



ADVOCATE

Ontario-Montclair Teachers Association

October 2014

IMPORTANT DATES

OMTA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
November 3rd

OMSD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
November 6th

NON-SCHOOL DAY:
November 10th

VETERANS DAY – No School:
November 11th

OMTA HAPPY HOUR
November 14th

OMTA REP COUNCIL MEETING
November 17th

OMSD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
November 20th

THANKSGIVING HOLIDAYS
November 24th – 28th

www.myomta.org



Affiliated with



NOVEMBER 4TH ELECTION

IT'S TIME TO VOTE



PLEASE VOTE and tell your friends, family and neighbors who the teachers are supporting. This election is going to be a very low turnout so every vote is going to matter. Let our voices be heard. We know what is good for our profession and we need people in office who will support and work with teachers.

Ontario-Montclair Teachers Association is supporting....



Associated Chaffey Teachers are supporting....

Charles J Uhalley
Art Bustamonte
Gil Zendejas

Associated Chino Teachers are supporting....

Brandon Blanchard
Pamela Feix

Fontana Teachers Association is supporting....

Jesse Armendarez
Ayanna Blackmon-Balogun
Matt Slowik

Central Teachers Organization is supporting....

Stacy Henry
Kristie Sepulveda-Burchit
Barbara Rich

Alta Loma Educators Association is supporting....

Caryn Payzant
Sandra Oerly
Rebecca Davies

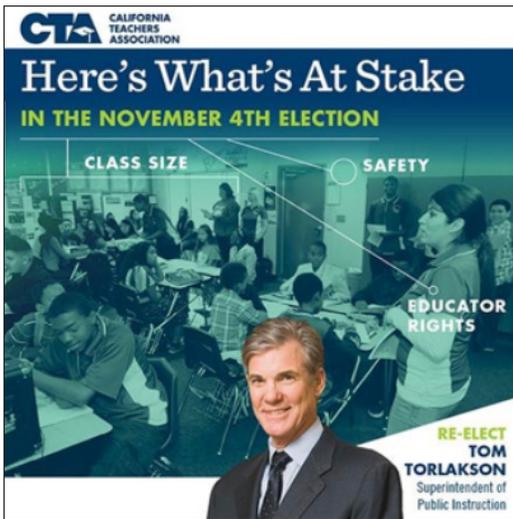
Association of Colton Educators is supporting....

Pilar Tabera
Francine Sandoval

Rialto Education Association is supporting....

Edgar Montes
Dina Walker

Although Etiwanda Teachers Association does not endorse any candidates, one our own OMSD Teachers is running for School Board. If you live in Rancho Cucamonga or Fontana, Please support Robert Garcia! 🍏



THE CALIFORNIA TEACHERS ASSOCIATION IS SUPPORTING TOM TORLAKSON FOR SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION!

If you live in a district that you don't see in this newsletter please email me at president@myomta.org or call the office at 909-986-2414 and we would be happy to find out who the teachers recommend in your area. . 

STEP UP TO THE CHALLENGE!

MaryKay Scheid

With the passage of the Affordable Care Act, a great deal more attention has been focused on health insurance. Awareness about health care has grown exponentially in recent years. Most of us know that insurers can no longer deny coverage for pre-existing conditions; we are aware that we can legally cover our dependent children until they reach the age of 26; and we have first-hand experience with rising costs.

Health care is expensive. Very expensive. A wide range of factors affect the cost of health care – utilization costs, administrative costs, legal costs. Learned people have written volumes on the subject. It isn't likely that we will see the cost of coverage decrease any time soon. As I said, health care is expensive. But WELLNESS is not.

Did you know that our district provides a supplementary wellness program at no cost to you? The program is called HumanaVitality. Every employee who has medical insurance through the district is automatically entitled to join. You probably received a card at one time from them, but you may have thrown it away. No worries, you can still access the system* – create a user name and password, complete the online health assessment, receive your Vitality age and begin to reap the rewards.

There are numerous awards to be gained through the wellness program. First, and foremost, are the physical and mental improvements you can realize by embarking upon the wellness journey. Beyond that are prizes. You can earn points for becoming an active participant in your health – points for such things as getting annual exams, visiting the dentist for regular teeth cleanings, seeing your eye doctor, or getting active. Those points can then be exchanged in the HumanaVitality Mall for actual merchandise or gift cards to places like Amazon.com and Target.

In an effort to increase the percentage of OMSD employees actively engaged in the HumanaVitality program, HumanaVitality is sponsoring a competition. From November 1 – November 30, whatever site realizes the greatest increase in the percentage of employees participating in HumanaVitality will receive their Holiday staff luncheon for free – the staff to choose the caterer. In addition, those who attend the luncheon will receive a raffle ticket for a prize.

I know that fear exists about personal disclosure online. HumanaVitality is a highly secure site. Unlike Facebook, you must input your user name and password EACH time you enter. Because Humana is a licensed insurance broker, they are required to abide by all of the HIPAA rules and regulations. Finally, you are free to be as actively engaged as you wish. If all you want to do is earn points for working out, then that is all the information you need to share.

