



# ADVOCATE

## Ontario-Montclair Teachers Association

October 2013

### IMPORTANT DATES

#### OMSD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

October 3rd

#### OMTA HAPPY HOUR

October 11th

Don Jose's

#### OMTA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

October 14th

#### OMSD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

October 17th

#### OMTA Training "Bullying 102"

October 22nd

#### OMTA REP COUNCIL MEETING

October 28th

[www.myomta.org](http://www.myomta.org)



Find us on  
**Facebook**

Affiliated with



## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

*Amy Tompkins*

I hope you are all settled in your classrooms now and well into your school routines. I had the opportunity during the month of September to visit 10 schools to bring pizza during lunch time. This has been a great opportunity for me to get to know many of you and hear your concerns and successes. If I haven't visited you yet this year, I will be contacting your OMTA rep to sign up for a day.

My two goals this year for OMTA are improving communication and giving teachers a voice. Some of the ways I will be communicating to you are: the pizza lunches, monthly happy hours, social media (FaceBook), subbing monthly at schools, emails, training opportunities, the OMTA website and OMTA open houses. I look forward to talking to more of you and learning more about your unique concerns.

I believe teachers should have the biggest voice in what's happening in education right now. It is such a crucial time and things are constantly changing. The big changes right now are Common Core, Smarter Balanced Assessments, having to implement new Common Core units, new Local Control Funding Formula and waiting to find out what happens with this year's STAR test. The federal government, the state, the district and CTA are trying to make sense of all these new things. It's a very frustrating time when it seems the rules are made up as we go. I want to make sure you have a voice when important decisions are made in how things are adopted and implemented for OMSD. Recently, I recruited teachers to join the district's Curriculum Council. Curriculum Council is looking at Common Core, how decisions are made, how curriculum is being implemented currently, and how to make it better next year. I am looking for one teacher from every site so everyone is represented and has a voice. I am also working on recruiting teachers to serve on a Certificated Advisory Board to meet with the Superintendent and the Assistant Superintendents. It is so important that they hear what's going on from classroom teachers to understand your perspective. If you are interested in joining either of these groups or have other ideas please don't hesitate to email me. Another way teachers currently have a voice is by working in grade level teams to create Common Core units for teachers to implement in their classrooms. As you pilot these units, please keep in mind that the Common Core teams are dependent on you to give them good feedback. It is my hope that everyone will be exposed to these units very soon, so you can try them this year before it becomes a requirement next year.



# WHAT'S NEW IN EDUCATION???

Amy Tompkins



If you are following the education stories nationwide and state wide on the news,

online, and on social media you may have noticed that there is a lot going on in education right now; things are changing fast. It is hard to keep up what rules apply today that didn't apply yesterday and what changes have been made. As you read this remember, what I have explained here may be different in a week or in a couple of months!

In California, \$622 million in new state funding has been released to support the shift to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). The funding that was released is half of the \$1.25 billion allocated for this purpose. This money, of course, must be spent on the transition to the Common Core. OMSD has received the first part of this common core money and will receive the next half in October. OMTA has put in a request to bargain and consult on this common core money. This means that teachers and the negotiating team will help develop a plan for precisely how we allocate the funds. (Remember the money can only be used for professional development, materials, and technology)

The other very exciting thing going on in California is Assembly Bill 484. This bill called for the suspension of most of the STAR tests beginning this school year. The suspension allows California to maximize the participation of its schools in the spring 2014 Smarter Balanced Field Test thus allowing schools to focus fully on the transition to common core. AB 484 was most recently amended on September 6th and now calls for the establishment of a new statewide student assessment system, the Measurement of Academic Performance and Progress (MAPP), which would replace the STAR. The bill outlines the assessments in the MAPP, some of which were previously part of the STAR. For the 2013-14 school year AB 484 requires the following: The CST for Sciences in grades 5, 8 and 10; the California Alternate Performance Assessment for English-Language Arts, Math in grades 2-11 and for Science in grades 5, 8 and 10; the availability of the Standards

Based Tests in Spanish as an optional assessment for English-Language Arts and Math in grades 2-11; and the participation of all local educational agencies in the Smarter Balanced Spring 2014 Field Test for one subject area only (English-Language Arts or Math). AB 484 was passed by the California State Senate on September 10th and by the State Assembly on September 11th. The bill now awaits the governor's signature; he has until October 13th to sign it into law. Stay tuned for more information. . . .

