

OREGON CITY EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

WWW.ORECITYEA.ORG

Listening Campaign Begins Your Input Sought

OCEA will be listening to members in a variety of ways as we head into negotiating a new contract this Spring. The Listening Campaign, with volunteers interviewing as many OCEA members as possible, is beginning the last week of March. We may not get to every building because of time constraints, so the OCEA Bargaining Team will also launch an online bargaining survey. In addition, the OCEA building reps have been sharing issues with the OCEA Rep. Council at the monthly meetings. We will share and use the information gathered to help inform our bargaining efforts, our relevance to members, and build capacity as an association.

A general membership meeting was recently held to provide a face-to-face opportunity for members to listen to the pre-bargaining information and share their issues with our Leadership team. (Minutes from the meeting are on the website and OCEA wiki)

Questions to ponder:

1. When thinking about your job, school, and OCSD, what's going well?
2. What are the challenges you face in those three arenas or your priorities for PD?
3. Are there ways that your colleagues in OCEA Leadership could support you?
4. In your school, who do you trust/listen to/respect the most?

Some of you may feel that there is no point to sharing your thoughts. I challenge you to be part of the process and help us help you. Please be available and willing to share your answers to these questions. We cannot advocate for our members appropriately if we don't really know what you are thinking. It is vital that we share your voice going forward. If we want something different for our school, district, students, or ourselves, we have to take the time to create the change we want. Thank you in advance for your participation and encouragement. Our team looks forward to meeting many of you and helping your voice be heard.

Message from the President

Next year will be upon us before we know it. Please take a few minutes to reflect on how your year is going. Now is the time to be proactive and make suggestions if you don't agree with whatever might be happening while plans for next year are being formulated. Judging or being reactive in the face of what may be going on can undermine efforts to help guide things in a better direction. Be cognizant of decisions that are being made in your building as there are likely things that are working along side those you would like to see changed. Be sure to contact your administrator, building rep., team leader, or someone on Exec. if you have suggestions. It is our responsibility to stay informed and engaged. Let's say you like certain types of schedules or anything your building is currently doing, encourage your administrator to continue in that direction. Please be proactive and part of the process so we can avoid having to be reactive later. I hope you have a restful & rejuvenating Spring Break.

–Cindy Williams

– Phone: 7838 Email: cindy.williams@orecity.k12.or.us

A Better Oregon Campaign Continues

As you know OEA and its partners have been signature gathering for a ballot initiative. Initiative Petition 28 funds education, health care, senior services will be on the ballot in Nov 2016. We need your help to make this happen! Please show your support by: spreading the word, signing the petition, circulating a petition to your family, friends, neighbors and co-workers. For ways to get involved, contact Dillon Daniel-Hoffman at OCSLA or Alex Foz @ Gardiner or check the OEA Website at www.oregoned.org

Fellow Educators Win Grants

We are pleased to announce two OCEA winners of the Barbara Drennan Promising Practice Grant for Willamette Falls UniServ Council. We are very proud of Dorothy Berry, who won \$500.00 for a reading fluency and comprehension advancement project and Holly Salvatore who won \$472.04 to fund a Social, Emotional, and Self-Regulation Intervention project.
Congratulations!!

Employee Assistance Program

All Oregon City School District Employees have access to these services. There is no cost to you or your family members for using EAP services. EAP services include counseling, work- life balance, and wellness resources, described in the link below.
Services are always CONFIDENTIAL.
Call the EAP
1-866-750-1327
During a crisis, you can call to speak with a counselor 24 hours a day.
Go Online
www.MyRBH.com(Access Code: OEBC)

What About Opting Out?

Many of us in the course of conferences come across parents eager to learn more about whether they can opt their students out of the Smarter Balanced assessment (SBAC). While we CANNOT advocate for a parent to opt their child out, we can let them know that they can research their rights. If you would like more information on the efforts to change the testing landscape, including details related to opting out, check out the OEA website: <https://www.oregoned.org/stay-informed/student-assessment/opt-out-options>

Got A Creative Side? OCEA Needs A New Logo!

By now, you have likely heard that we are looking for the ultimate symbol to represent The OCEA's mission & vision. Besides the pride associated with having your logo adorn all of these items, our website and facebook page, we are offering a \$25 gift card to the Learning Palace or a restaurant of your choice!

The winning logo design would have to be submitted in electronic form so that we can use it on the redesigned website (currently live!), in print and on those t-shirts we want so bad.

Please submit your logo design as an Adobe Illustrator file (.ai or .eps).

Submissions must be emailed to michael.haliski@orecity.k12.or.us by **March 18th, 2016**. Contest entries must be submitted by OCEA members. One winner to be chosen by vote of the building representatives during our April meeting. Winner to be announced in April's newsletter and on facebook. Check out our newly designed website here: www.orecityea.org The OCEA reserves the right to use & manipulate all submitted logos in order to great a better web experience for our members.

