

NORTHSHORE NEWS

February, 2006

NORTHSHORE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

Issue 6



NSEA Calendar

February 2006

- ◆ February 20th: President's Day
- ◆ February 21st-February 24th:
Mid-Winter Break NSEA Office
Closed

March 2006

- ◆ March 6th: Exec Board Meeting,
4:00-6:00 pm NSEA Office
- ◆ March 13th: Rep Council Meeting,
4:00-5:30 pm BHS Library
- ◆ March 20th: Non-Student Day
- ◆ March 23rd-March 25th: WEA Rep
Assembly Tacoma

April 2006

- ◆ April 3rd: Exec Board Meeting, 4:00-
6:00 pm NSEA Office
- ◆ April 7th: Non-Student Day
- ◆ April 10th-April 14th: Spring Break
NSEA Office Closed
- ◆ April 17th: Tax Day
- ◆ April 17th: Rep Council Meeting,
4:00-5:30 pm BHS Library



Bond/Levy Success!

Northshore voters showed their support for the district by passing Northshore's bond and levies. Passage of all three measures provides critical funding for our schools.

Thank you to all the NSEA members who volunteered to call parents to remind them to vote in Northshore's bond/levy election. Over 300 of the 430 volunteers were NSEA members—quite impressive! Thanks for donating your time in support of this extremely important vote.

President's Message

I hope this finds you all well and looking forward to mid-winter break! I will be attending my mother's 90th birthday party and spending time with my brothers and sisters in Portland. We are so happy that my mom is feeling a little better and that we will all be together for the first time in several years. This will be the best present we can give our mother on what will probably be her last birthday.

I would like to personally thank all of the members who volunteered to call reminding voters to vote in the bond/levy election. I would also like to thank my administrative assistant, Lydia King for her work organizing the calls. I heard many positive comments from members concerning the organization of materials and how easy the calling went. It appears all three measures will both pass and validate! Our passage rate was a bit lower following the recent trend as more voters go to using the absentee ballot option. The passage of these measures was crucial to future funding of our education system in Northshore.

On Thursday, February 9th, I was the keynote speaker in Olympia for the Legislative Breakfast hosted by the Common Ground Organization. This organization is comprised of association leaders and superintendents of the Marysville, Everett, Mukilteo, Snohomish, Shoreline, and Northshore school districts. Our theme was the need to create a sustainable, stable, and increased revenue flow for schools in Washington state. We are keeping up the pressure on legislators to fully fund voter approved education initiatives passed in prior years (I-728 and I-732), special education programs, and schools in general.

The upcoming off-year elections will be crucial to the future of education in Washington state. For WEA to have an effective voice and influence in these elections it is going to take money.

WEA has set a goal for all locals to have at least 20% of our members contribute to WEA-PAC. This is the political action arm of the WEA. Your dues contributions cannot be used for political action. A special separate contribution must be made for these kinds of activities. Northshore needs 247 members to be WEA-PAC contributors to reach this goal. Currently we have 155 members who are WEA-PAC contributors. This breaks down to each building needing to get only three more members to join. Please become a WEA-PAC contributor as we gear up for the next election year! You can see your building rep or call our office to get the paperwork to join WEA-PAC today!

Bargaining work is beginning in earnest. Our study of the activity/department head stipend schedule is complete, the bargaining committee has met twice and their next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 15th, from 4:00-6:00 in the Canyon Park Junior High Library, and our bargaining survey committee has completed their work. This survey will be coming out in the near future. If you would like to get involved in bargaining, please feel free to attend our next meeting.

Have a relaxing and safe mid-winter vacation!

