



# ADVOCATE

## Ontario-Montclair Teachers Association

April 2018

### IMPORTANT DATES MAY

- 3<sup>rd</sup> OMSD BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
- 4<sup>th</sup> RETIREMENT DINNER
- 7<sup>th</sup> OMTA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
- 8<sup>th</sup> OMTA TEACHER APPRECIATION EVENT
- 14<sup>th</sup> OMTA REP COUNCIL MEETING
- 17<sup>th</sup> OMSD BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
- 23<sup>rd</sup> LAST DAY FOR STUDENTS
- 24<sup>th</sup> TEACHER PREP DAY
- 28<sup>th</sup> MEMORIAL DAY

## FROM MARYKAY TO YOU



This is our last Advocate of the year and my last message to you. I want to thank you for the privilege of serving you. I feel we have made great strides together in the past two years. OMTA has successfully negotiated more than 5.5% in ongoing monies (2% for 15/16, 3.5% for 16/17, in addition to benefits increases), agreed to provide the necessary resources to support an extended kindergarten day, and lobbied to ensure teachers could work in appropriately climate-controlled classrooms.

We have ensured our temporary teachers are legally classified as such and compelled more than 50 temps to become probationary. We have inspired the district to reconsider instructional rounds. We have managed to reduce district-mandated tests, and continue to voice student and teacher needs to the district.

While I will certainly miss advocating for each of you on a daily basis, I am excited about returning to the classroom. I am looking forward to the increased technological resources and new adoptions. I am excited about some of the terms we have reached in our Tentative Agreement. If we vote in favor of the agreement, we will have an additional minimum day to be scheduled at site discretion. I am pleased teachers will finally be offered pay to work at Saturday events to help support students in their extracurricular endeavors. I am gratified that our married colleagues will finally have the same insurance options as their single colleagues.

Because I have worked on our negotiations teams, been trained in district and local CTA finances, and worked to establish relationships with regional leaders for the benefit of our teachers, my intention is to continue to work on your behalf at the regional, state, and national levels. We still have many challenges in the year ahead, including the Janus decision which may very well change our union. It is critical we remain united and clear in what we want on behalf of our students.

To that end, I encourage you to continue working with OMTA to let OMSD administrators and Members of the Board of Trustees know how strongly you feel about the loss of instructional time and increased expectations, as well as sharing what resources and supports would be most effective in helping your students succeed.

Have a wonderful, rewarding, and relaxing summer. Again, thank you. It has been my pleasure to work closely with so many of you. Together, we all can accomplish great things.

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MaryKay Scheid, OMTA President



# HEALTH ADVOCATE IS HERE TO HELP

By: *Natashia Harris*

I am writing this with the hope that others will not have to endure the heartache, confusion, and helplessness that my family, especially my father and I, recently had to endure.

For months, we were getting phone calls from Dad asking us to pick him up from places he did not recognize. Sometimes he was right around the corner and other times he was miles away. These incidents, coupled with him not being able to remember if he had taken care of his routine responsibilities like paying bills, sounded an alarm in my head. This was not just my dad growing older.

I come from a culture that is wary of doctors. Getting Dad to see his doctor was not going to be easy. My sister and I had to come up with a plan. We decided my sister would steal Dad's insurance card and we would make him an appointment with his primary care doctor without his knowledge.

When we managed to get him to his appointment, Dad heard the devastating news that he had Alzheimer's and Dementia. His behavior was not just the ordinary decline that comes with aging. Dad was told that he would have to stop working immediately. I could see in his eyes the realization that he had been "found out." His secret was no longer his alone. The concrete diagnosis was both a blessing and a curse – a blessing that we now knew what we were dealing with; a curse because we had no idea how difficult our journey with the insurance company and hospitals was going to be.

Alzheimer's and Dementia affect absolutely everyone in the patient's life. Some days were better than others, but the bad days were really bad. It is indeed a slow goodbye to your loved one. The bureaucracy of the health care system only added to our pain and grief.

After his first 911 visit, Dad was assigned a case manager. Although the case manager seemed to be a nice man, it was quickly evident that his job was to get Dad out of the hospital and into someplace, anyplace, as soon as possible. As the point person for Dad's care, I was mercilessly inundated with calls from the caseworker demanding I "pick a place" on the list to admit Dad or he would be discharged. We could no longer care for him at home, but we needed time to find the best place for him.

