

September 4, 2009 MEA Newsletter

Welcome back to school. I hope everyone had restful summer and that your year is off to a great start!

Teachers and ESP members: Have you changed schools or your name?

- If you have changed your name or have moved schools from last year, please let us know ASAP so we can update our records. You can email twaltner@idahoea.org or mermea@idahoea.org

New District Wide Collaboration:

- The MEA was not made aware of this new plan until we heard about it from the year-round schools right before the article ran in the paper a couple of weeks ago.
- We, the MEA, were NOT involved in the planning of the collaboration plan. I apologize for this as I wish we had been.
- I understand that some people are frustrated with the new plan. Thanks for sharing your concerns.
- Please send me your questions and concerns as Sue and I will be meeting with Dr. Clark next week and will address them at that time.

Dress Code:

- Thanks to those of you who have shared what you have been told in your building as well as your concerns. We will be addressing this issue at our meeting with Dr. Clark next week.

Steps and Lanes:

- All eligible employees will receive steps in the September paycheck.
- Remember that **ONLY OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTS** will be accepted this year for lane movement. Official transcripts are due **October 1, 2009**.
- All eligible employees will receive lanes in the October paycheck.
- The 1% increase will be in one lump sum in the November paycheck.
- If the district qualifies for the emergency levy based on growth in student enrollment, the .5% will also be in one lump in the November paycheck.

B Team Meeting:

- The first B Team meeting of the year will be held on September 14th at 4:30 at Idaho Pizza Company on Fairview in Meridian.
- Beginning in October, all B Team meetings will be held at Meridian High School as the Idaho Pizza facility has become too small.

Membership:

- It's time for membership!
- I will be traveling to each school to meet and visit all the new teachers in the district. If you have specific people you think I should fit into my schedule first, please let me know.
- Sue will again be doing membership in buildings. If you would like membership help, please let us know.

Membership Rosters:

- Rosters are in district mail and should arrive at your school on Tuesday.
- Rosters signed, completed, and returned on or before Monday September 14th will be entered 3 times into a raffle for our Gift Card Giveaway! (You can bring them with you to the B Team meeting)
- Rosters returned by September 21st will be entered 3 times into a raffle for our Gift Card Giveaway!
- For every person you sign up for the Children's Fund Payroll Deduction will be entered into our Gift Card Giveaway!

Insurance:

- You may have noticed that there is now a fee for Willamette dental.
- If you are interested in switching from Willamette to Delta dental you must do so by Tuesday September 8th.

Special Education Task Force:

- We are in need of Special Ed. teachers, assistants, SLP's, PBI, resource, etc. to attend our meeting on September 15th at 4:15 pm at the MEA office. If you are interested please let me know.

Vests:

- Have you seen the nice gray vests we purchased last spring? Due to popular demand they will be again available for order until October 5, 2009.
- We will have sample sizes available at the B team meeting on September 14th.
- The vests are \$25.00 each sizes S-1X & \$26.75 each sizes 2XL-3XL
- If you unable to attend the B team meeting you may stop by our office or send an email to place your order.

Classes for Credit:

- Are you looking for CONVENIENT, COST EFFECTIVE, AND PRACTICAL courses for salary schedule advancement and/or recertification?
- Complete courses via online or correspondence course
- Registrations Accepted from September 1-September 25
- Course Completion: December 20, 2009
- CHECK THE IEA/NNU COURSES AT:
- www.idahoeducationacademy.com

Upcoming Important Dates:

- Sept. 8th- School Board meeting 7:00 p.m. @ Mountain View High School
- Sept. 11th- Meeting with Dr. Clark and Dr. Gestrin
- Sept. 14th- B Team meeting 4:30 @ Idaho Pizza Company
- Sept. 15th- Special Ed. Task Force 4:15 @ MEA office
- Sept. 21st- ESP task force 5:30 @ MEA office
- Sept. 22nd- ESP All Staff meeting 5:30 @ Idaho Pizza Company
- Sept. 29th- Executive Board meeting with Dr. Clark and Dr. Gestrin
- Oct. 5th- Executive Board meeting 4:15 @ MEA office

Welcome back and have a great long weekend!