**US Secretary of Education Arne Duncan made the following comments on the bill:**

*"A request from California to not measure the achievement of millions of students this year is not something we could approve in good conscience. Raising standards to better prepare students for college and careers is absolutely the right thing to do, but letting an entire school year pass for millions of students without sharing information on their schools' performance with them and their families is the wrong way to go about this transition."*

*"No one wants to over-test, but if you are going to support all students' achievement, you need to know how all students are doing. If California moves forward with a plan that fails to assess all its students, as required by federal law, the Department will be forced to take action, which could include withholding funds from the state."*

**State Superintendent Tom Torlakson replied to the federal government's opposition:**

*"Our goals for 21st century learning, and the road ahead, are clear. We won't reach them by continuing to look in the rear-view mirror with outdated tests, no matter how it sits with officials in Washington"*

*"We look forward to the opportunity to make our case to the Administration when the time comes. When we do, we hope they agree that withholding badly needed funds from California's students would be a grave and serious error." 🍏*

# KNOW YOUR CONTRACT

Amy Tompkins

Knowing your contract empowers you and lets you know what your rights are. Here are some important topics that have come up so far this year.

## Article VIII-Hours Of Work:

### Period Substitute Pay:

“Each site will develop a plan when a substitute teacher is not available. The plan will include the following procedures for coverage for the affected classroom(s)”:

**For Middle Schools:** “The administrator will first ask for volunteers. If no one volunteers for a particular period the administrator may assign unit members, provided that such assignment is done in an equitable manner from among all available unit members.”

**For Elementary Schools:** “The administrator will first make sure that assignments are equitably distributed among available non-classroom, certificated staff and that no unit member shall be required to provide substitute coverage for more than six (6) hours in one week.

In the event that non-classroom, certificated staff is unavailable, the administrator shall divide students among other classrooms in a fashion that will have the least impact on the instructional program. However, no unit member should have more than eight (8) additional students assigned to their class at any one time.”

(In addition to this language the district has developed a DEFCON procedure, which outlines the steps your administrator should be following before students are broken up and given to

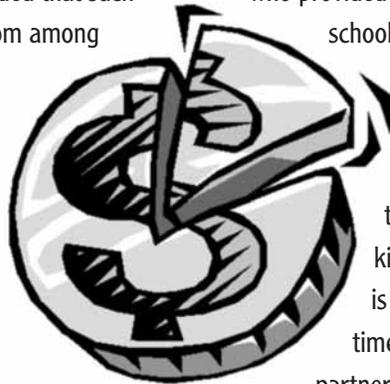
different teachers). The district has hired over 100 substitute teachers this summer, so hopefully this will not become an issue like it was last year.

### Compensation:

Unit members who provide substitute coverage shall be compensated as follows:

“**Middle School** – Unit members shall be paid at 1/5 of the substitute daily rate for each period of coverage they provided.

**Elementary** – Unit members shall be compensated at the substitute daily rate, divided by the number of unit members who provided coverage. If the coverage is for less than a full school day, the amount shall be pro-rated.”



### Transitional/Kindergarten Share Time:

“Unit members teaching kindergarten classes will work sixty (60) minutes with other transitional/kindergarten teachers or transitional/kindergarten students (share time). When there is an even number of AM and PM teachers, the time will be provided to support instruction in their partner’s classroom.

If there is an odd number of transitional/kindergarten teachers or all of the transitional/kindergarten classes are scheduled in the AM, teachers will be expected to collaboratively develop a plan to provide equal support to each other.

Alternatively, the transitional/kindergarten teachers may develop a plan to support instruction of students in other primary grades, subject to the approval of the Association and District.” 🍏

---

Continued from Page 1

The negotiations team went back to the bargaining table on September 11th and September 20th. The goal of the team is to be finished as soon as possible and get you a fair contract to vote on. After both of these sessions, I sent out OMTA Bargaining Advisories to your reps to forward to all Bargaining Unit Members and to post on the OMTA bulletin board. I hope you have found

these helpful and more informative than in the past. There are legal limits in what we are allowed to share on these Bargaining Advisories but we will definitely share more details with you than before.

