



NTEA Connection



NTEA Website: www.nteaonline.org

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President's Corner

February 2005

"The 'walk throughs' that principals are currently doing in buildings are not intended to be **evaluative**."

Winter weather should be coming to an end this month, and with its departure let's hope the cold and flu season also leaves. The current three week virus does not fit into the teacher's schedule. Many of you have indicated it is more difficult to prepare for a substitute to cover your class than to come to school when you are not feeling well. Of course, if you happen to be sick during grading time, then the option of staying home and recovering dwindles.

Your concerns about report cards, and having time to work on them have been shared with the District Office and principals. They recognize the problems inherent with time lines and calendar. It is also noted that administration will review sections on the elementary report card that might be deleted or altered in an attempt to help aid in the work load.

The "walk throughs" that principals are currently doing in buildings are not intended to be **evaluative**. This thought appears to be contradictory when principals are scanning for specific components. We have been assured these are **NOT** to be used in your evaluation. A principal will walk through a classroom for two to four minutes and scan the room for the following:

- The objective of the lesson
- Instruction -- is it on target for specific grade level?
- Bloom's Taxonomy
- Text materials -- application appropriate to grade
- What instructional strategy is being used?
- Are students engaged?
- Survey of learning environment
- And last, but not least, the "reflective question."



Remember, this **non-evaluative** and this question is not meant to be a back-handed **criticism**.

If you have any questions concerning this process, ask you principal as they have been exposed to training in this area. The best advice is to just continue instruction as you generally do and don't attempt to alter your normal teaching techniques, as you are great teachers and are already accomplishing the above components. These walk throughs are a direct result of the *Effective Schools Project*.

I welcome your e-mails and suggestions, remember, working together we can make a difference.

Congratulations!

NTEA congratulates Christine Brokaw, Meadows Elementary School. Christine was recognized in the 8th edition (2004) of *Who's Who Among America's Teachers* for excellence in education. Way to go!



"...teachers in Washington can be proud of the fact that we're tied for 16th in the nation in fourth-grade reading and tied for 10th in fourth grade math ..."

Remembering Gary Brown

Gary Brown, the Olympia Education Association (OEA) president, passed away in December. For many members of the North Thurston Education Association, it is hard to say "goodbye." We will hold close the memory of this special individual.

Gary was instrumental in the uniting of the North Thurston and Olympia Education Association. NTEA has grown in strength and membership since our working partnership with OEA began. Gary mentored and worked with six NTEA presidents during his time as president of OEA. His warm approach and vast knowledge greeted each new incoming NTEA president and added to a comfortable transition. Gary knew the true meaning of the word "union." Through his vision and inspiration we have welcomed the Tumwater EA into our building. Three of the largest locals of the WEA Chinook Council now dwell under a single roof. Gary will be missed for all of the above reasons, but for me, I have lost a mentor, a colleague, and a valued friend.

Thank You!

The family of Gary Brown would like to express our sincere gratitude to everyone that has expressed their condolences towards us in the past several weeks. We have been truly overwhelmed by the amount of cards, phone calls, letters, and donations to Gary's Scholarship Fund. It makes us very proud that Gary had such a positive impact on so many people during his lifetime.

Gary was extremely proud to be part of the Olympia Education Association, WEA Chinook, WEA, NEA, and the Olympia School District. We know that through the positive contributions he made and the assistance that he provided, his legacy will live on within each of these organizations.

Again, thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your caring and compassion as we try to get through this very difficult chapter in our lives. We appreciate every bit of it and wish we could thank you all personally.

With Gratitude, **Pam, Greg, and Jason Brown**

Ed Week Study Shows Washington Ranks 42nd in Per-Pupil Spending

Last Wednesday, *Education Week*, a national news magazine covering educational issues, released its annual "Quality Counts" report. The report is produced each year from data collected from all 50 states and the District of Columbia by the *Education Week Research Center* in Bethesda, Maryland.

The report found that Washington ranks 42nd in the nation in per pupil spending, falling \$955 below the national average of \$7,734. Washington, D.C. spent the most on each student, \$11,269, while Utah spent the least at \$5,132.

Despite this troubling ranking and serious under-funding of public education in our state, teachers in Washington can be proud of the fact that we're tied for 16th in the nation in fourth-grade reading and tied for 10th in fourth grade math, according to results of the NAEP (the "nation's report card" from the U.S. Department of Education).



