



# ADVOCATE

## Ontario-Montclair Teachers Association

November 2014

### IMPORTANT DATES

**OMTA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING**  
December 1st

**CTA/OMTA TRAINING Math Common Core Practice Standards**  
December 9th

**OMSD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING**  
December 11th

**OMTA REP COUNCIL MEETING**  
December 15th

**NON-SCHOOL DAY:**  
December 19th

**WINTER BREAK – No School:**  
December 22nd - January 2nd

**MORE DATES FOR JANUARY ON THE BACK**

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



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## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

*Amy Johnson*



It's been really nice getting to visit with you all at your schools. So far I've been to 21 schools for pizza. If I haven't visited your site yet, I will. Even though each site is very different and has its own unique culture and procedures, I have found that everyone is feeling much the same way. At almost every site I have had conversations with members about common core. The major themes that I hear are: the stress of planning and prepping, not enough time to work with colleagues, feeling like a new teacher again, not enough materials to use, too many meetings, not enough training/too much training, love the creativity we get to use, etc. I have heard from most elementary schools that you like Eureka math even though you are still figuring out how to use it and implement it. I know I have told many of you, and have written it in my newsletters often, but I want to repeat myself so that you understand what is going on with curriculum for common core. Unfortunately, the lack of materials is a state problem that the district has no control over. We will be piloting math next year and we hope will like something enough to purchase at the end of next year (for implementation in the 2016-17 school year). It seems that Language Arts is much farther away from the piloting process. The Department of Education is currently taking applications for people who would like to go to Sacramento to look at English Language Arts and ELD curriculum for state adoption. This process will begin in mid-April. I encourage you to apply to be a reviewer. Just go to the CDE website; if you need assistance, please email me and I will be happy to point you in the right direction. Take comfort in knowing that what you are finding, using, and creating for Language Arts and ELD will be useful for a long time. I know the frustration of creating lessons only to have them thrown out for something new the district mandates. This isn't going to be the case for a while in Language Arts and ELD. You can get invested in what you are doing now; you'll get to use it for some time to come. Even when we do get a curriculum you will still be able to supplement with your own materials. The curriculum we get won't be perfect. Right now with common core, it doesn't appear we are going back to the days of Reading First when we all had to be on the same page at the same time.

Not only have I been out to sites, but in the month of October the Executive Board and Organizing Team went out to sites to listen to you. One of our goals is to have better two-way communication with you. The purpose of their visits was to ascertain what direction we need to go in. They asked 3 questions at each site: what's working for you, what's a barrier for you, and how can

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# NOVEMBER ELECTION RESULTS

The election is over. Thanks very much to those of you who helped with our School Board election by writing personal messages to voters on our postcards. The postcards and mailers worked! We were able to help 3 out of 4 of our endorsed candidates get elected: Sam Crowe, Elvia Rivas, and Alfonso Sanchez. Michael Flores was also elected to a full-term seat. We look forward to working with all of our newly elected members. They will begin their term at the December 11th School Board meeting.

We sent out approximately 9,000 postcards with personal messages on them. I know this made a difference. We received postcards from 27 schools. We had 118 people who wrote 25 postcards or more. The school that wrote the most postcards and wins lunch with me (not pizza) is Vista Grande! We were able to give away twenty-five, \$25 gift cards and 30 \$5 gift cards to Starbucks for those who wrote at least 25. The following people won \$25 gift cards: Samantha Garrett, Maria Perez, Roxanne Hernandez, Janet Alexander, Ericka Ross, Shari Megaw, Tracy Taylor, Allison Borromeo, Virginia Wylie, MaryKay Scheid, Laura Martin, Christy Morgal, Helen Cieslik, Maria Martin, Trudy Cowan, Lori Michno, Dawn Falkenberg, Jacqueline Harrington, Diana Verdugo, Diane Diaz, David Moody, Elizabeth Smith, Leticia Martinez, Linda Boren, and Susan Yee. We also raffled



off an airline ticket for those who wrote at least 100 postcards, the winner of this was Terri Tucker. In addition to postcards, OMTA sent out two professional mailers, with all our endorsed candidates' names, to targeted voters. I sent out a personal letter to all 625 CTA members who live in Ontario-Montclair letting them know who the teachers supported for School Board. Again, thank you to everyone who wrote postcards, put up yard signs, and talked to others about this election. It's a group effort to make these things happen.

The election for State Superintendent of Public Instruction was a success for educators! We got Tom Torlakson elected once again.

