

Thursday, May 22, 2008
Provided by the Kennewick Education Association
(509) 783-6319
7403 W. Grandridge Ave.
Kennewick, WA 99336
www.kennewick-ea.org
mshaw@washingtonea.org

Disclaimer: If you have received this e-mail on a school-sponsored e-mail address or computer, do not read during work hours or print, forward, follow links or reply to this message. To contact KEA, please call 783-6319.

ROSA LABARTA SICK LEAVE SHARING REQUEST

Rosa Labarta, a second grade teacher at Eastgate, is in need of sick leave sharing. She was hospitalized for a surgical procedure earlier this month, and, as per doctor's orders is home recuperating. Any sick leave you could donate would be most appreciated.

RICH SEMLER TO VISIT KEA

From **4:00 PM to 6:30 PM, tomorrow, Friday, May 23, 2008**, Rich Semler is going to be at the KEA office speaking about his philosophy of education, the WASL, and what he thinks needs to be changed in the area of public education in Washington State. You will have an opportunity to ask questions or express concerns that have been festering. This visit was due to a request made at the April KEA Representative Assembly. Any KSD employee who wishes to attend is welcome to join the discussion. Snacks and drinks will be provided by KEA.

IN-BUILDING VACANCIES/POSTINGS

This is the time of year when the Big Shift occurs. Keep in mind that the openings that occur need to be posted in building first, as per our Certificated Bargaining Agreement. The language is:

"In-building Placement Procedure

A principal will notify the association and building staff of vacant positions within the building. Employees will notify the principal or their supervisors in writing when they become interested in transferring to a vacant position or future, potentially-vacant positions.

Prior to summer vacation, principals will remind certificated employees to make their interests in transfers known to the principal prior to leaving for vacation so they might be notified of future vacancies. When vacancies occur, the principal will notify interested staff by letter or by verbal communication.

Principals will notify the Human Resources office when they are aware of vacant positions in their building. The vacancies will be recorded on the Jobline during the summer vacation for a three-day period before any assignment is made, allowing in-building staff an opportunity to apply."

RTI TRAINING OFFERED BY WEA-SOUTHEAST

Response to Intervention Training is being offered on Saturday, June 21st from 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM. This training is sponsored by WEA-SE, and will be taught by WEA staff. The training will give an overview of the purpose, core principles and implementation of the RTI model. The training is free, but 6 clock hours will be available for \$5.00, payable the day of the training. Space is limited to 35 participants and the course is already filling up, so register quickly! WEA members can register for this training by calling WEA-Southeast at 783-6318 or by e-mailing Michelle Joy at mjoy@washingtonea.org. Deadline to register is Monday, June 16th, but it will be full before then, so don't dawdle! Lunch will be provided at no cost to members by WEA-Southeast.

SUMMER RETIREMENT WORKSHOP OPPORTUNITY

On Wednesday, June 25th, there will be a summer Investment & Retirement Planning workshop at the WEA-SE office. It will be held from 8:30 AM to 11:30 AM, and will be presented by Matt Riesenweber, Senior Financial Advisor with Waddell & Reed. WEA-SE is hoping to be able to offer clock hours through WEA for this workshop.

18TH ANNUAL SUMMER WORKSHOP FOR EDUCATORS

Do you need credits for re-certification or salary advancement purposes? Earn up to 20 quarter credits through Discoveries Workshop 18th Annual Summer Workshop for Educators (K-12). Join the growing number of educators that choose to enroll each year for this professional workshop!

WHEN: June 23-27, 2008 (Vacation conflict? Take the class through our **NEW Video Option**)
WHAT: 5 quarter credits or 50 clock hours through EWU
WHERE: Bethel Facility in Richland or in your home if you choose the Video Option
TIME: 8:00 am – 6:30 pm daily
COST: \$360 Buddy Special through June 1st (Professional Development Funds through your school district may be used for this workshop)
\$310 for clock hours
\$400 for DVD option (2005, 2006, 2007 and/or 2008 courses available at 5 quarter credits each)
TO REGISTER: Contact Kelli Templeton at 627.0740 or kellijo4him@charter.net OR visit our website at www.discoveriesworkshop.com.

PERSONAL DAY CONVERSION

If you haven't used any or all of your personal days this year, you can convert these days to per diem hours. You may convert all of the remaining days by completing the "convert" form and sending it to Kristi Parham at the Ad Bldg. The request to convert must be returned on or before the last day of school. When you have worked the hours (7.5 hours per converted day), document them on the request for payment form and send that to payroll. If you do nothing, you will have them converted for you at a 2:1 ratio, a 50% loss. These hours can be used just as any per diem hours are used. Remember to keep copies!