"The failure to fully fund education has prompted the Washington Education Association to pursue a lawsuit against the state."



Especially laudable considering that Washington has the 5th highest class sizes in the nation.

The failure to fully fund education has prompted the Washington Education Association to pursue a lawsuit against the state. The lawsuit is expected to be filed within the next several months, making Washington the 17th state being sued right now over school funding.

School funding must be increased for all students to receive a high quality public education and to achieve the high standards in place for them. Make sure your legislators know how you feel about this issue. You can contact them using your home computer and e-mail through the WEA website at www.washingtonnea.org by clicking on "Issues, Advocacy, Politics."

From the Lake Washington Education Association's Newsletter, *The Update*

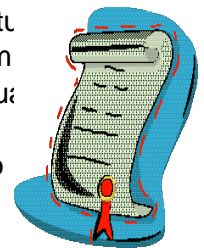
Certificate Expiring?

If you have a teaching certificate that requires you to complete 150 continuing education clock hours (15 credit hours) every five years, failure to do so could result in the loss of your certificate. SPI does NOT send reminders, and the District is not required to (but usually does) send letters of reminder to those with expiring certificates.

Check to see when your teaching certificate expires and be sure to keep current with your continuing education credit hour obligation. Do not wait until the last minute as you might not complete the requirements prior to the expiration date. **YOU WILL BE REMOVED FROM THE CLASSROOM WITHOUT PAY IF YOUR CERTIFICATE EXPIRES.** In addition, once you obtain new certification, you will then have to meet the new professional certification requirements imposed on new teachers.

Remember that all certificates now expire on June 30. If your certificate contains a date other than June 30, then your certificate will actually expire on June 30 of the year following your expiration. (For exam certificates containing an August 31, 2005 expiration date will actually expire on June 30, 2006.)

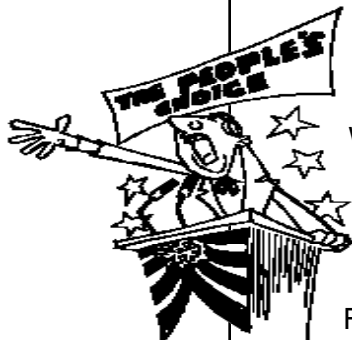
If you have a pre-August 1987 certificate, you do not need to renew.



Representative Assembly Delegate Positions Open

NTEA is looking for delegates to represent our members at the WEA and NEA Representative Assemblies. We will be sending 14 delegates to the state meeting (May 12 - May 14 in Spokane) and four delegates to the NEA Representative Assembly (June 30 - July 7 in Los Angeles). Why not be one of the representatives that helps set the direction of our state and national organizations for the next year?

How do you become a delegate? Don't wait for someone to nominate you -- simply nominate yourself by contacting the NTEA Office for an "Intent to Run for Office Statement." Nominations will be taken through February 23, 2005.



"...Terry Bergeson's proposed K-12 education budget includes a significant pay increase for educators."

Compensation Remains

WEA's Number One Priority

Addressing the Senate Ways and Means committee for the first time this session, WEA lobbyist Randy Parr highlighted WEA members' compensation goals. "Restoration of the COLA is very important to us," Parr said.

Next year's COLA, based on the Consumer Price Index, is estimated at 1.1%. Parr added that Washington's average teacher pay is more than \$10,000 below the average for West Coast states.

"It is important to make progress beyond the COLA," Parr told the committee. He also stressed the need for improvements in health benefit funding and pensions.

Parr noted that former Governor Gary Locke's second budget proposal, released last month, emphasized the need for increasing state revenue.

"It is time for a revenue package to be part of the overall solution to fixing this year's budget hole," Parr said.

However, Parr also criticized Locke's proposal to delay the state's mandatory contributions to the retirement system for school and state employees, calling the plan "shortsighted and untenable."

Bergeson's Budget Highlights Pay

Superintendent of Public Instruction Terry Bergeson's proposed K - 12 education budget includes a significant pay increase for educators.

Bergeson, speaking before the Senate Budget Committee, said her budget reflected compensation concerns she heard from educators during the reelection campaign.

Paralleling WEA's salary goals for this session, Bergeson's budget includes COLAs plus the restoration of salary lost by the suspension of I-732 over the last two years.

"It does a catch up and a keep up on the COLA," Bergeson said of her budget.

Bergeson's budget is advisory; the Legislature and Governor Christine Gregoire ultimately approve the state budget.

