

# ADVOCATE



**Ontario-Montclair Teachers Association**

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nea

January 2013

## COME TO A TRAINING: ANTI-BULLYING 101- DEALING WITH BULLYING IN THE CLASSROOM

Have you seen your students bullied? Do you know how to handle bullies? Do you wonder what you can do to help the students who are constantly being bullied? If you have thought about any of these questions, we have a workshop for you. OMTA is hosting a training on Tuesday, February 12th from 3:00-5:00 here at the OMTA office. We will have refreshments and great information you can take back and use immediately with your students. Please bring a colleague with you.

OMTA has invited CTA trainers to come out and give us training on dealing with bullying in the classroom. Every day in our schools, students are teased, threatened, and tormented by bullies. Ignoring bullying creates a climate of fear, hostility, and violence. Come to this training to learn how to recognize bullying. In this training you will also examine its characteristics and find out what you can do as an educator to prevent bullying among your students. You will discuss your responsibility in addressing the behavior and what are some immediate methods of modifying the behavior.

According to the NASP (National Association of School Psychologists) these are 11 facts about bullying:

1. 56% of students have personally felt some sort of bullying at school. Between 4th and 8th grade in particular, 90% of students are victims of bullying.
2. The most common reason cited for being harassed is a student's appearance or body size. 2 out of 5 teens feel that they are bullied because of the way that they look.
3. 9 out of 10 LGBT youth reported being verbally harassed at school in the past year because of their sexual orientation.
4. 1 in 4 teachers see nothing wrong with bullying and will only intervene 4% percent of the time.
5. A victim of bullying is twice as likely to take his or her own life compared to someone who is not a victim.
6. One out of 10 students drop out of school because they are bullied.
7. Physical bullying peaks in middle school and declines in high school. Verbal abuse rates remain constant from elementary through high school.
8. Researchers feel that bullying should not be treated as part of growing up (with the attitude "kids will be kids").
9. 41% of principals say they have programs designed to create a safe environment for LGBT students, but only 1/3 of principals say that LGBT students would feel safe at their school.
10. 57% of students who experience harassment in school never report the incident to the school. 10% of those who do not report stay quiet because they do not believe that teachers or staff can do anything. As a result, more than a quarter of students feel that school is an unsafe place to be.
11. Schools with easily understood rules of conduct, smaller class sizes and fair discipline practices report less violence than those without such features.

According to the US Department of Health and Human Services here are a few reasons why kids bully:

- Family risk factors for bullying:
  - A lack of warmth and involvement on the part of parents.
  - Overly-permissive parenting (including a lack of limits for children's behavior).
  - A lack of supervision by parents.
  - Harsh, physical discipline.
  - Parent modeling of bullying behavior.
  - Victimization by older brothers.
- Peer risk factors for bullying:
  - Friends who bully.
  - Friends who have positive attitudes about violence.
  - Some aggressive children who take on high status roles may use bullying as a way to enhance their social power and protect their prestige with peers.
  - Some children with low social status may use bullying as a way to deflect taunting and aggression that is directed towards them, or to enhance their social position with higher status peers.

Mark your calendars for February 12<sup>th</sup>. We look forward to seeing you.

R.S.V.P to the OMTA office at 909 986-2414 or email [president@myomta.org](mailto:president@myomta.org) or [officemanager@myomta.org](mailto:officemanager@myomta.org) by Friday, February 8, 2013.

## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

AMY TOMPKINS

Happy New Year and welcome back! I hope you enjoyed your time off and you all were able to rest and rejuvenate for 2013.

Ontario-Montclair held their regular School Board meeting on January 17<sup>th</sup>; one of the purposes of this meeting was to fill a current vacancy in our school board due to Paul Vincent-Avila being elected to Ontario's City Council. There was a good turnout from the community including parents who spoke. OMTA had members attend to support our endorsed candidate Sam Crowe. I

spoke with CSEA President Diane Taylor reminding the school board that we endorsed Sam Crowe in August 2012, and would like to see him back on the board. After hearing from six candidates the school board members voted 3-1 to seat Sam Crowe. He will finish a two-year term that will expire in 2014. We welcome him back on the school board.