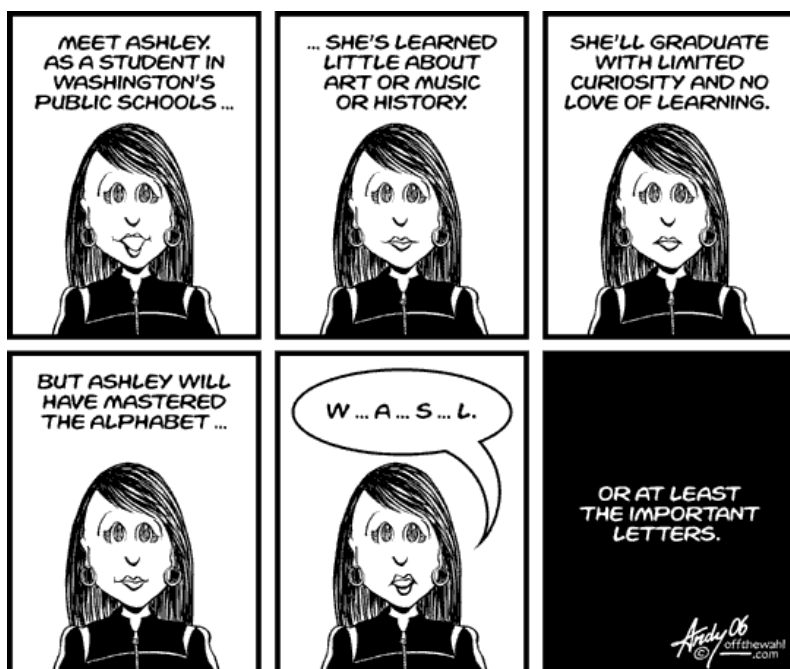
Tim

Why Should I Join WEA-PAC?

- ALL of Washington state's House of Representative seats are up for election this fall.
- Half of all Washington's State Senate seats will be up for election this fall.
- A CRUCIAL State Supreme Court seat will be up for election this fall that could tip the scales AGAINST public education in future legal decisions. The LAST State Supreme Court race resulted in the election of a former EFF staffer who raised \$410,000 for his campaign and won!
- WEA-PAC's coffers ~ after being completely emptied in the fall 2004 election ~ are now up to about \$250,000. This is less than ONE TENTH of the amount of money WEA raised at the height of its political fundraising in the early 1990s. We can do better!
- Two anti-education initiatives are ALREADY in the process of being placed on the ballot for this fall's election.

If you think your life as an educator isn't affected by politics, think again. You can support education issues in Olympia with as little as a \$20 membership. Contact your Building Rep right away for a WEA-PAC enrollment form and let's get NSEA up to 20% membership this year!





Take the Lead

It's time to take the lead

After two decades of steady and widespread decline in education funding, our schools have fallen behind in areas that hurt most – class size, spending per student and employee compensation.

Despite your continued commitment, energy and passion we can't "make-do" forever. At some point we'll fall too far behind to ever catch up. And, that, of course, is wholly unacceptable.

The numbers are shocking:



Take the lead.

Restoring Washington's Commitment to Great Public Schools

At the 2005 Representative Assembly delegates committed to a long-term effort to permanently increase funding for Washington's schools. With any effort of this magnitude it takes extensive time and planning to set a course of action in place. Resources are allocated, people are assigned, plans are forming and we are now moving forward with an effort we're calling **Take the lead**. *Restoring Washington's Commitment to Great Public Schools*.

Take the lead will campaign for a solution at a whole new level – not fighting for incremental changes or focusing on specific budget items. We need to fix the system and find a wholesale, permanent and sustainable funding solution to catch up to the nation's leading states.

Take the lead will challenge the governor, the Legislature, local elected officials, policymakers, opinion leaders, parents, taxpayers and citizens to join us in new thinking to bring school funding back to the level our children deserve.

Take the lead will encourage all of you to be the campaign's leading edge. It's your stories and voices that have the greatest influence on making others aware of the funding crisis on our children's future and of the potential to make our schools great again.

Take the lead begins with you. You'll soon receive a special publication in the mail that further defines the funding crisis in Washington. It features members, just like you, telling their stories about how the startling statistics impact their everyday lives. We encourage you to read and hold on to that publication, send in your personal story and get ready to join your colleagues in changing those startling statistics. Together, we can **Take the lead**.

Source: Washington Education Association

Classifieds



For Sale: 1970 Ford Mustang, 302 HP coupe Orange exterior, white interior, one family owner, runs well, exterior and interior need some work. \$5500. Call Tina Greener at 425-814-1478.

Should I Be Worried that I'm NOT Highly Qualified?

Ever since "No Child Left Behind" came into existence, WEA and OSPI have been working with the federal government to make sure Washington's teachers are considered "highly qualified." At first, it appeared that a satisfactory evaluation in any subject taught would qualify teachers as "highly qualified." Later, the federal government required a "HOUSSE" evaluation that would indicate "highly qualified" status. Lately, though, the federal government has increased their requirements and WEA and OSPI staff are currently negotiating a process that will satisfy all parties.

Teachers will receive more information about the latest process sometime this spring, and as soon as NSEA receives word on the new requirements, we will make sure our members are informed as quickly and thoroughly as possible. In the meantime, hang in there and stay tuned. We're ready to help.

Northshore News is a publication of the Northshore Education Association. NSEA is the bargaining agent of the certificated staff of the Northshore School District.

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Bargaining Survey

NSEA has a full-open contract this year and bargainers want to know what **YOU** think is important. So, watch your school mailbox in March for the Bargaining Survey and make sure your voice is heard in upcoming contract negotiations.