

NORTHSHORE NEWS

October, 2006

NORTHSHORE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

Issue 2



NSEA Calendar

October 2006

- ◆ **October 9th:** Rep Council Meeting, 4:00-6:00 pm BHS Library
- ◆ **October 13th & 16th:** Non-Student Days
- ◆ **October 14th:** Doorbelling for Eric Oemig, 9:30 am Juanita Country Club *Contact the NSEA Office to volunteer!*
- ◆ **October 23rd:** Principals' Dinner, 5:00-7:00 pm Courtyard Hall
- ◆ **October 29th:** Daylight Savings Time Ends—Change your clocks!
- ◆ **October 31st:** Happy Halloween!

November 2006

- ◆ **November 6th:** Exec Board Meeting, 4:00-6:00 pm NSEA Office
- ◆ **November 7th:** Election Day
- ◆ **November 10th:** Non-Student Day
- ◆ **November 11th:** Veteran's Day
- ◆ **November 13th:** Rep Council Meeting, 4:00-6:00 pm BHS Library
- ◆ **November 16th-22nd:** Elementary Early Dismissal—Parent/Teacher Conferences
- ◆ **November 23rd & 24th:** No School Thanksgiving Break

December 2006

- ◆ **December 4th:** Exec Board Meeting, 4:00-6:00 pm NSEA Office
- ◆ **December 11th:** Rep Council Meeting, 4:00-6:00 pm BHS Library
- ◆ **December 18th-January 1st:** Winter Break

CEA Amounts

This year, \$241.51 will be added to your Individual Continuing Education Account (CEA). Remember: CEA funds can now be used for sub costs to cover time spent for peer observation and collaboration. Refer to pg. 94 of your contract for more information.

President's Message

It is hard to believe that an entire month of the school year has already passed. Time does fly when things are busy and that has certainly been the case! In mid-September NSEA held both a **Building Rep Retreat** and **New Hire Dinner**. It is always exciting to meet new members and experience their excitement as they begin their new adventures.

Also in September **Washington Learns** released its preliminary report and held subsequent public hearings around the state. NSEA Exec Board members and teachers were joined by Dick Anastasi and John Bond from the central office, BZ Davis and Janet Quinn from the school board, and PTA leaders as we testified at both South Seattle Community College and in Mount Vernon. Our message was the same: we can't continue to do the job we do and meet the targeted improvements if funding does not increase. The days of making things stretch to cover costs and cutting corners are over. We need stable and increased funding NOW!

This month, the WEA **Take the Lead** Campaign held public talks about the funding crisis facing public education. NSEA leadership, Exec Board members, and teachers traveled to Everett to participate in these talks. Our focus is to educate the public about the problems we experience daily. Bothell High's **Patrick Holmes** will act as the Take the Lead Coordinator for NSEA. We are looking for four more members to join the team. This is a great opportunity to change the future of public education in Washington state. Call us to get involved.



Take the lead.

Restoring Washington's Commitment to Great Public Schools

The **Enrollment Balancing** Committee released their proposal in September. Public input will be taken through the beginning of November. If you care to make comment or give feedback about the proposal please do so in writing to the school board. This is currently a proposal, and I expect the board will make some modifications before final approval.

On a final note, I want to encourage you to take some time to enjoy the season. The leaves are changing and there are a lot of activities going on outside of the classroom!

WEA-PAC Candidate Recommendations

Elections are less than a month away, and it is often difficult to know where local candidates stand on important issues like education.

Members of WEA's Political Action Committee (WEA-PAC) interviewed candidates to better understand their stance on school funding, the WASL, and other issues that impact public education. WEA-PAC's recommendations are available at www.washingtonea.org/vote. Log in with the user name **WEA** and the password **vote4schools**.

This website is intended for use by members only. Please visit this site from your home computer. Since it is political in nature, you **may not** access it from your school computer.

