

OCEA NEWS

Message from the President

Well, the countdown has begun. Some people count the weeks, some the days, but any way you look at it, this school year is quickly winding down. Thank you for all you do everyday to make life better for your students and colleagues. I know this is a super busy time of year and I don't want to put more on your plate but, please consider doing one or two activities listed below;

- Read the Bargaining Briefs
- Consider becoming a Building Rep for next year
- Contact someone on OCEA Exec and let he/she know how you would like to be involved in helping OCEA fit your needs.
- Look in Talent Ed and make sure your tasks completion is on track.
- Pamper yourself as the end of the year tasks start to pile up. Looking at the To Do List can feel very overwhelming. Give yourself a break and don't expect to get everything done at once.
- Take a breath and count to ten. Take each task and day, one at a time. Take a walk, listen to music, take a two-minute hide in your room break, etc.
- Remember, your colleagues are feeling stress too. Attack the problem, not each other.

Consider what impression you'd like to leave with students, colleagues, and the community. Connect yourself to those who will encourage, build you up, and offer strategies on how to deal with your stressors. Stay away from NEGATIVE people! Make a choice that no matter what, you'll make a positive impact in the lives of the children you've been given and the people you work with. IT'S A CHOICE WORTHY OF MAKING FOR YOUR OWN SANITY!!!

-Cindy Williams

Important Dates

May & June

OCSD Budget Work Session- May 22 @ 6pm
Downstairs District Office

Community Forum: Safe & Welcoming Schools- May 30 @ 6pm
Gardiner Middle School

OCEA Executive Board Meeting- May 31 @ 4pm
OCEA Office

OCEA Rep Council Meeting- June 6 @ 4pm
Jimmy O's Pizza

OCSD Budget Work Session- June 6 @ 6pm
Downstairs District Office

OCSD Budget Work Session- June 12 @ 6pm (if needed)
Downstairs District Office

School Board Meeting- June 12 @ 7pm
Jackson Campus Board Room

Town Hall: Education Funding Cuts- June 20 @ 1pm
Sunnyside Community House

Bargaining Update

Bargaining Update:

Please read the Bargaining Updates that we have been sending out after our Problem Solving sessions with the District. The updates are full of valuable information. Please feel free to observe our Problem Solving (Bargaining) team in action. The next meeting is Thursday, May 25th from 5:00-8:00 pm in the downstairs conference room at the District office. If you would like a chair to sit on while observing your team work for us, please try to RSVP to [Brent Leong](#) or your Building Rep ahead of time so we can set up the proper number of chairs.

Transporting Students?

For the safety of the children and yourself, please make sure that you consult district guidelines before transporting any students. Here's some quick info about driving kids:

If transporting in your vehicle, you Must Have:

1. Signed permission slips for all students.
2. Administrator approval.
3. Height specific safety restraints or booster seats.
4. When possible, another staff member. Highly recommended!!
5. Insurance that is in accordance with district policy.

Remember, it is ALWAYS better to be safe than sorry, please plan carefully for any transporting of students.

Refer to the OCSD's Policy re: Transportation of Students in a Private Vehicle.

Calling All Members

If you are interested in getting more involved in OCEA in the upcoming year, please let - Cindy Williams, or your Building Rep know. We are always looking for new leadership.

Contact Your Legislator

The budget forecast is not looking good. We need your legislators to hear from you! Legislators need to support public education with stable funding and be well informed about educational issues. You can find your legislator [here](#).

Hot Topic: Student Discipline

Student Discipline – Article 5 – Procedure B1, B2, B3 in our Collective Bargaining Agreement has been a hot topic of discussion lately. We know that we all have been dealing with some uniquely challenging situations in our classrooms and have often wondered what the proper procedures or systems for helping students with self-regulation and behavior issues are. Please know there is specific language in the contract, but it is recommended that you discuss your building's discipline support plan with your administrator(s) and staff one more time and be mindful in developing ways of dealing with those moments when you or your student need a time out from each other. Having a plan in place regarding how you will transition students out of or back into your classrooms respectfully will enable you to have more desired outcomes with less stress. Please be aware that all of us are trying with all our might to do what is in the best interest of all of our students. Discipline is a challenging topic even on a good day, so please be patient and supportive with each other and your administrators and be sure you are trying to come up with positive solutions to taxing situations. Let us know if you are still having difficulty with feeling supported in this area after you have tried one more time to help your building have a positive and safe culture for your students and staff. We are in this together and welcome your feedback.



Summer Leadership Conference in Bend
Click [here](#) for more information.

Listening – Engage Campaign

OCEA and members from OEA have been listening to members recently to help inform our bargaining efforts, our relevance to members, and build capacity as an association. We will be sharing the themes we've heard in June's newsletter. This activity will also assist OEA as they prepare to assist other teacher associations around Oregon. We hope to listen to a few more buildings by June 1st.

1. How long have you been teaching in OC? How long have you been teaching ?
2. What do you like about teaching in OC?
3. What can the local association do to better support you?
4. Of your colleagues, who in the building would you consider trusted and respected? Why? We are open to any other information you would like to share.

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 schools, 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 has enjoyed meeting many of you and looks forward to meeting more of you and helping your voice be heard.

CONTRACT TRIVIA

Congratulations to Tami Archer. She was the trivia winner for February/March!
Do we have language in the contract about involuntary grade or assignment changes? What are our rights?

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

Check out the [OCEA on Facebook!](#) Our news feed is one of the best ways to get the latest info on issues affecting your important work. Don't worry, if you don't have a Facebook account, you can still follow our news feed at our [website](#).