If you don’t have an OMTA rep, right now more than at any other time, it is very important that you have one so your staff will get all the important information

disseminated at the monthly meetings. If you don’t want to do the job alone, you can share the position. There are multiple ways we help new reps. Please contact the OMTA office if your school does not have a rep and let us know whom we should welcome to the team. 🍏

# OMTA/CTA/NEA TRAININGS

Join us on October 22nd from 3:15-4:45 at the OMTA office for a bullying 102 training given by CTA staff. Last year we offered bullying 101 and it was well attended and we had very positive feedback about the content of the training. If you didn't attend bullying 101 you are still welcome to join us for this insightful training on student bullying.

OMTA is very excited to offer monthly trainings for you. Below is the yearlong calendar so you can save the dates now based on your interests. We will remind you each month with a flyer for the reps to forward on. Don't forget that each time you come to a training you will be entered to win an airline ticket given out at the last training of the year in April. Each training will have snacks and prizes! Hope to see you here!

- October 22, 2013 . . . . . "Bullying 102"
- November 12, 2013 . . . "Supplementing your Retirement  
..... with 403(b) and 457 Plans"
- December 10, 2013 . . . "Bullying in the Work Place"
- January 28, 2014 . . . . . "Understanding STRS"
- February 25, 2014 . . . . "More Month than Money"
- March 25, 2014 . . . . . "Student Loan Forgiveness"
- April 22, 2014..... "Financial Mistakes We Can't  
Afford to Make"



## OMTA OFFICERS AND OPERATIONS

**President/State Council Rep:** Amy Tompkins  
President@myomta.org  
**1st Vice President:** Brad Richards  
**2nd Vice President:** Daniel Salcido  
**Secretary:** Susan Yee  
**Treasurer:** MaryKay Scheid

**CTA State Council Representatives**  
Cindy Lopez Elwell, Tracy Taylor, Amy Tompkins  
**Service Center 1 Representatives**  
MaryKay Scheid, Shari Megaw, Tisha Curry,  
Bruce Sarver, John Egan  
**Bargaining Chair:** Shari Megaw  
**Elections Chair:** Erine Ames  
**Past President:** Rick McClure

**Office Manager:** Cindy Newey  
officemanager@myomta.org  
**Advocate Design:** Dorreen Petersen Davis  
**Advocate Editor:** MaryKay Scheid  
**OMTA Office**  
417 West "E" Street • Ontario, CA 91762  
Tel: (909) 986-2414 • Fax: (909) 983-0585

## 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:** Loretta Parker  
**Del Norte:** Tisha Curry, Cecilia Anecchini  
**Edison:** Rayvelyn Swift, Janna Southworth  
**El Camino:** Vacant  
**Elderberry:** Renita Hernandez  
**Euclid:** Wendy Beltran/Anna Young

**Hawthorne:** Monique Gray, Dale Johnson  
**Haynes:** Robert Mariani, Leslie Miller  
**Howard:** Kelly Pawley  
**Kingsley:** Allison Borromeo, Monica Smirl  
**Lehigh:** Demecia Rios, Richard Howard  
**Lincoln:** Crystal Cuautia/Kellie Wilson, Denise Dryden  
**Mariposa:** Sendai Parker, Jeff Williams  
**Mission:** Debby Hilak, Vince DeFabiis  
**Monte Vista:** Kay Hoover, Tonya Scott  
**Montera:** Erine Ames, Kelly Cook  
**Moreno:** John Ross  
**Oaks:** Lora Dahms, Vickie Harri

**Ramona:** Trudy Cowan  
**Serrano:** Dalia Aref, Brad Holtan  
**Sultana:** Terri Caldwell, Bertha B. Fitzgerald  
**Vernon:** Isabel Santos, Diana Verdugo  
**Vina Danks:** Sally Stewart  
**Vineyard:** John Borrowman, 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/Pre-School:** Leticia Martinez