SURVEY ON PERFORMANCE PAY

In the next week or two, WEA will be surveying a random sample of certificated WEA members regarding performance pay. WEA wants to know members' opinions of various performance pay proposals seen in national publications on teacher compensation. When you are asked to give your opinion, please don't hold back 😊

DEADLINES FOR PAPERWORK IN THE KSD

Individual Professional Development \$250 – due the first day after Memorial Day Weekend or May 27th. These forms must be completed and submitted to Bev Henderson at KSD no later than this date.

Personal Leave Conversion to Per Diem Hours – Personal leave days (1 – 3) may be converted to Per Diem Hours by the last day of school. These forms are available from building secretaries. The first form, the Request form, must be sent to the personnel or HR department in the Administration Building. The second form, the documentation form, must be sent directly to payroll in the Administration Building. The documentation is for work completed for every converted hour. The reason this is necessary is for auditing; there can not be a gift of public funds so proof of work must accompany additional salary.

RECERTIFICATION

KSD has notified members whose certificates will expire on June 30. Those contacted need to make certain they have all the requirements submitted and the information is also sent to KSD. Expired certificates are costly and members have actually been kept from teaching classes in the fall until new certificates have been verified. Teachers with expired certificates have to be fingerprinted again and those reports from the State Patrol take 8 to 12 weeks. That is a lengthy amount of time to be absent from one's classroom and without salary.

AMBER ALERT

This is really an FYI...I checked with Ron Cone, our technology guru, about it and asked if a bona fide Amber Alert would have come out of the KSD Briefings and he assured me that it would.

DATES

May 23	Rich Semler visits KEA
May 27	KEA RA – last one of the year
May 27	Deadline to submit Individual Professional Development Reimbursement Form

HAVE A GREAT WEEKEND

Mary and Marsha

Friday, May 16, 2008
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RICH SEMLER TO VISIT KEA

On Friday, May 23, 2008, Dr. Rich Semler, candidate for Superintendent of Public Instruction, will be at the KEA office from 4:30 PM to 6:00 PM to speak to members of KEA. At our last Rep Assembly several members requested that KEA set up a meeting with him so they could ask him questions about how he plans to change things at OSPI and find out his stance on many of the issues concerning public education. We will be meeting downstairs, but if the crowd gets too large, we will spill out into the patio out back. The primary election is going to be held this coming August, and, if Dr. Semler get enough votes, the race will be decided at that time. If you are so inclined, please give some thought to helping Dr. Semler unseat the current Supt. of Public Instruction.

KEA AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS

The KEA Scholarship Committee reviewed many deserving applications and the following students were awarded \$500 KEA scholarships for 2008-09:

Kelsie Duncan	Daughter of Robin (Ridgeview) & Keith (KaHS)
Sarah Morrison-Smith	Daughter of Sharon (KaHS)
Lauren Otheim	Daughter of Eric (Desert Hills)
Ryan Schauble	Son of Cheryl and Al (SRHS)
Brandy Sonderland	Daughter of Carol (Sunset View)
Drew Warner	Son of Debra Lapierre-Warner (Amistad)
Matthew Wimett	Son of Denise (Canyon View)

The Bob Mars Scholarship, also in the amount of \$500, went to Austin Thomas of SRHS. Austin was nominated by Jan Fraley, counselor at Southridge. Many thanks to the members of the Scholarship Committee for their time and expertise in reviewing the applications.

DID YOU GET A RIF LETTER?

Did you receive a RIF (Reduction in Force) letter? If so, you need to contact KEA immediately. Layoff letters should be received by May 15th, so if you haven't received one by this Thursday, you shouldn't be getting one at all.

“WHEREAS” LETTER

As a result of the OSPI Temperature Check, a letter was written explaining how Kennewick teachers felt about the current leadership at OSPI. The survey results indicated Kennewick teachers would like Terry Bergeson to be open and honest in how the facts are reported RE: the WASL, and then they would like new leadership at the helm of OSPI. Attached to this edition of Quick Notes is a copy of the letter that was written and sent to WEA that expressed those opinions.

