

ADVOMTACATE



ONTARIO-MONTCLAIR TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

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AUGUST 2007

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TEST SCORES RISE DRAMATICALLY IN OMSD

Based on preliminary results it appears that test scores in OMTA rose dramatically in the '06 - '07 school year. OMTA wants to recognize the hard work that teachers all over the district put in to make this possible. Teachers are working harder than ever before and it's nice to see that hard work pay off with improved results.

Two accomplishments in particular are worthy of recognition. First, Edison school is the first, and so far only, school in the district to achieve the state target of 800. The results are preliminary, and subject to change by the state, but it appears they will have an API of 810. The other accomplishment is that Lehigh school has successfully exited Program Improvement status by making their AYP this year. A big congratulations to the teachers at both those sites for their very significant achievements.

The number of schools making their AYP was 15, up from 7 in '05 - '06. Those schools are:

Central	Corona
Del Norte	Edison
El Camino	Elderberry
Howard	Kingsley
Lehigh	Lincoln
Monte Vista	Moreno
Sultana	Ramona
Vista Grande	

Three of these schools were in year 4 of program improvement, three more were in year 3, and one was in year 1. Having eight schools on program improvement make their AYP is a very significant achievement. Almost every other school in the district made gains last year. OMTA says congratulations to all teachers in the district for their hard work with OMSD kids and to the district for the vision and support that made it possible. Your achievements are something to be proud of and to celebrate.

MEET YOUR OMTA BARGAINING TEAM

The OMTA bargaining team consists of the following 14 teachers. Returning to the team this year are Judith Moorhead, chair, Mariposa; Mike Weilein, DeAnza; Denise Free, IRSP from Linda Vista, Lincoln, and CPAT, Sue Frazee, Serrano, Shari Megaw, Serrano; Benjamin Fudge, Elderberry; and Bruce Sarver, Oaks. New to the team this year are Donny Brubaker, Vina Danks; Brad Richards, Kingsley; Chris Scoleri, El Camino; MaryKay Scheid, Vernon; Pat Hawkins, Mission; Allen Morales, Vineyard; and Kimberly Guicharnaud, Oaks.

**FROM
YOUR
PRESIDENT**
Rick McClure

I hope everyone has had a relaxing break this summer and has returned to work refreshed and ready for a new year. As I came back in the beginning of August, I was given good news about great test scores from almost all of our schools for last year. Having 15 schools make their AYP was great news indeed. But even more important than that is the fact that almost every school continues to improve. I said it in another part of this newsletter, but it bears repeating, congratulations to everyone for the hard work.

In July, along with 10 other OMTA members, I attended the NEA Representative Assembly in Philadelphia. Those 10 members were Shari Megaw, Mike Weilein, Judy Jacobs, Fred Young, Leticia Martinez, Lisa Elliot, MaryKay Scheid, Amy Thompson, Melody Kelly and Kandace Kendrick. The most important business of the convention was the reauthorization of ESEA (Elementary and Secondary Education Act), otherwise known as NCLB. NEA has been lobbying Congress about this ever since it originally passed six years ago and is working hard for some common sense changes in it. There is reason to be hopeful that there will be meaningful changes made in the areas of testing, highly qualified teachers, and testing of special education and EL students. These are all areas that have tremendous impact on us here in OMSD and there is a good chance that some changes will be made. These would be changes that recognize some of the rules currently in place make no sense and there are areas where we can improve the rules to make things better for kids too. You can expect that OMTA will keep you posted on how things are progressing here, as well as telling you what you can do to help. A unified message from educators across the country is important. Rest assured that NEA and CTA consider the reauthorization of this law to be the most important thing they are working on.

OMTA, CSEA, and the district just finished two days of bargaining training as I write this. We do this every three years when we get ready to start bargaining a new master contract. Using interest based bargaining requires that we train together as well. There were about 30 of us altogether spending time building our knowledge of the process and getting to know each other better in order to work more effectively together. OMTA is looking forward to working with the district on improving our contract for teachers and the district.

Last year, I visited almost all of the schools here in OMSD. I plan to continue that this year. I can't tell you how valuable it was to me to be able to talk with you at your schools and hear first hand what your concerns and problems are. My most important job is representing all of you to the district; hearing directly from you helps me to do a better job of that. Don't, though, wait for me to come to your school if you have something you think I need to know, or a problem that needs attention. Please call or email and let me know what's on your mind.

KNOW YOUR CONTRACT – PAID LEAVE

According to contract, there are a number of reasons a person can take a paid leave of absence, but the most common are: Sick/Disability Leave, Personal Necessity Leave, and Personal Leave. All three of these leaves are deducted from a person's accumulated sick leave.

Everyone accumulates sick leave at the rate of 1 day for every 18 days of work. For most of us, that amounts to 10 days per year (if you work 208 days or more it would be 11). Any days not used during the year can be accumulated and carried over to the following year.

Sick/Disability Leave is to be used for your own personal illness. A person can use all of his/her accumulated sick leave for this. If your illness runs longer than your accumulated sick leave, you are then entitled to up to 5 months of differential pay, which is your daily rate minus the amount paid your sub (or in the event no sub was paid, what they would have been paid).

Personal Necessity Leave is to be used for the following reasons: 1) Death of a member of the unit member's immediate family (this would be after Bereavement Leave has been exhausted), 2) Illness of a member of the unit member's immediate family, 3) A serious accident involving the unit member's person or property, or the person or

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MEET EUCLID SCHOOL!