To join WEA-PAC, please ask your building rep for a form. NSEA's WEA-PAC drive will be in full swing soon and our goal is to have 220 WEA-PAC members this year. With your help we can do it!

What's Your Number?

Your numbers tell a powerful story. They show how inadequate school funding impacts teachers, students, and the classroom. As part of our efforts with the **Take the Lead** campaign, we will highlight your "What's My Number" stories throughout the year. Here are a few numbers from your fellow NSEA members:

87 The number of seconds I can spend on individualized attention for each student in my Junior High math class.

80 The amount of uncompensated hours I spend each month to prepare curricular materials the District cannot provide.

10 The number of ELL students I have this year without any support.

What's your number? Send your story to the NSEA Office to share with your fellow members in our newsletter.

Talking With Parents is "Crucial"

Last year's Building Reps spent several months studying the book *Crucial Conversations: Skills for Talking When Stakes Are High* by Kerry Patterson, et. al. and gave rave reviews of the book's usefulness in their lives and in their classrooms.

The authors define a "crucial conversation" as one in which:

- Opinions vary
- Stakes are high
- Emotions are strong

Parent meetings and conferences often contain all three elements of a "crucial conversation." Here are some the author's basic ideas for making parent interaction useful and productive.

Make it Safe - If all parties don't feel comfortable, take the time get create a safe environment and *then* try to address the issues.

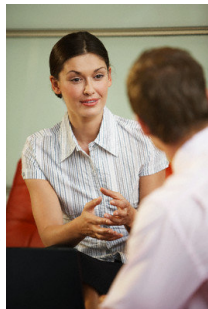
Share Your Facts - Facts are the least insulting information.

Tell Your Story and Ask for Theirs - The best decisions are made when the "shared pool of meaning" is as deep as possible.

Don't Get Trapped into a "Sucker's Choice" - substitute the word "but" with "and". (Ex: *Is it possible for Jim to play sports AND get his homework in on time?*)

Talk Tentatively - Don't assume you know the entire situation. Be willing to explore.

These are more techniques are thoroughly covered in the book and on the Vital Smarts website: www.crucialconversations.com.



Classifieds

HOUSE FOR SALE: Prime Northshore location! Not only within a great district but close to freeway & Costco! This 3 bdrm + den, 2.5 baths, 2030 sq.ft., split level home sits on over a 1/2 acre of privacy in the Canyon Park area. Nicely updated and VERY well maintained. To appreciate, please call Gerry Eagle/ReMax @ 206-226-3245 to view. \$456,900.

BUNK BED FOR SALE: Bright red metal frame bunk bed. Double on bottom, single on top. Great for kid's room. Also have mattresses and bedspreads. Call Pam at 425-778-4265.

MAPLE DRESSERS FOR SALE: Matched set of antique bird's eye maple dresser drawers. One tall, one low. Anxious to sell. Call Pam at 425-778-4265.

LEARNING OPPORTUNITY: *Teaching About Global and Local Conflict in the Classroom: Using Central America as an Example*, a workshop offered through the World Affairs Council, is scheduled for Monday October 23rd from 4:00-7:00 pm at the NSD Admin Center. If interested, visit the calendar section of www.world-affairs.org for registration and workshop information.

WEA & NEA Reps Needed!

We are now accepting nominations for the WEA and NEA Rep Assemblies. **All NSEA members are eligible to act as reps for these events.**

WEA-RA is scheduled for March 29-31 in Tacoma. Philadelphia will host this year's NEA-RA from June 30 to July 5. NSEA will pay for your expenses and sub costs if you are elected.

See your building rep or contact the NSEA office for more information.

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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Personal Property Forms

If you keep any personal items at school, you should complete a personal property registration form. A completed registration form must be on file prior to making a claim to the District in the event of theft or other property damage. You can be reimbursed for a maximum of \$300, and you cannot make any claims for unregistered items. See your building rep for a form today.