



# NTEA Connection



NTEA Website: [www.nteaonline.org](http://www.nteaonline.org)

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## President's Corner

April 2005

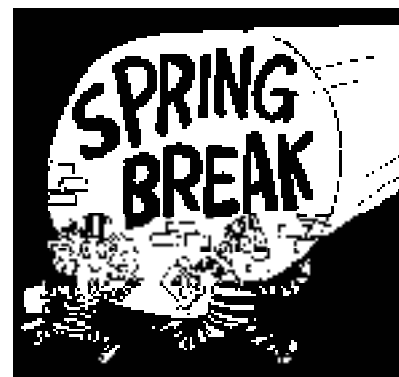
"...time for individual professional growth ... will benefit our students and increase our ability to function in the educational society that promotes ever increasing demands."

April showers remind us of the need for Spring Break. This sounds simple enough, but the surrounding controversy on when to have Spring Break creates a divided community of members. There are those of you who desire to have NTPS' Spring Break coincide with Olympia and Tumwater, and there are those of you who wish to have an extra week after Spring Break to prepare for the WASL. (The Superintendent of Public Instruction could please many by changing the testing dates.) We have all learned that life is never so simple that 800 individuals and community members would agree on one calendar. Your input regarding calendar preferences and needs is greatly appreciated by the School Board and will be taken into consideration as they make the final decisions for next year's calendar. NTEA has also provided the Board with members' concerns surrounding this year's calendar and its inherent problems.

Scheduling time for **individual** professional growth on our calendar is one of the pressing issues for the future. Whether you are a high school, middle school, elementary school or special education teacher, you need time to accomplish all that is being asked of you as a professional. We, as educators, need to hold fast to the notion that **we need individual time**. This time will benefit our students and increase our ability to function in the educational society that promotes ever increasing demands.

Our District has committed to a five-year implementation plan, *Effective Schools*. We have been exposed to "walk-throughs" and involved in creating "power standards." The importance of "**going slow now**, so that we can go faster later" cannot be over emphasized! This simple phrase came directly from the *Effective Schools Plan*. In order for this plan to work, the District and Board must be committed to fully supporting teachers with materials, and appropriate training. This includes support with student attendance, behavior, student attitude and then academic achievement. These will be professional challenges to calendar into the work day.

Working together we can make a difference.



## Quote for the Month

"All children can learn, but not in the same way or the same day!"

"WEA staff and lobbyists have worked diligently to convince SPI and the legislature to make some common-sense and much needed changes in Professional Certification (Pro Cert) requirements."

## Professional Certification Changes

WEA staff and lobbyists have worked diligently to convince SPI and the legislature to make some common-sense and much needed changes in Professional Certification (Pro Cert) requirements. Those who fell under this certification process (newer teachers, teachers from out-of-state, and teachers who inadvertently let their certification lapse) have found themselves mired in a confusing, contradictory, and burdensome system. You can find current updates at the WEA website: [www.washingtonea.org](http://www.washingtonea.org). Here is an overview of the changes:

### Timelines:

Changes the timelines for Residency Certificate holders, giving them at least two additional years (possibly more depending on the candidate) to meet the requirement for a Professional Certificate. (The rule is written so the five-year clock for completing your Residency Certificate does not begin ticking until the teacher is beyond provisional employment status.)

### Two-Year Extension:

Allows an individual enrolled in a Pro Cert program a two-year extension, if needed. (The previous language required "satisfactory progress" as defined by the college/university.)

### Lapsed Certificates:

Individuals with lapsed, Initial Certificates, which were converted to Residency Certificates, now have the option of returning to the previous certification structure in lieu of meeting Pro Cert requirements, if they met requirements prior to the lapsing of their certificate. These individuals, and all future individuals in this situation, will pay a \$100 fine.

### These changes go into effect immediately:

"WEA members have done an admirable job in educating state policy leaders about needed changes with Professional Certification," says Jim Meadows, a Pro Cert expert in WEA's Learning and Education Policy Center. "These first changes are a step in the right direction as the state tries to get this train back on track."

The State Board of Education also formally requested that the Professional Educator Standards Board (PESB) study and report back on several issues, including:

- Pro Cert course work and its relationship to student learning;
- Program linkages to professional growth plans;
- Evaluation of program costs to participants (WEA is advocating that all programs should offer continuing education credit cost credits rather than full tuition costs as an option); and
- Linkages to school district professional enrichment and professional growth programs for teachers.