As we start the New Year, Michelle Rhee and her StudentsFirst group is making her way back into the education policy arena as legislatures head back into session by issuing a "report card." This report card is designed to push StudentsFirst's agenda of privatization, test-based accountability, and weakened rights for educators. The State Policy Report Card assigns an overall A-F letter grade to each state based on their designed rubric. They grouped their 24 policy objectives into three policy pillars: Elevating the Teaching Profession, Empowering Parents with Data and Choice, and Spending Wisely and Governing Well. This report card fails to measure any of the matters that truly impact student achievement or issues that concern parents and students such as small class size, adequate resources, school safety and graduation rates. To no surprise, California received a D overall. Almost all of the states received a C, D or below. Rhee has received some media coverage related to the report card and CTA welcomes the chance to dialogue about true reform.

On January 10<sup>th</sup> the day *Education Week* showed that California now ranks 49<sup>th</sup> in per-student funding, Governor Jerry Brown released his 2013-2014 State Budget Proposal. There is definitely much needed good news in the proposal. Thanks to the passage of Proposition 30, California K-12 schools, colleges and universities are not facing more cuts; instead we are actually seeing funding increases. According to the budget proposal, K-12 schools and community colleges will see an increase in funding by \$2.7 billion. The Governor is also proposing to change the state's funding formula for K-12 schools. The new formula would be called the Local Control Funding Formula and this proposal moves the state toward a K-12 system that provides a base grant to all school districts tied to daily average attendance and then adjusts allocations to account for differential expenses between grade levels. The proposed formula also provides additional money for English Learners, low-income students, and foster kids. CTA is looking over the Governor's proposal and is concerned about the overall structure of the new K-12 funding system, the quality of the data, and timing of implementation. "We are concerned about moving forward with a new funding system before schools have received the money they are owed from years of cuts." Stayed tuned for more information to come on the state budget. In May the Governor will have a May revise, and often times we see changes to the initial proposal from January.

As far as what the budget means to OMSD, we are doing well. We don't have to take a cut of \$441 per student (as was projected if Prop 30 didn't pass) and we will be working next year off the same budget as this year. QEIA schools will get to keep their same classroom numbers for the remainder of the program, which is through the 2014-2015 school year. We will begin negotiations with the district in February for the 2013-2014 school year. Our goal and the district's goal has not changed, it is to better our insurance benefits. We look forward to negotiating on your behalf on what you believe is important based on your comments to the bargaining survey that was sent out in October.



**THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF URBAN  
EDUCATION ASSOCIATIONS (NCUEA)  
FALL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE,  
SEATTLE WASHINGTON**

**The National Council of Urban Education Associations** (NCUEA) is an advocacy organization of local affiliates of the National Education Association (NEA), which is dedicated to strengthening member advocacy and making the NEA more responsive to member needs. The mission is to promote and advance high quality Public Education in urban schools by empowering and supporting local Associations, leaders, and members.

As a Discovery Grant recipient from the National Council of Urban Education Associations (NCUEA), I feel privileged and honored to have been able to represent our Members of OMTA and to have had the opportunity to attend The Fall Leadership Conference in Seattle, Washington from November 28<sup>th</sup> through December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012. This was an amazing and informative conference.

Our President Amy Tompkins, Vice President Brad Richards, and Representative Tracy Taylor attended the conference also and as soon as we arrived in Seattle, it seemed as though the excitement had started. We were off to the Urban Minority Issues Dialog session where the powerful guest speaker John Bible, President of the Seattle NAACP gave a commanding speech outlining the importance of our purpose as educators in urban areas and the commitment to our students to receive a great education.

We then broke out into different Training Sessions over the next few days, as well as conducting Organizational Business at different times during each day. The following are some highlights of the Training Session that I attended during the conference.

**“Connecting The Dots to our Youngest Members”** was an exciting training Session. This session helped me to understand the importance of communicating our Message Framework to our Youngest Members, because of

how differently each generation communicates. I was surprised to find out how dissimilar each generation is in terms of the way we communicate our Message. I know now that the future is here and we need our younger members (Generation Y and the Millennials) to start taking the leadership roles and understand the Message that makes us so strong. “Teachers are deeply committed to the success of every child” and “Our education agenda puts our students at the center of reform”.

**How Member Benefits Helps in Organizing**, I was blown away by the awesome benefits and services our members have available to us, but are not aware of. Free \$1,000.00 insurance benefit, discounts on appliances, home loans, and a plethora of other services. I immediately shared some of these with some of my site members. From the youngest member to the most seasoned member, most had some kind of “oh-wow” reaction to my bringing this information to them. I even shared it with other colleges elsewhere and they too had some “really?” moments. And best of all, these services are just a click away, either online or over the phone...Awesome! I hope to see you at the Benefit Workshop On Tuesday.