After Dad's second 911 visit, there was no caseworker to serve as intermediary. Instead, Dad was placed in a psychiatric facility. Though that was not my first choice for placement, I was hoping

it would give us a few more days to find him a care facility willing to admit him. Once again, I was bombarded with calls that Dad was going to be discharged. This time the message was worse. The person on the other end said Dad would be placed in a shelter if we did not find suitable arrangements for him. All the while, we were waiting to hear from Dad's insurance company.

Whatever your religion or belief system, I know that the day I spoke with MaryKay Scheid was a blessing. During our conversation about the chaos that was pulling me under, she asked me if I had heard of Health Advocate. She explained that you could use Health Advocate as long as you took insurance through the district and, incredibly, there was no copay! I was skeptical. I knew there had to be a catch. This sounded too good to be true.

At this point in this journey, I was open to anything. I called and had the good fortune of speaking with Kim Righter. I learned that the people from Health Advocate are certified, they understand the nuances of the industry, and most importantly they are there to help. I could not believe all of this was FREE! Kim researched places in the area to find one that would suit Dad's needs. Through Kim's diligence, we worked as a team and spoke with the person at the psychiatric facility where Dad was being held, in order to advocate for his rights. Kim and I spoke every day until I found a facility that was appropriate.

Dad's needs are many and I soon learned his insurance company was not adequately equipped to help. Through Health Advocate, the task of finding the perfect placement, one to meet the litany of things he needed, including a safe environment where the care workers understand the disease and its progression, was made less stressful.

I am so grateful there was no catch. Health Advocate is there to help OMSD employees who take insurance through the district. They were there to throw me a life preserver when I was treading in deep waters, ready to go under. I promised my dad I would take care of him when he had his last bit of lucidity. It was the first time I had ever seen him cry. Thanks to MaryKay, Kim, and Health Advocate I feel that part of my promise is fulfilled.

As far as the insurance company goes, they eventually called – about a month after I had found placement for my father. 

# WHY WE ARE TEACHERS ON ASSIGNMENT

By: Andrea Thune, Teacher on Assignment, Curriculum Support

Some might believe we became teachers on assignment because it's a stepping stone towards administration, but why else might teachers leave their classrooms?

For us, your current district teachers on assignment, our ultimate goal is to provide support "for teachers, by teachers." For me, leaving my classroom to become a teacher on assignment was not an easy decision. In fact, I put my application in, and then quickly withdrew it, before re-submitting. I love teaching. I love the classroom environment. However, I saw this as a chance to become part of a system that supports teachers the way I would want to be supported.

Our TOA team chooses to believe we are a supportive link. We believe teachers who learn together will provide the best learning opportunities for our students. We know it is essential for us to believe in and value our fellow teachers. We believe we need to remain constant learners and that all teachers deserve to be in an environment that supports continuous improvement.

*"Pick my brain. Ask me about my views on something.  
Dig deeper than the obvious. Let's make each other think.  
Show me a different perspective." ~ unknown*

## What is the mission of a district teacher on assignment?

One of the most important commitments to our fellow teachers is to create a 21st-century learning environment and support

community for our teachers. We are exploring adult learning theory. Collectively this has been an enormous opportunity for us to grow. In the process of designing and leading professional learning opportunities, we study articles, deliberately practice, and provide each other feedback on the professional development training we personally design and lead. We've read books together such as Tribal Leadership, Practice Perfect, and Presentation Zen.

We choose to put ourselves out there in hopes of making a change for the better - we enjoy learning with and from others. Happy Learning! 🍏



Teachers enjoying the last OMTA social of the year. Be sure to visit OMTA on Tuesday May 8, from 1pm-5pm, for our 3rd annual Teacher Appreciation Celebration.

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## HELP HABITAT FOR HUMANITY AND HELP YOURSELVES

You may not know about the Habitat for Humanity ReStore in Montclair, but it's worth a visit. It's on Holt in Montclair and is mostly a second-hand store for furniture and building supplies and lots of other things. What makes the ReStore different is that we also get overruns or excess inventory for new items from companies like Williams Sonoma. The money generated from the store goes to house-building projects for low-income families.

The store offers several "days" of extra discounts to special groups, like veterans, seniors, First Responders and teachers. On Thursdays, everything in the store is 20% off for teachers (and even students).

So as you begin to ponder all the amazing redecorating you will do over the summer, consider a trip to the ReStore. 🍏

**OPEN  
ENROLLMENT IS  
APRIL 23, 2018  
THROUGH  
MAY 11, 2018!**

# SARAH GALVEZ, OMSD BOARD OF TRUSTEES

By: Vickie Harri

I recently had the opportunity to sit down and have a conversation with OMSD Board of Trustee Member Sarah Galvez. Ms. Galvez is the newest Trustee, elected to the OMSD Board in November 2016. Ms. Galvez is an Ontario native. She attended Berlyn Elementary School, Vina Danks Middle School, and Chaffey High School. She graduated from the University of California at Riverside with a Bachelor of Science degree in Anthropology and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Art History. Ms. Galvez specialized in the cultural development of ancient man.