### Upcoming Pro-Cert Road Shows:

- Tuesday, March 22, at WEA Headquarters in Federal Way
- Wednesday, March 23, in Mount Vernon, at the Best Western Cottontree Inn.



"Health insurance premiums went up nearly five times the rate of inflation last year, which was the fourth year in a row of double-digit increases."

Pro Cert experts will discuss new routes for adding endorsements, teacher testing, Professional Certification and National Board Certification. Representatives from OSPI, the State Board of Education, and the Professional Educator Standards Board will be on hand. If interested in attending, e-mail Jim Meadows at [jmeadows@washingtonea.org](mailto:jmeadows@washingtonea.org).



### Why Our COLA's Mean So Much

It is easy to assume that a 1.2% increase in teacher's salaries as advocated in Governor Gregoire's budget proposal is merely a drop in the bucket. Here's how those drops add up:

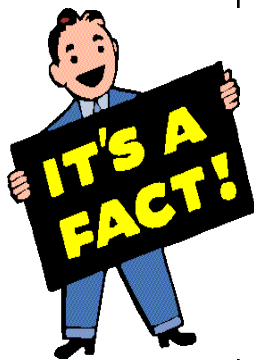
In the last two years we should have received COLA's of 2% (2003-04) and 1.6% (2004-05), but did not because of the legislature's action to "suspend" our COLA's. If you were at the top of the NTEA salary schedule, you should have earned an additional \$1,132 in 2003-04. This year you should have earned that \$1,132 again, plus an additional \$905. That means the suspension of the COLA has cost our most experienced teachers \$3,169 in the past two years. For teachers retiring at the end of this year on Plan 1, they could potentially have lost an extra \$951 a year in their retirement, or \$79 a month, every month for the rest of their lives.

Not even thinking about retirement? Well, unless that two year back salary is made up, a typical fifth-year teacher stands to lose nearly \$90,000 in salary and pension over the course of his/her career and retirement.

### Top Five Reasons Why You Should Care About What Happens In Olympia

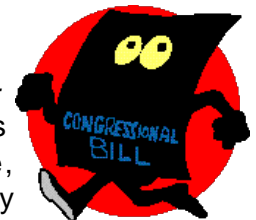
- Teacher salaries in Washington have fallen to \$10,000 below the west coast average. Twenty years ago we were 5th in the nation. Last year we were 19th.
- Health insurance premiums went up nearly five times the rate of inflation last year, which was the fourth year in a row of double-digit increases. Next year premiums are projected to rise by 11%.
- Right now, those in Plans 2 and 3 won't be eligible to retire with full benefits until they reach age 65.
- According to *Education Week*, Washington ranks 42nd in per-pupil funding.
- In 1981, 50.4% of the state's general fund budget was devoted to K-12 education. Today only 43.7% of the budget is earmarked for K-12 education -- a loss of over \$1.5 billion this biennium, if the same percentage had been maintained.

Reprinted from *The Update*, The Lake Washington EA newsletter



### Politics in Action

One easy way to stay informed is the *WEA Legislative Outlook*. You can easily sign up to receive the e-mail version of this newsletter on your home e-mail. Go to the NTEA website, [www.nteaonline.org](http://www.nteaonline.org) and access the WEA link, "Issues, Advocacy and Politics," then to Political Issues and then to *Legislative Outlook*. You can sign up to have the *Outlook* sent to your home e-mail. This will give you a quick and easy way to keep informed just by reading the e-mail.



# THE CLASSIFIEDS

**Have a Great Spring Break!**

**For Sale:** Washer / Dryer, mismatched older set in good working order. The washer is about 12 years old and the dryer is 20? Both were used by retired single person -- so very little use. Cost: \$100 for the pair OBO. Call Dave at 357-9059 evenings.