OC Service Learning Academy Heads to MIT

Thanks to the 21st Century Community Learning Center grant the Oregon City Service Learning Academy received in the fall of 2013, the OCSLA team has been given the incredible opportunity to work with the Lemelson-MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), JV InvenTeams.

The Lemelson-MIT Program is committed to honoring those who have helped improve people's lives through invention. The Program was established in 1994 at MIT, by one of the world's most prolific inventors, Jerome Lemelson, and his wife, Dorothy. It is funded by The Lemelson Foundation and administered by MIT's School of Engineering. The Lemelson-MIT Program recognizes outstanding inventors, encourages sustainable new solutions to real-world problems, and allows and inspires young people to engage in creative lives and careers through invention. The Lemelson-MIT JV InvenTeams consist of students in grades 7-10 who improve their hands-on skills and enrich their STEM education through invention-based design activities.

Through this program, over the course of the last year, OCSLA has formed four of the thirteen JV InvenTeams in Oregon. OCSLA's freshman and sophomores have designed and made shoe soles while studying materials, chemistry, and molding. They also designed and made an article of clothing or piece of art that lit up while studying circuits and textiles.

Because of the positive partnership formed between Lemelson-MIT and OCSLA, a team of OCSLA staff was hand picked to travel as guests to the MIT campus in Cambridge, MA in order to conduct research and development on upcoming JV InvenTeam units as well as help make the units more teacher/user friendly. While on campus, the OCSLA team dove into two upcoming JV InvenTeams units that are currently in development stages. The OCSLA team was able to do hands on work in one of the MIT labs in order to create smooth running activities before the units are sent out to high school students across the country.

The first of two units focused on sound, speakers and instruments, with the goal of creating an electronic instrument as well as a speaker. To better understand sound, the unit first explores electromagnetism and human anatomy, breaking down those topics into concepts students can easily grasp and apply to the materials provided in order to invent an instrument of their own designing.

The second of the two units focused on optics, in particular camera lenses - how a lens's shape and material affect focal length, how focal length affects angle of view and zoom, and how aperture affects brightness and depth of field. To better understand lenses, optical calculations, biomimicry and camera prototyping were explored and applied as the team attempted to build a camera lens themselves to be used on a digital camera. Both the Lemelson-MIT Foundation and the OCSLA team were extremely appreciative of the time they had in the MIT lab, problem solving and working together to trouble shoot these upcoming units. Their time was a positive team building experience as well as the perfect opportunity to plan ahead to how their students would respond to the activities at hand.

For more information about the Lemelson-MIT program, visit: <https://lemelson.mit.edu>

Contract Maint Comm News

This month, the committee reported having worked on several cases where they represented members on issues related to performance. Many of the issues seem to be around communication. There have been questions about Personal Leave days and dealing with challenging students. There has recently been a meeting/training of administrators and building reps to try to strengthen communication and relationship building. Remember, if you ever have concerns related to the contract, drop your building rep a line! People won't know what to celebrate or address if you don't let someone know what you are thinking.

OCEA Calendar Updates

3/28: School Board Budget Workshop, 6-9pm OCSL Downstairs Conf Room
3/30, 4/6, 4/13: Ed Specs Comm Mtg. 7-9pm
4/5: OCEA Exec Bd. Mtg, 4pm OCEA B100 1306 12th st.
4/11: OCSL School Bd Mtg. 7pm Jackson Campus Bd Rm.
4/12: OCEA Rep Council, 4pm OCEA B100, 1306 12th St.
4/28: Financial Fitness Workshop, 4:30-6:30pm, OEA Uniserv (link to more info is [here](#)).

OCEA OFFICERS

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Political Action- Alex Foz & Dillon

Daniel-Hoffman

Contract Maintenance Committee

Allan Brown, Dawn Spahn, Cathy Poppen, Cindy Williams, Karen Jenkins & Brent Leong.

Bargaining Team

Karen Jenkins, D. Daniel-Hoffman, Allan Brown, Brent Leong, Cindy Williams, Rachel Engstrom, Tony Buckner

CONTRACT TRIVIA

Congrats to Michelle Blanchard & Douglas Thomas who both found the correct answer to last month's question:

Where can you find out how to request a transfer from your assignment or building? ARTICLE 13 - VACANCIES, TRANSFERS, AND NOTICE OF ASSIGNMENTS . AND A teacher will not be involuntarily transferred more than twice during any three (3) year period, unless a reduction in force occurs.

Here is the question for March: What are 5 of the 10 Management Rights listed in our Contract?

Be the first to email [Cindy Williams](mailto:Cindy.Williams@orecity.k12.or.us) with the correct answer and you could win a prize.