So, get ready to run with the reindeer. Step up the challenge. Ready, set, go! The Promise Scholars will be holding the annual Reindeer Run on Saturday, December 13th. If you don't have a group to sign up with and are interested in joining OMTA's group, please contact the OMTA office at 909-986-2414 or email Amy at president@myomta.org.

*All eligible members are enrolled in the HumanaVitality with their SSN and can use that number to go online and register for their wellness account. If members would like to receive a new member ID card they can call customer service and request it. Customer service's number is 800-708-1105. They are available M – F, 6 a.m. to 4 p.m. 



MaryKay Scheid and Sierra Nobbs stepping up to the HumanaVitality challenge

AB 420: STUDENT DISCIPLINE – KEEPING STUDENTS IN SCHOOL

By: CTA Governmental Relations

CTA worked with a coalition of civil rights organizations, education stakeholders, and lawmakers to limit the use of out-of-school student discipline, while preserving a teacher's ability to maintain control over their classrooms.

Gov. Jerry Brown has signed AB 420 and the law will take effect Jan. 1, 2015.

After a great deal of member deliberation at State Council, CTA secured amendments to AB 420 that preserve a teacher's right to suspend a student from the classroom as outlined in Education Code 48910. CTA believes that any decision to suspend, expel, exclude, or exempt students from school should be used only as a last resort and only when psychological, emotional or physical safety is compromised. School and district policies should be consistent with sound educational philosophy. Further, any legislation that diminishes the rights of a teacher to remove disruptive students from the classroom environment when deemed necessary by the teacher should be opposed.

Background:

Under existing law, students can receive out-of-school student discipline for a long list of reasons outlined in Education Code 48900. New data that is being collected and published by the California Department of Education is highlighting the fact that racial disparities are arising in the treatment of students under one provision -- (48900k – willful defiance or classroom disruption).

The Local Control Funding Formula makes education communities accountable for the school climate they create, as measured in part by rates of student suspension and expulsion. A baseline of data is set for measuring progress and goals for improvement for all student

subgroups, with specific actions required to reach those goals. AB 420 creates a three-year policy experiment encouraging school districts throughout California to establish alternative programs to suspension and expulsion in order to keep students in school. These programs require personnel, training for all stakeholders in the education community and a commitment of resources.

AB 420 Highlights:

- AB 420 eliminates “willful defiance or classroom disruption” as a reason to expel a student from school.
- AB 420 eliminates “willful defiance or classroom disruption” as a reason to suspend a student from school in grades kindergarten through third grade.
- AB 420 preserves the ability of a teacher to suspend a child from the classroom at any grade level for “willful defiance or classroom disruption.”
- AB 420 sunsets in the summer of 2018, providing some time to evaluate the policy shift.

When a child is sent out of the classroom so that others can continue to learn, our collective challenge is to leverage new resources provided by the Local Control Funding Formula to put programs in place at the school to help the child re-engage, while supporting the teacher's efforts in the classroom. Keeping kids in school will help students thrive. It will also improve school' Average Daily Attendance enabling the state to send more resources.

For more information contact CTA Government Relations at 916-325-1500. 🍏



IN MEMORY OF MEG SAGER.....

Meg Graber Sager was a part of the Serrano family for 11 years. Her smile was infectious and her optimism, energy, enthusiasm and love for our students was endless. She worked tirelessly with AVID because of her firm belief in the program. Sadly, Meg lost her battle with cancer on October 6th, at the age of 33, leaving behind a huge hole in our hearts. The Serrano family and indeed the entire Ontario-Montclair School District has lost an amazing teacher and a great friend all too soon. Our hearts go out to her family.

Death Benefits for OMTA/CTA/NEA Members

In the event of a death of a member, here are some steps you will need to follow to claim your CTA and NEA life insurance policies. You also need to make sure your information is updated with your beneficiaries.

Call CTA at 650-552-5200 and ask to file a Death and Dismemberment claim. You will need the CTA ID# for member that passed. The insurance benefit is up \$2,000 (the amount depends on how long you have been a member). There is no time limit for filing this claim.

Call NEA at 800-637-4636 and ask to file a Complimentary Life Insurance claim. Again, there is no time limit on filing a claim. This benefit is \$1,000.

Whenever there is a claim and no beneficiary has been declared by the member, the following are the default settings for receiving benefits:

- 1st is to Spouse. If no spouse...
- 2nd is to Children, If no children...
- 3rd is to Parents, If no parents...
- 4th is to siblings, if no siblings, claim will be given to the state.

Check with Cal STRS for a possible retirement death benefit as well: 800-228-5453.

To update your beneficiary for CTA Death and Dismemberment benefit, go online to www.CTAmemberbenefits.org.

To update your NEA Complimentary Life Insurance go to www.NEAMB.com.

Please remind your family members of these benefits. Keep this information with your other important documents. 🍏

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Vernon: Isabel Santos, Diana Verdugo
Vina Danks: Sally Stewart
Vineyard: John Borrowman, Nila Delise
Vista Grande: Helen Cieslik/Monica Lite
Wiltsey: Ken Aven, Linda Boren
Music/PE/APE: Daniel Salcido
Speech: Susan Yee
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Early Ed/Pre-School: Leticia Martinez
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