or the NEA Representative Assembly or both! Nominations for both are now open and will remain open until the January 18 Representative Council meeting.

The WEA-RA takes place May 17-19 in Spokane. NTEA has up to 14 positions available for delegates (three must be filled by minority members).

The NEA RA takes place the first week of July and is in Washington D.C. NTEA has five positions available for delegates.

Interested? Call the NTEA Office at 352-5220 and put your name into noomination!

Top 10 Levy Facts

1. The 2012 replacement Educational Programs & Operations Levy makes up 22% of the district's operating budget.
2. Every school receives levy dollars to support student learning.
3. The levy is a **replacement** levy from 2010 – **not a new tax**.
4. The replacement levy would collect about \$128 million from 2013-2016 to help fund educational programs and teachers in North Thurston Public Schools.
5. The levy helps pay for classroom teachers and student programs including Visual & Performing Arts, Athletics, Career & Technical Education, Special Education, Advanced Placement and much more.
6. The four-year levy will cost homeowners an estimated **\$3.50 per \$1,000** of assessed property valuation for 2013 (a slight increase from 2012, about 21 cents more per \$1,000). Rates may vary depending on property values.
7. The district will collect only what is allowed by the state and approved by voters.
8. If the levy does not pass, the district will have to cut approximately \$30 million from levy-funded programs. Public feedback on those cuts would be solicited.
9. The replacement Educational Programs & Operations Levy will be on the ballot February 14, 2012. Ballots are scheduled to arrive in mailboxes in late January.
10. To register to vote, pick up a form at any North Thurston Public Schools building

or school, or print a registration form at www.Secstate.wa.gov/elections/register.aspx or call 360-786-5408.



What will the replacement levy help pay for?

- Teachers
- Activities & Athletics
- Advanced Placement
- Band, Orchestra, Choir

"If you elect to receive payment for sick leave accumulated through the last calendar year, please fill out a sick leave buy back form ..."

- Vocational Classes (CTE)
- Transportation
- Special Education
- English as a Second Language (ESL)
- Gifted Education
- School Nurses, Counselors, Paraeducators
- Instructional time for Electives and Specialists
- Teacher-Librarians/Books
- Visual & Performing Arts
- Custodians
- Technology Support
- Intervention Specialists
- Facility Use
- Professional Development

Sick Leave Buy Back

If you elect to receive payment for sick leave accumulated through the last calendar year, please fill out a sick leave buy back form and return to Payroll by January 31st. Payment will be made with the February payroll. Minimum cash out is one day, maximum is 12 days.

Remuneration will be based on current daily rate of 1:4 or 25% (for every four days cashed out, you will be paid for one day).

Your Passport to Savings -- NEA Member Benefits

Due to heightened security, when making financial decisions that impact your personal and professional life, please ensure that you utilize this "Passport to Savings" to save money and time.



Insurances

- NEA Complimentary Life
- NEA Guaranteed Issue Life Plan
- NEA Group Term Life Insurance Plan
- NEA Accidental Death & Dismemberment
- NEA Level Premium Term Life Insurance
- NEA Hospital Care Insurance Plan
- NEA Long Term Care Program
- NEA Vision and Prescription Savings Plan
- NEA Introductory Term Life
- Auto and Home Insurance
- NEA Medicare Supplement
- NEA Income Protection Plan
- NEA Dental and Vision
- NEA Pet Insurance Program

Credit Programs

- NEA Cash Rewards VISA Signature Card
- NEA Accelerated Rewards American Express Card
- NEA Platinum Plus Credit Card with WorldPoints Rewards

Loans and Mortgage Programs

- NEA Home Financing Program
- NEA National Board Certification Loan
- NEA Personal Loan

Investments

- NEA Sponsored Money Market Account
- NEA Sponsored Certificate of Deposit
- NEA Tax Deferred Retirement Savings Program

Consumer Discount Programs

- National Foundation for Credit Counseling
- NEA Auto Purchase Advantage Program
- NEA Car Rental Program (Hertz, Alamo and Enterprise)
- Rapid Resources
- Jenny Craig
- Smithsonian Journeys

Register on the NEA Member Benefits Website

- NEA Hearing Aid Savings Program
- NEA ID Theft Protection Program
- Costco Membership Discounts
- NEA Smart Option Student Loan by Sallie Mae
- Nolo: Law Books, Legal Forms, and Legal Software
- Whirlpool Corporation VIP Link Program

- NEA Click & Save
- NEA Magazine Service
- H & R Block
- Snap Fitness
- World Wide Country Tours
- Curriki
- Carson-Dellosa Publishing
- SmileMakers

NEA Academy

- Continuing Education Course Providers:
 - √ Anti-Defamation League
 - √ CE Credits Online
 - √ Knowledge Delivery Systems
 - √ Jones International University
 - √ I CAN Learn
 - √ Professional Learning Board
 - √ Wisconsin Educational Association Council
 - √ NEA (these courses can be taken FREE of charge!)
- On-line Masters Degrees
 - √ Walden University
 - √ Western Governors University
 - √ UMass Online



Register on the NEA Member Benefits Website

- Step 1: go to www.neamb.com
- Step 2: Under log in box, click register
- Step 3: Complete Form. Please use a **personal** e-mail address
- Step 4: Click Register
- Step 5: Log into NEA Member Benefits website, using your **personal** e-mail address and start savings with your association membership.

Your Travel Agent,
Teresa Muench (tmuench@neamb.com)

Classifieds




For Sale: Beautiful, large, nearly new, four piece sectional sofa with large matching ottoman and seven large throw pillows, sandstone microfiber with chocolate brown base/trim. EXCELLENT condition. \$800 or best offer. Call Natalie at (206) 498-2595

Six foot artificial Christmas tree for sale. It's in great condition and there are no missing parts. Can be assembled in about 10 minutes. \$40. Call Jesse at (360) 402-6432.

Kiekhaefer Tree Farm. Premium Nobles. Choose and cut or just find one in the field and cut it down yourself. Delivery is available. Call Wade at 360-515- 6385. Directions: I-5 to the Maytown exit. Go approximately 1/2 mile. Turn left onto Shelly Street. Go to the end of the road. Prices are \$5/foot. MERRY CHRISTMAS.



December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<h2>HAPPY HOLIDAYS</h2>			1	2 Penny Auction Levy Fundraiser Sacred Heart Church Lacey 5:30	3
4	5 Supt. & NTEA Pres. Bldg. Visit Lydia Hawk 8:00 a.m. Woodland 3:15	6 NTPS Supt & NTEA Pres. Meet School Board 7:00	7 Joint Housing Meeting 12:30 NTEA Exec. Board 4:30	8 Bargaining	9	10
11	12 Bldg. Visit Oly. View 3:05 Contract Admin. 4:00 Levy 5:30	13 School Board Horizons	14 Bldg. Visit Pl. Glade 2:30 TPEP 3:00 Rep. Council Social Dirty Dave's	15	16 	17
18	19	20 Hannukah Begins at Sunset	21	22	23	24
<h2>Winter Break</h2>						
25 Christmas	26 Kwanzaa Begins	27	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve 
<h2>Winter Break</h2>						