



EVERGREEN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION
DECEMBER 9, 2020

EEA Newsletter

This Communication is A Member Benefit and Is not to be shared except to other members of the EEA.

current covid-19 activity level

>75 cases per 100k people in 14 days

- Almost entirely remote learning
- Limited in-person learning for high-need students
- No sports or extra-curricular activities



Based on Washington State Department of Health guidelines released August 4, 2020.

While Community Case Numbers Spread...

Clark County continues to see the largest increase in new COVID19 case numbers since the shutdown in March. Our MOU holds solid, with no intention of even beginning hybrid until those numbers get back down in the moderate range for 4 weeks.

However, we still have students who are learning in-person each day from our dedicated Kindergarten, Special Education and Alternative Learning Schools. In addition, we are teaching those students identified by building SET teams as needing this access to learning. We are looking to the Clark County Health Department to support us if the numbers become unsafe. While we have done an amazing job of making sure kids and staff are able to stay safe if they are in buildings, with rising numbers, it is unclear how long that will be the case. It is our hope Dr. Melnick at the Clark County Department of Health will react to rising numbers in our community. With a vaccine on the horizon, it doesn't make sense for an expansion of students and staff in the buildings while numbers are climbing. We will continue to enforce the MOU and see that all our schools are safe as possible.

1

VEBA

Request Documents from Cert Specialists to sign up for VEBA

2

NOMINATIONS

Nominate yourself or someone else to attend the virtual Rep Assemblies this year

3

REST

Make sure you take a break when the students do. We need to regroup for next year!

WEA

WEA Representative Assembly

Nominations Close Monday. Virtual. April 15-17, 2021.

NEA

NEA Representative Assembly

Nominations Close Monday. Virtual or Denver. July 2-6, 2021

Officer of Exec Board
No That

EEA

Nominations Open January 25, 2021

Your Voice Matters!

Exec. Board members are scheduling time to hear from you.

Even during these “online only” times, your building liaisons -Exec Board Members- are scheduling time to record your thoughts and input. Every campus has its own flavor, needs, and culture. The EEA and the District are already in conversations around these issues and hopefully progress can be made in the short term (survival) and long term (agreements.) If not, we will come to you about what actions need to be taken to get solutions. We continue to show our strength in standing up for kids, for our professionalism, and our working conditions, as we all know these are the learning conditions of our students. Talk to your Head Building Rep to find out when your liaison will be visiting.

**“Not everything that is faced can be changed.
But nothing can be changed until it is
faced.”** **-James Baldwin**

At the December Representative Council meeting on Monday, nominations will be

WEA RA & NEA RA NOMINATIONS ARE CLOSING SOON!

closing for election to both the WEA Representative Assembly and the NEA representative assembly. The purpose of the WEA and NEA Representative Assemblies is to give members the opportunity to direct the WEA and NEA leadership towards priorities of the members. These assemblies are not sanitized board meetings intended just for leadership, but instead it is the annual opportunity for our "everyday member" to direct the Association. It is always a goal to get as diverse a representation of our membership at these assemblies as possible. With this being a virtual conference, the budget allows for us to send a few more this year. Delegates would more than likely meet once before the assembly to caucus, attend the assembly virtually, and caucus while at the assembly. Dates for the assemblies are still being determined. If the NEA Representative Assembly is held in person, this year it will be in Denver, CO.

DOING SOMETHING THAT BENEFITS OUR NEEDIES

During the holiday season as we approach the end of the calendar year, many people are thinking about donations to charities. The EEA would like to ask you and your friends to consider donating to the WEA Children's Fund. This is a fund that our members can utilize to provide necessary materials to our students so they can succeed in school. EEA has always been one of the state's largest utilizers of the fund. If you know of any child who is doing without, you can help by accessing up to \$75 from the WEA Children's Fund. All requests are confidential. Info-Guidelines Here: washingtonea.org/childrensfund/





A High School is certainly home to a large number of our members. Being a trusted, respected leader can be very time-consuming, intense and complex. Our November VIP has always risen to

the challenge and beyond, advocating for their members, being watchful of administration and communicating the EEA message in a way that will be listened to by all of their building's members. In addition to this responsibility, this member has been willing to volunteer for committees, attends EPS School Board Meetings, and has been a vocal advocate for transparency in the eventual re-opening transition that has directly influenced how our admin communicate the decisions being considered. During this past election, our VIP was the courier for over 1,000 postcards written and sent out to support pro-education candidates.

