

OCEA NEWS

Message from the President

Happy holidays everyone!

We are in a very interesting time of year. There is excitement about various family and cultural traditions. Many of us enjoy this time of beautiful lights and children's smiles and the joy of seeing family. But for some of us this can also be a time of great turmoil. We have many members currently dealing with other stressors, illness, and the pain of losing loved ones.

Please remember to take care of yourself while (before) you take care of others. Below are some helpful hints during this joyous yet often difficult time of year.

My wish for all of you is that you are able to relax, take care of yourself, celebrate, and enjoy your families this winter break. Hopefully this time provides a much-needed respite from our very busy work lives. May each of you have a peaceful and happy holiday.

-Cindy Williams



Important Dates

December

Budget Work Session- Dec 5 @ 6pm

Community Forum: Long Range Facilities Advisory Committee Recommendations- Dec 7 @ 6pm

January

OCEA Executive Board Meeting- Jan 3 @ 4pm

School Board Mtg- Jan 9 @ 7pm; Jackson Campus – Brd Rm (We will reimburse your dinner expense up to \$10.00 with a detailed receipt if you attend a School Board Meeting)

OCEA Rep Council Meeting- Jan 10 @ 4pm
Rm B100, Jackson Campus

Financial Fitness- Wkshp for early career educators (loan forgiveness)- Jan 26 @ 4pm; Rm B100, Jackson Campus
RSVP to [Cindy Williams](#)

Promising Practice Grant Application due Feb 1

The OEA Foundation: Helping Students in Need

Do you have a student who is in need? Every day somewhere in Oregon, OEA members working in Oregon's public schools encounter students who are in need.

Established in 1995, the OEA Foundation provides educators with up to \$100 grants to help students meet basic, urgent, and immediate needs so they can succeed in school. Cash grants from the Foundation fill needs unmet by any other source. Unfortunately, the need is ever-present and continues to grow in Oregon.

To apply for a Foundation grant to help a student in need, click [here](#).

You can support the OEA Foundation when you shop on Amazon and at Fred Meyer. Click [here](#) for more details!

Take Care of Yourself: When in doubt, reach out!

Please don't forget to **take care of yourself first**. Schools and teachers are usually very good at thinking about the well-being of their pupils. We consider ourselves to have a responsibility of care for our pupils and colleagues. We do not usually think about our own well-being – until it is too late and we are sick or emotionally drained. People who take on caring roles are often not good at looking after themselves. Please make sure you are taking your **DUTY FREE LUNCH** time to eat at least 3-4 days a week. Giving up your lunch-time every day will wear you down and end up not helping your students or you in the long run. For more information on taking care of yourself, click [here](#).

Don't forget about the **Employee Assistance Program!** Click [here](#) for more information.

Is it True?

Is there a plan to put a music room in the middle of my school? Some of you may have questions about the community forums that have been happening at schools lately. The Long Range Facilities Task Force Committee comprised of various district personnel, staff, and community members met monthly last year to assess and create recommendations related to our districts' facilities and possible future bond renewals. Parents, staff, and community members have had opportunities to attend meetings to find out about the LRFAC report and give input for future recommendations. There will be another parent – community opportunity for more input on Dec. 7th @ 6:00pm at Gardiner Middle School (180 Ethel St.). The district is planning on presenting the recommendations to staff and more community members after the Dec. community meeting. The recommendations are just concepts at this point and staff input will be solicited between December and February. You can read the LRFAC report on all of the school websites and the OCSD website.

CONTRACT TRIVIA

Congratulations to Michelle Blanchard. She was the first member to respond with an accurate answer for November!

Do we have to report to work if school is closed due to inclement weather or other emergencies?

Be the first to email [Cindy Williams](#) with the correct answer and win a prize!

OEA Promising Practices Grant 2016-17

The deadline for submitting an application for a \$500.00 grant is February 1, 2017. A completed application can be submitted to my attention at the address below or by email to [Karen Spies](#)

Barb Drennan Promising Practices Grants:

Do you have a plan that could enhance your classroom skills or boost student achievement but need some funding to see if it works? Do you have an idea for a site-based professional development activity that could build partnerships but need some financing to get it going? If so, you need to apply for the **BARB DRENNAN PROMISING PRACTICES GRANTS!**

Wear Red for Public Education

Tuesday's are "Wear Red for Public Ed" days where everybody across America is asked to wear something red to show support for our nation's public education system. For more information, click [here](#).

ESSA – We need your voice

The Oregon Department of Education wants you to share your input on Oregon's State Plan to improve student learning in our state, and determine how we can best support our schools to meet the needs of each and every student. For more information, click [here](#).

Find OEA on Social Media



Thoughts, Questions, Concerns?
Contact [Cindy Williams](#) or [Jamie Voelker](#)