DATES

May 15-17	WEA Representative Assembly
May 20	KEA Executive Board
May 23	Rich Semler visits KEA

May 27 KEA RA – last one of the year
May 27 Deadline to submit Individual Professional Development Reimbursement Form

HAVE A GREAT WEEKEND

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Friday Quick Notes: Friday, May 2, 2008
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SICK LEAVE SHARING REQUESTED

Marion Halupczok, a longtime Kennewick teacher, is in need of sick leave sharing due to ongoing cancer treatments. She is currently at Kadlec Hospital (Room 432) recovering from recent surgery, one of several she has had, and would appreciate any sick leave that you're able to share. Cards are also most welcome to help boost her spirits, but please call before you make a visit.

NEA CHOIR

Ron Pasma, one of the KEA members who will be attending NEA-RA in Washington, D.C., this summer, has been chosen to represent the Washington Education Association in the NEA choir. A call went out a week ago asking local presidents to nominate musically inclined members who would be attending the national Representative Assembly for this honor, and, as luck would have it, one of our members who will be attending just happens to be a very talented musician. How could I not nominate him? One member representing each state will comprise the NEA Choir and will perform in front of the entire delegation on July 4th.

TEACHER APPRECIATION IS THIS WEEK

The week of May 5, 2008, through May 9, 2008, has been declared National Teacher Appreciation Week. Although KEA is not holding a Teacher Appreciation Gala as we have done the past two years, we honor the hard work that you do each and every day to help make students successful. You all are the true magicians of this world ☺

SCHOOL NURSE DAY IS WEDNESDAY MAY 7th

As well as being Teacher Appreciation Week, Wednesday May 7th, is National School Nurse Day. Remember to thank the nurses for the expert and professional care they give students. They also do screenings each year, create Individual Health Plans for many students, trouble shoot health problems, are on call for all their buildings, and help adults as well as students.

ESA EXPERIENCE

If you are an ESA certificated staff (nurses, OTs, SLPs, etc.), you should have recently been contacted by Rhonda Elvbakken regarding your eligibility to have up to two years private experience count toward advancement on the salary schedule. If you already have 16+ years in the educational system, your private experience will not be a factor because you are at the top of the pay scale in terms of experience. If this new law applies to you, make sure you return the form to Rhonda c/o Personnel in the Administration Building.

JOB POSTINGS

Job postings for next fall are beginning to show up with some frequency. If you think you want to make a change for next year, start reading the postings often. Some jobs are posted only for a short time, and disappear fairly quickly. Job openings are to be posted

in-building first, and then if no one in building is interested, they are posted in-district. Remember that to transfer to a different position, qualifications are considered before seniority. If you believe a posting has been written incorrectly, or that the timelines are not being followed, contact KEA and we can look into it.

TUITION REIMBURSEMENT

There is still money remaining in the bargained Tuition Reimbursement fund. Teachers can receive up to, but no more than, \$75 per quarter credit, up to a total of 10 credits (\$750 annually), based on guidelines in the CBA, which include:

- ~ College credits necessary to maintain an endorsement or certification
- ~ Retrain or recertify employees whose departments have declining enrollment or employees who need assistance to recertify
- ~ Employees who are assigned outside their endorsement(s)
- ~ For credits earned in an accredited master's degree program

This fund may also be used to reimburse employees for the cost of one Praxis test annually. Tuition reimbursement funds may not be used to reimburse employees for clock hours.

DEADLINES FOR PAPERWORK IN THE KSD

Individual Professional Development \$250 – Forms are due Tuesday following Memorial Day, on May 27th. These forms must be completed and submitted to Bev Henderson at KSD no later than this date. If you are wondering whether or not it will get to the Ad Bldg in time via the pony, drive it down yourself.

Personal Leave Conversion to Per Diem Hours – Personal leave days (1 – 3) may be converted to Per Diem Hours by the last day of school. This form is available on KEA's website (www.kennewick-ea.org), but it's also attached to this edition of QN. As with any important document, make a copy of it prior to submitting it to the district office.

RECERTIFICATION

If your certificate will expire on June 30 you need to start the recertification process immediately – or last month! Expired certificates are costly and members will be kept from teaching classes in the fall until new certificates have been verified. Teachers with expired certificates have to be fingerprinted again and those reports from the State Patrol take 8 to 12 weeks. That is a considerable amount of time to be absent from one's classroom and without salary, not to mention the loss of time that counts toward your retirement.

DATES

May 5-9	Teacher Appreciation Week
May 7	School Nurses Day
May 15-17	WEA Representative Assembly
May 20	KEA Executive Board
May 27	KEA RA – last one of the year
May 27	Deadline to submit Individual Professional Development Reimbursement Form

HAVE A GREAT WEEKEND

Mary and Marsha