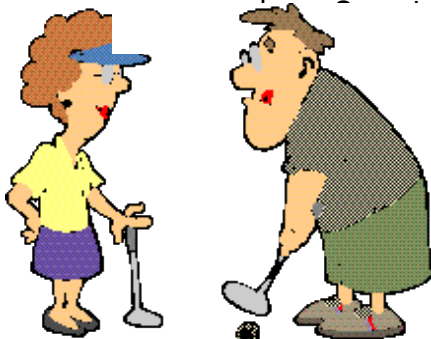
Brand new in the box -- **home theatre system:** built in 3 DVD / CD Changer, 130W total power. Digital AM/FM tuner, 5.1 channel amplifier, Dolby digital decoder, five Satellite Speakers, subwoofer, MP3 CD playback ... \$130.00. Call Donna at 459- 3330.

2000 **BMW 323i** for sale. Steel blue with dove grey interior, loaded: leather, air, sun roof, CD player, automatic, sports package, with 67,000 miles. Cost: \$17500 OBO. Call Donna at 459 3330.

**Big screen TV** -- 36" mounted theatre style, with remote, modern look, works great, no room in new apartment -- must sell. Mounted on black cabinet with glass doors. You haul -- Cost: \$475.00. Call 456 4016.

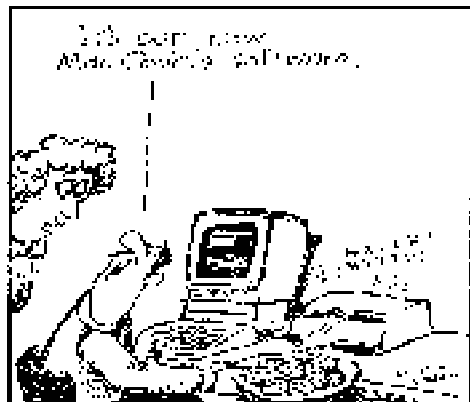


**Mobile DJ** available for weddings, dances, parties, retire-ments, class reunions, special events, etc. With nine years of experience and thousands of songs to choose from, I have what you need to make any event a memorable one! Furthermore, I can provide you with the best prices the South has to offer. Compare my services to other "full time" DJ's and I think you will be pleasantly surprised at how much I can save you! Dates for this summer are starting to disappear, so call 701-6525 to discuss your event and book now before it's too late!



It's time to get your team together for the **Sixth Annual Spring Fling Golf Tournament!** This event is held in memory of Laurie Callaghan, former Olympia High School Teacher and coach, and benefits a scholarship awarded annually to a graduating Olympia High School female athlete. The \$70.00 per player entry fee includes a \$15.00 donation to the scholarship fund, a bucket of range balls, an 18 hole scramble, golf cart (with GPS!), dinner and prizes. This shotgun tournament will be held on Saturday, May 14, at 2:00 p.m. at a new location: Tumwater Valley Municipal Golf Club. Questions? Call Kathy O'Kelly at 438-1170, or e-mail Jody Underwood at [junderwo@osd.wednet.edu](mailto:junderwo@osd.wednet.edu). The yard work can wait! This is a great cause, so come enjoy an afternoon of guilt-free golf!

**Home for Rent:** In the Meadows, three bedroom, one bath home with hot tub, new carpet, paint, and washer and dryer. This home has a garage and a large fenced yard. Pets are negotiable, but no smoking is allowed. Cost \$895 per month plus deposit. Call 432-2131.





# April 2005



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					April Fool's Day Librarians 7:00 Ever. Forest 8:45 Teacher Professional Day No Students	
					1	2
Daylight Saving Time Begins (Set clocks ahead one hour) 	Bargaining NTSD/NTEA Contract Admin 4:00 School Board 7:00	Lobby Your Legislator Day 8:00 a.m. WEA Chinook Office	NTEA Exec. Board 4:00 NTEA Office	PEAC Meeting WEA Chinook	Quarter Ends	
	4	5	6	7	8	9
National Library Week		Lobby Your Legislator Day 8:00 a.m. WEA Chinook Office				
<b>Spring Break April 11-15 NO SCHOOL</b>						
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Public School Volunteer Week 	WASL / ITED Testing Begins School Board 7:00	NTCFS NTEA Office	L. Hawk 7:45 NTEA Rep. Council 4:30 DO Boardroom Nominations Close		Earth Day ITEA Officer and UniServ Representative Elections Begin	Passover Begins at Sunset
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Office and Technical Employees'		NTSEF Meeting 6:00	Administrative Professional Day	Mock Rep Assembly WEA Chinook	National Arbor Day Election Ballots Counted	
	ITEA Officer and UniServ Representative Elections					
24	25	26	27	28	29	30