Ms. Galvez has worked as a substitute teacher in the Upland Unified School District for the last four years. She substitutes in classes from pre-k to high school. In addition to her day job, Ms. Galvez considers herself a “super-volunteer.” She is an active member of the Independent Order of the Oddfellows, which was founded in 1886, five years before the City of Ontario was founded in 1891. Through the Oddfellows, Ms. Galvez works with the USO stationed at Ontario Airport. Last year the Oddfellows donated thousands of plastic plates to serve food, and this year they are working on donating protein bars to service men and women.

Ms. Galvez has always been appreciative of the education she received in OMSD. Her motivation for running for the OMSD school board was a desire to be a part of and to give back to the community. As a new member of the Board, she was able to visit all 32 Ontario-

Montclair schools in five months. She enjoys learning about OMSD students and how best she can support them, and she sees the diversity found in the student population and the variety of OMSD schools as an asset for the district. Ms. Galvez is also proud of the number of students and families that OMSD manages to feed not only throughout the school year, but also during the summer.

In the next five years, Ms. Galvez hopes to see population stability within the district. She is concerned that OMSD has nowhere to grow, but hopes to raise awareness of our schools and the good things they are doing to attract new students. As for OMSD teachers, Ms. Galvez encourages us to continue what we are doing to serve the student population of Ontario-Montclair. 🍏

## Thank You OMTA Leaders!

Teachers, Nurses, and Special Units, please join me in thanking our OMTA Executive Board Members and all our hardworking and determined Site Representatives. I count it a privilege and an honor to work with people who go above and beyond for teachers and their students. Together you helped the District hear our voices. Continue this work next year. Enjoy your summer!

## OMTA OFFICERS AND OPERATIONS

**President:** MaryKay Scheid  
president@myomta.org

**1st Vice President:** Tracy Taylor

**2nd Vice President:** Daniel Salcido

**Secretary:** Tisha Curry

**Treasurer:** Erine Ames

### CTA State Council Representatives

MaryKay Scheid, John Egan, Tracy Taylor

### Service Center 1 Representatives

Trudy Cowan, Shari Megaw, Vickie Harri,  
Judy Westbrook, Isabel Santos

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**Elections Chair:** Vince DeFabiis

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**Arroyo:** Brenda Zola

**Berlyn:** Crystal Cook, Erik Kobulnick

**Bon View:** Abel De Casas, Nancy Mason

**Buena Vista:** Michael Hatter

**Central:** Marina Garcia

**Corona:** Julie Rafeedie

**DeAnza:** Alissa Garcia

**Del Norte:** Natalie Cantos/Mary Braunstein

**Edison:** Rayvelyn Swift

**El Camino:** Susie Imrich/Sandi Missick

**Elderberry:** Roxanne Hernandez, John Packer

**Euclid:** Wendy Beltran, Kelly Duffy

**Hawthorne:** Monique Gray, Celina Marshall

**Haynes:** Robert Mariani, Leslie Miller

**Howard:** Kelly Pawley

**Kingsley:** Michelle Montes, Javier Sandoval

**Lehigh:** Robin Carr, Jennifer Ron

**Lincoln:** Kellie Wilson, Denise Dryden

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**Monte Vista:** Kay Hoover, Tonya Scott

**Montera:** Ana Waldschmitt, Dawn Falkenberg

**Moreno:** John Ross

**Oaks:** Lora Dahms, Lisa Eckersley

**Ramona:** Kelly Albers, Lindsay Gallagher

**Serrano:** Ana Moreno, Vacant

**Sultana:** Terri Tucker, Elsa DeShazo

**Vernon:** I-Esha Scott, Rosa Whitton

**Vina Danks:** Lisa Ochoa, Edima Umanah

**Vineyard:** Nila Delise

**Vista Grande:** Monica Lite

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**Counselors/Orcs:** Tish Tello/Deana Shoultz

**Early Ed/Pre-School:** Vacant

**HFB/Hardy Center:** Laura Smart

**Health/Nurse:** Dana Smith

**Music:** Daniel Salcido

**PE/APE:** Vacant

**Special Ed:** Aurora Mejico

**Speech:** Ulla Tang Larsen