Bergeson also made a pitch for increased school funding, which she said is a necessary part of ensuring that all students meet high academic standards.

"We are doing well with the money we have. But we have to pony up at some time. Now is the time to do it," she said.

Pre-Retirement Seminar Scheduled

TRS Plan I and II education employees, PERS Plan I and II educational staff associate members of WEA Chinook and their spouses are invited to a Pre-Retirement Seminar and financial planning workshop. The workshop sponsored by the WEA Chinook and WEA-Retired and is for all WEA Chinook members. However, a "good faith" preregistration is required and will be returned to those members who attend. Spouses will need



The Retirement Seminar will review these topics: Plans I and II, Teacher and Public Employee Retirement System, Estate Planning, Social Security, Retiree health insurance, and deferred compensation.

to mail in a separate non-refundable check for \$25.00.

To register for the seminar, please mail in your check(s) to Jeannette Lael at WEA Chinook, 5220 Capitol Blvd., Tumwater, WA 98501. They need to receive your check no later than March 1st before you will be registered. Please indicate whether you are a member of TRS or PERS. It is imperative that you register so they may plan for you. For further questions, please contact Jeannette at 360-943-1776 or 1-800-244-0147 or jlael@washington.org. The workshop is limited to 30 participants and fills quickly!

The workshop will be held at the WEA Chinook Office, 5220 Capitol Blvd., Tumwater on Friday, March 4, 2005, from 6:00-9:00 p.m. (pizza and salad will be served at 5:30) and Saturday, March 5, 2005, 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (continental breakfast will be available at 8:30 a.m. and lunch will be provided at noon.)

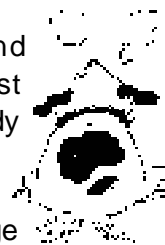
THE CLASSIFIEDS



FREE to a good home! ... espaliered "Liberty" apple tree, seven years old, u-dig. Call Mark at 923-4858.

1987 slate gray **Acura Legend**. Runs good. \$1000 or best offer. Call Craig at 556-9910.

Bullmastiff puppies. Born New Years Day. Seven males and one female -- red, red/fawn, fawn colors. Champion blood lines. Cost \$1000 - \$1500. Taking deposits at the end of January. Puppies ready to the end of February. Call Glenn or Lorraine at 352-1210.



Electric Guitar, Squire by Fender. Blue/white with Peavey Rage 158 amp. Like new (son changed his mind about playing the guitar after it was purchased!). Perfect for a beginner. Comes with a cord, strap and stand. Bought for \$300 and will sell for \$150 obo. Call Bambi or Bill at 491-9754.

Time share -- one week -- July 16 to July 23, 2005. One bedroom - sleeps four at the Hanalei Bay Resort in Kauai. Cost \$1000.00 for the week. Call Annette at 352-8805.

The **River Ridge Theatre Department** presents *Improv-i-thon*, 24 crazy hours of fun, including elementary school hour, improvisation troops from across the state, thespian troops and River Ridge alumni. Come January 28 at 3:00 p.m., January 29 at 3:00 p.m. Cost: \$3.00 per hour or \$10 for all 24 hours. Prizes for those who stay 24 hours! Spaghetti feed at 5:00 p.m. Cost: \$5.00 per plate. Call 412-4837 for more information.



February 2005



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		Groundhog Day NTPS Supt. & NTEA Pres. Visit So. Bay 8:15	NTEA Executive Board NTEA Office 4:00 Supt. & Pres. Visit Woodland 8:20	Supt. & Pres. Visit Komachin 7:35	Supt./President Visit SSHS 7:45	
	NTPS / NTEA Bargaining School Board District Office 7:00		Ash Wednesday Chinese and Vietnamese New Year	Supt./President Visit Meadows 8:15	Teacher Professional Development Day	Lincoln's Birthday
	St. Valentine's Day Supt./President meet 11:45	Supt./President Visit RRHS 7:30 Sev. Oaks 3:30	Supt./President Visit Horizons 8:15 NTEA Rep Council NTPS Boardrm 5:00	Supt./President Visit Evergreen Forest 8:15		
George Washington's Birthday	President's Day Holiday NO SCHOOL 	Midwinter Break NO SCHOOL	School Board District Office 7:00 Nominations for WEA RA and NEA RA Close	Supt./President Visit Oly View 8:30 THS 2:40		
	Supt./President meet 11:45 PTA Roundtable Lacey 6:30 p.m.					