BY MELODY KELLY

This month we're featuring Euclid School, another OMSD site that does "Whatever It Takes" to lead students to success. Euclid is a model of ongoing collaboration where parents, staff, and leadership are united by their focus on student growth. Euclid can boast they were number two in the district last year for attendance, at 97%.

Outreach Consultant Aaron Olive shared a snapshot of the HOME OF THE JAGUARS: "Parents are anxious to begin planning for Euclid's "Peacebuilders Fair" this fall. It will include a dance group and community groups." Peacebuilders is an incentive based character building program. Peacebuilder activities have included luncheons with drawings for prizes and performing at the EXPO. Olive says Euclid has excellent parent involvement. Each day parents are working in the resource room. They are involved in fundraising and are always asking how they can help their kids. Last year sixty Euclid parents completed parent education classes held at the site. Topics included how the reading program works, fluency goals, and how to support students in the classroom. Currently, parents are signing up for "Active Parenting" workshops sponsored by the Family Solutions Collaborative. These sessions are held on Thursdays from 8:30-10:00 a.m.

Parents and students are also supported by the after school program providers, "Think Together." The after school instructors get reports from teachers as to what students should be working on, including Lexia Phonics.

Olive shared several ways teachers go above and beyond.

For example, the Second Grade Team uses Summary of Assessments, a parent friendly tool to facilitate the explanation of student performance. Olive explained, "Recently several teachers had the opportunity to attend "Thinking Maps" training. They returned and quickly shared the training with their colleagues. After just a week of school, evidence of Thinking Maps can be seen in every classroom, and the students know the language of the maps. When something that is proven effective for instruction comes along, our teachers embrace best practices and make them work. Their focus is how we can better help the students."

Aaron Olive credits the leadership in supporting the efforts of the staff. "Our reading coach, Monica Ibarra Ayala, is awesome! She is in classrooms working with teachers, creating materials, and doing whatever she can to be of assistance. Our ETS consultant was excellent and had a good rapport with the staff. Our principal, Rhonda Cleland, supports teachers with subs for Structured Teacher Planning Time and assessment days. She also gave the staff the opportunity to learn from Rick Smith about classroom management and from Homeboy Industries about gang prevention."

It is difficult to count how many times Aaron Olive used the word "awesome" to describe teacher efforts in providing a quality program. "Our teachers are always here until after five or six o'clock and on Saturdays." While leaving the building before six we met our very own OMTA Site Rep, Leticia Montes, with her hands full. "I told you," Olive said with pride, "These teachers work hard!"

HAVE STUDENTS WRITE TO SERVICEMEN

Need a writing idea for your class? OMTA office manager Cindy Newey has two sons serving in Iraq. They tell her nothing lifts our servicemen's spirits more than letters from kids. For more information call Cindy at 986-2414.

OMTA REPRESENTATIVES

Arroyo: Karen Hirschfield
Berlyn: Crystal Cook, Erik Kobulinik
Bon View: Sally Field, Angela Pratt
Buena Vista: Jessica Gagnon
Central: Marina Guevara
Corona: Paul Leal
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Kingsley: Brad Richards
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Lincoln: Susan Hardisty, Tonine Wilson
Linda Vista: Elsa DeShazo
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Mission: Patricia Hawkins, Nick Zajicek
Monte Vista: Victor Avila, Karen Norquist
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Serrano: Dana Cox,
Sultana: Lee Hager, Amy Tompkins
Vernon: Robert Armijo,
Stephanie Hibbard
Vina Danks: Donald Brubaker, Steve Loy
Vineyard: Lesia Beasom, Lucy Kopaz
Vista Grande: Helen Cieslik
Wiltsey: Ken Aven, Linda Boren
Music/PE/APE: David Moody
Speech: Susan Yee
Health/Nurse: Denise Mick
Early Ed Center: Leticia Martinez
Hardy Center: Charise Santana
HFB: Linda Nelson

OMTA IS SELLING L.A. COUNTY FAIR TICKETS

Going to the county fair? If so, call the OMTA office for discounted tickets:
Adult Admission good for anyday - \$9.00
Child 6 - 12 good for anyday - \$5.00
Call Cindy Newey at the OMTA office
(909)986-1414
417 West E St.
Ontario, CA 91762

property of a unit member's immediate family, and/or, 4) 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.

You are expected to submit notice of need for personal necessity leave two days prior to the leave except where extenuating circumstances make that impossible. There is also a form that must be completed that requests you state the reason for the leave. Stating reason 1, 2, 3, or 4 is sufficient. You do not have to provide any details unless you desire to. Each unit member may use up to seven sick days a year for Personal Necessity Leave.

Out of the seven days of Personal Necessity, you may also take one day for personal reasons (two days, if you have more than 24 accumulated sick days), except that you may not use it for a work stoppage (strike) or when more than 5% of the bargaining unit is expected to be absent (only the district can make that determination, not a site administrator). Personal Leave also may not be used after the fact to substitute for an absence denied under other provisions of the contract, and are subject to advance notice requirements.

When you are out on a sick, personal necessity, or personal leave you will continue to be paid your full salary and benefits. Accumulated sick leave can also be transferred to other California school districts if you ever change districts, and can be converted to retirement credit when you retire.

OMTA Executive Board Meeting
September 3rd at 3:45pm

OMTA Rep Council Meeting
September 24th at 3:45pm

OMSD School Board Meeting
September 6th & 20th - 7:00pm at
Central School

OMTA OFFICERS AND OPERATIONS

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