In the **“Second General Business Session”**, we had some very exciting speakers, but I will never forget the heart wrenching story our President, Dennis Van Roekel shared with us. Dennis told about his visit to a small homeless area in the local vicinity and how he visited a family that was living in a tent, without food or money, and how the children were not able to attend school regularly because of this. Dennis shared his story about the hardships that we all face day to day and how there is always a family with kids in need of our compassion beyond the school walls, especially when it means keeping a student (s) in school. I felt connected to Dennis’ story because this something I deal with everyday at my site. I also could feel how the other members were just as taken as I was.

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## OMTA REPRESENTATIVES

**Arroyo:** Karen Hirschfeld  
**Berlyn:** Crystal Cook, Erik Kobulnick  
**Bon View:** Wayne Bradley, Nancy Mason  
**Buena Vista:** Michael Hatter  
**Central:** Tina Foglesong, Marina Garcia-Guevara  
**Corona:** Paul Leal, Julie Rafeedie  
**DeAnza:** Linda Bell  
**Del Norte:** Tish Curry, Kathy Gregson  
**Edison:** Rayvelyn Swift  
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**Euclid:** Debbie Covarrubias, Anna Young  
**Hawthorne:** Monique Gray, Dale Johnson  
**Haynes:** Robert Mariani, Leslie Miller  
**Howard:** Vacant  
**Kingsley:** Allison Borromeo, Monica Smirl  
**Lehigh:** Carol Alvarez, Stacia Neer  
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**Mariposa:** Sendai Parker, Jeff Williams  
**Mission:** Ann Roozee, Daniel Salcido  
**Monte Vista:** Kay Hoover, Tonya Scott  
**Montera:** Erine Ames, Kelly Cook  
**Moreno:** John Hamman, John Ross  
**Oaks:** Lora Dahms, Vickie Harri  
**Ramona:** Trudy Cowan, Vacant  
**Serrano:** Dalia Aref, Brad Holtan  
**Sultana:** Terri Caldwell, Bertha B. Fitzgerald  
**Vernon:** Isabel Santos, Diana Verdugo  
**Vina Danks:** David Hennessee, Vacant  
**Vineyard:** Lesia Beasom/Nila Delise  
**Vista Grande:** Helen Cieslik  
**Wiltsey:** Ken Aven, Linda Boren  
**Music/PE/APE:** Daniel Salcido  
**Speech:** Kimberly Cieslik  
**Health/Nurse:** Marissa Sitz  
**Early Ed Center:** Leticia Martinez

## THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF URBAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATIONS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

On the plane ride back, I thought about what I came away with after attending this Conference and of the importance to articulate our Message to all members, as well as the urgency to bring in and mentor the young members that need to carry our message into the future.

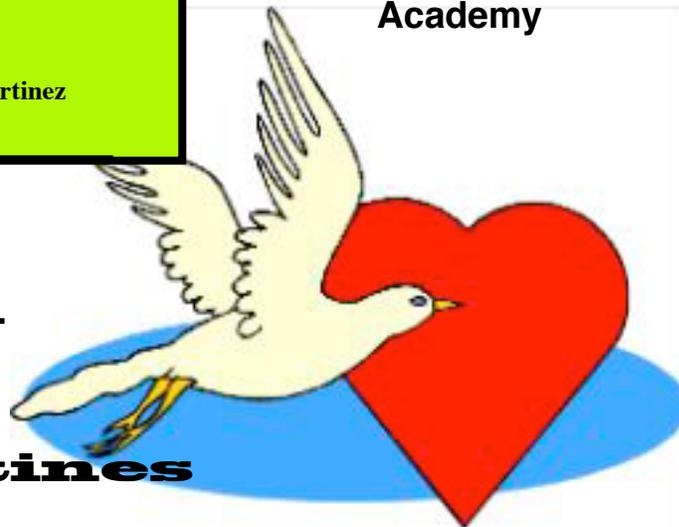
Daniel L. Salcido, 5th Grade Teacher  
Site Representative  
Mission Elementary School,  
Music, APE, and PE

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**OMTA  
Executive Board Meeting  
February 4th  
Rep Council Meeting  
February 25th**

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**OMSD  
School Board Meetings  
February 7 & 21st  
7 pm at Central Language  
Academy**



**Happy  
Valentines**

## OMTA OFFICERS AND OPERATIONS

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**Amy Tompkins**  
1st Vice President  
**Brad Richards**  
2nd Vice President  
**Shari Megaw**  
Secretary  
**Susan Yee**  
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**Chris Scoleri**  
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