For this and many other reasons, **Shaun Gundert** was awarded EEA's V.I.P. award. Congratulations, Shaun.



"Choice for Teachers" AT IT AGAIN!

"Choice for Teachers" is at it again, contacting WEA members and encouraging them to drop union membership. This is part of a larger campaign to weaken public-sector unions, including EEA and the WEA. It is funded by corporate interests, including an anti-union political group called the "Freedom Foundation." It's a direct attack on our ability to stand together to speak with one voice in our workplace and in the political arena to advocate on behalf of students and our profession. Here are some important points to keep in mind:

Who is Choice for Teachers?

Choice for Teachers is an arm of the Freedom Foundation that is funded by wealthy corporate foundations including political groups affiliated with the billionaire Koch brothers. The foundation's agenda is clear: weaken the ability of educational professionals to stand together and swing the balance even more in favor of corporations and wealthy CEOs.

These groups have been leading the efforts to outlaw public sector unions both in the courts and through the legislatures in the U.S. They do not care about us, our students or public education. They only care about weakening our ability to join together to speak with one voice.

We need a strong union voice

Without a strong union protecting our ability to have decent pay and benefits, things would be much worse for teachers, education support professionals and students in our public schools.

If they call or visit you...

Let them know you are part of a strong, active union fighting for your rights and working conditions. Let us in the office know so we can coordinate around the state to prevent them from weakening teacher voice.



Any employee that wishes to apply to see if they are eligible for sick leave cash out (have enough hours banked AND have hours left over from the 2020 **calendar year**) would need to fill out an Application for Excess Sick Leave Cashout. Contact your Cert. Specialist for the form. It is due in the payroll office before the close of day on Friday, January 29th @ 4:30pm.

If you have never contributed to VEBA before, you would need to fill out an application. (Please note that cash outs to VEBA only apply to those eligible employees that have more than 180 days of sick leave banked up.)

Once you are signed up for VEBA, you can fill out a "Hold Harmless" form that will allow your VEBA to recur every year, as long as the EEA votes to continue with VEBA and you maintain your 180 sick days. If you are retiring, there is also one more form to complete. Contact your Cert. Specialist for details.

Happy Holidays!

TAKE A BREAK

Each year I marvel at how short the time is for the “holiday season.” I’ve commented each time that we stop to honor Veteran’s Day and then *blink* we’re back from Winter Break. This year, especially, time has been both frightfully slow and at the same time, over in a blink.

I imagine you are probably feeling the same, in some way. The time to catch our cold winter breath is here. Grades are done or caught up, topics are changing, books are finished, and we are ready to start anew with the calendar we buy on sale on boxing day.

The work will be there for you when you return. Don’t take home things to read: You won’t. Leave the Google Classroom alone. The curriculum will not change between now and January 4th. People will email/call you again if it was important. Dis-engage, re-energize, refill your cup/bucket.

We want the best you to return in January. If you continue to work yourself into exhaustion over the break, there will be no chance that you will be your best when you return.

You do not care any less about your students because you care about yourself.

Find the thing that makes you “YOU”. Get back to a hobby or start something new.

The point is, let your creative amazing brain make and/or learn something. We’ve had it programmed to do the “Worry” sub-loop for so long during this pandemic, it will try over the break: Don’t Let It! Winter is coming. Be ready.

Quiet Space

Evergreen Education Association Equity Committee News

EOC Network Event Dec. 10 via Zoom 5-7.

We are hosting our 2nd Educator of Color Network Event! If you identify as an Educator of Color, please join us. RSVP for link here evergreenea@washingtonea.org

Equity Climate Survey for BIPOC, LGBTQ, Persons with disability.

Please be on the lookout for the Equity Survey being sent to you from EEA office and fill it out. It can be filled out more than once if you identify with more than one group.

Educators working for social justice

Join our group of educators from around the region who are working together for racial and social justice! There are many subgroups to join as well
Community organization and action wing
Elem. social and racial justice curriculum group
Sec. teachers working through lens of BARWE (Building Anti-Racist White

If you’re interested in this group, please contact amberlynn@gmail.com

How to start and grow an equity team group

EEA Padlet of Resources on Race and Racism
https://padlet.com/jennifer_bradley2/twtb7pkmt53jkudr

The Quiet Space is brought to you by EEA Health and Wellness, our next Newsletter is coming out this week.

If you haven’t already, please sign up at:

EEAHealthandWellness@gmail.com