This demonstrates to the rest of the country that California's elections cannot be bought. More than \$30 million was spent on this race (the great majority by the other candidate), which was over three times the amount spent in the 2010 Superintendent of Public Instruction election. The rest of the country is always looking to California to see what is happening because if it happens in California it will trickle down to the rest of the country. This is a victory for educators all over the country. This couldn't have happened without you. Torlakson didn't have the biggest budget and couldn't do what the other candidate did for campaigning. It was your word of mouth, social media posts, and awareness of this race that made it possible for Torlakson to win. Thank You, Thank You! 🍏

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## THE FOLLOWING IS A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF CTA, DEAN VOGEL ABOUT THE ELECTION. I WANT TO SHARE IT WITH YOU:

Dear colleagues,

We did it! The votes of educators and parents prevailed!

Our hard work to re-elect Tom Torlakson as the Superintendent of Public Instruction, as well as electing local school board members and others who support public education, paid off. We showed, once again, that when educators engage communities, we make a difference.

Tom's victory is good for our students' future and our profession. It means educators will continue to have meaningful input in implementation strategies of issues that matter most to those we teach and work with each and every day. It means that when policies are being considered, we will be a part of the discussion. Voters clearly saw through the smoke, mirrors and millions of dollars poured into this race for Marshall Tuck by a group of billionaires and millionaires, many of whom don't live in California, who were hoping to buy the Superintendent's office and push their agenda on our local schools.

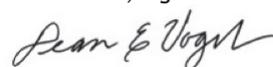
Despite spending \$12 million dollars in the final weeks of the race, voters rejected their corporate agenda of privatizing our schools, more

standardized testing and eliminating the professional rights of educators.

However, it was a bit of a mixed bag last night, as across the country and in a few legislative races here in California, some friends of public education will not get the opportunity to serve because the special interests and billionaires spent millions of dollars to push their personal political agendas.

In the end, we won because of the strength in our numbers, our passion and our commitment to California's students and communities. It's now up to us to make real change for our students, schools and colleges. We must stay on track, and continue to work together to give all students the quality education they deserve.

We did this, together!



Dean E. Vogel

# KNOW YOUR CONTRACT:

Sometimes it is confusing what to put for the reason for your absence. Here is the contract language that explains if you should be taking Personal Necessity Leave or Personal Leave. Often the maternity and paternity leave is also something many have questions on. If you need to access the full contract you can find it at [www.myomta.org](http://www.myomta.org).

## ARTICLE XII - LEAVES OF ABSENCE

### Family Illness/Personal Necessity Leave

A unit member may use up to ten (10) days of paid sick leave during each school year for the following reasons:

- a. Death of a member of the unit member's immediate family,
- b. Illness of a member of the unit member's immediate family,
- c. A serious accident involving the unit member's person or property, or the person or property of a unit member's immediate family, and/or
- d. Circumstances which are serious in nature, which cannot be expected to be disregarded, which necessitate immediate attention and cannot be dealt with during off-duty hours.

The unit member is to make every effort to comply with District procedures for securing a substitute.

Unit members shall submit notice of the need for personal necessity leave to the immediate supervisor at least two (2) days prior to the beginning date of the leave, except where extenuating circumstances make this impossible. Although the unit member will not be required to explain the specific reason if he/she does not wish to, all unit members taking the personal necessity leave must sign an affidavit which indicates whether the leave is for a, b, c, or d above and which also assures that the leave is not being used for purposes listed on the affidavit as exclusions from the intent of the leave.

### Personal Leave

- a. One of the ten (10) days of – Family Illness/Personal Necessity Leave/ listed in paragraph 2, above, may be taken for any reason personal to the unit member, except that such a day shall not be used for (1)

a work stoppage or when more than 5% of the bargaining unit is absent or expected to be absent, (2) cannot be used after the fact to substitute for an absence denied under other provisions of this section or article, and (3) is subject to advance notice requirements set forth above.

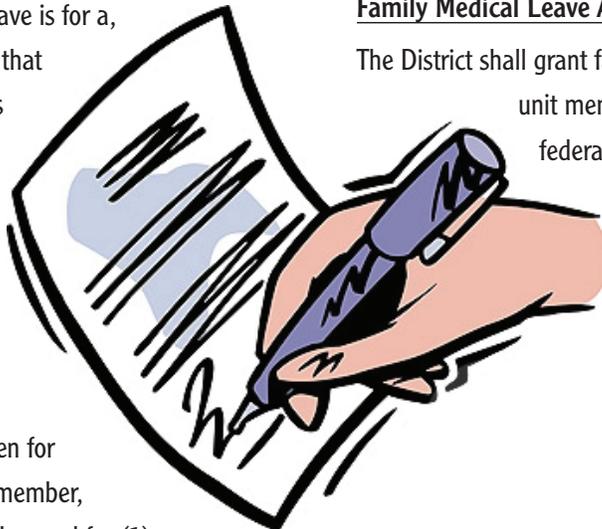
- b. Any unit member who maintains more than 24 days of accumulated sick leave as of June 30, shall be entitled to use two (2) of the ten (10) Personal Necessity Leave days for Personal Leave during the following school year.

### Maternity/Paternity Leave:

- a. Paid Portion: Sick leave (section 1 of this Article) may be utilized during the period of time a pregnant employee must be absent from duties because of disability resulting from pregnancy and/or convalescence following childbirth or miscarriage. The dates of such disability must be certified by the attending physician. All such leaves shall be in accordance with the sick leave provision of this Article.
- b. Unpaid Portion: A pregnant unit member may apply for an unpaid health leave (Section C-2 of this Article) or personal leave (Section C-3 of this Article) during pregnancy.
- c. Paternity Leave: A unit member may elect to utilize paid personal necessity leave for the birth of his child and related emergencies (see Section B-2 of this Article), and may apply for an unpaid personal leave (Section C-3 of this Article) or child-rearing leave (Section C-1 of this Article).

### Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA)

The District shall grant family care and medical leave to eligible unit members in accordance with current state and federal law. Unit members taking this leave shall be reinstated in the same or comparable position upon returning from family care leave, except as allowed by law. 🍏



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we all fix it together. I hope you took the opportunity to visit with them and share your thoughts. After getting all the notes back from these visits, we were able to spend a few hours going through each comment and putting them into different categories. We shared our summary with the reps at rep council on October 27th. I hope you have seen this document and were able to give feedback on our summary. This is the kind of information we will be using to make OMTA stronger when we bargain and relook at the LCAP each year.

Your reps should be sending you OMTA information through email and in your mailboxes after each rep council meeting at the end of the month and holding a short monthly meeting at the end of a site meeting. Please ask your rep if you are not getting information about OMTA. I try to keep you all up to date on what's going on in the district, state and country with our profession.

Your negotiating team will be going back to the table on December 1st to discuss salary and benefits for this school year and to discuss class size for next year. We will begin to work on a plan to reduce class sizes in TK-3rd grade per the state's new mandate of 24-1 by 2020. We will also be discussing what to do about the QEIA schools that already have reduced class size, since the grant is ending at the end of this year. We will keep you up to date after each bargaining session with our OMTA Bargaining Advisories. After we settle for this year with salary and benefits we will go back to the table in the spring to discuss contract language for 2015-16. At that time, we will send a bargaining survey out to you to hear from you what you would like us to be negotiating.

I hope you have a restful Thanksgiving break and get to spend much needed time with family and friends.



## IMPORTANT DATES

### OMTA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

January 5th

### OMTA HAPPY HOUR

January 9th

### CTA/OMTA TRAINING

#### Member Benefits

January 13th

### MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY

#### No School:

January 19th

### OMTA REP COUNCIL MEETING

January 26th

## OMTA OFFICERS AND OPERATIONS

**President/State Council Rep:** Amy Johnson

President@myomta.org

**1st Vice President:** Brad Richards

**2nd Vice President:** Daniel Salcido

**Secretary:** Melody Kelly

**Treasurer:** MaryKay Scheid

**CTA State Council Representatives**

Cindy Lopez Elwell, Tracy Taylor, Amy Johnson

**Service Center 1 Representatives**

Shari Megaw, Tisha Curry, Trudy Cowan,

John Egan, MaryKay Scheid

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**Elections Chair:** Erine Ames

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## OMTA REPRESENTATIVES

**Arroyo:** Karen Hirschfeld

**Berlyn:** Crystal Cook, Erik Kobulnick

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

**Buena Vista:** Michael Hatter

**Central:** Tina Foglesong, Marina Garcia-Guevara

**Corona:** Paul Leal, Julie Rafeedie

**DeAnza:** Jarred Shell

**Del Norte:** Tisha Curry, Amanda Howser

**Edison:** Janna Southworth

**El Camino:** Vacant

**Elderberry:** Kevin Dixon, Roxanne Hernandez

**Euclid:** Wendy Beltran/Anna Young

**Hawthorne:** Monique Gray, Dale Johnson

**Haynes:** Robert Mariani, Leslie Miller

**Howard:** Kelly Pawley

**Kingsley:** Allison Borromeo, Linda Bell

**Lehigh:** Demecia DeVita, Richard Howard

**Lincoln:** Kellie Wilson, Denise Dryden

**Mariposa:** Lindsay Gallagher, Rosa Ronquillo

**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 Tucker, Bertha B. Fitzgerald

**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:** Daniel Salcido

**PE/APE:** Shaun Walters

**Speech:** Susan Yee

**Health/Nurse:** Marissa Sitz

**Early Ed/Pre-School:** Leticia Martinez

**HFB/Hardy Center:** Olivia Craig