

NORTHSHORE NEWS

November, 2006

NORTHSHORE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

Issue 3



NSEA Calendar

November 2006

- ◆ November 13th: Rep Council Meeting, 4:00-6:00 pm BHS Library
- ◆ November 16th-22nd: Elementary Early Dismissal—Parent/Teacher Conferences
- ◆ November 23rd & 24th: No School Thanksgiving Break

December 2006

- ◆ December 5th: Exec Board Meeting, 4:00-6:00 pm NSEA Office
- ◆ December 6th: Legislative At Home Meeting, 4:30-6:30 pm Shoreline Center
- ◆ December 11th: Rep Council Meeting, 4:00-6:00 pm KJH Library
- ◆ December 18th-January 1st: Winter Break

January 2007

- ◆ January 1st: Happy New Year!
- ◆ January 8th: Exec Board Meeting, 4:00 pm-6:00 pm NSEA Office
- ◆ January 15th: No School MLK, Jr. Day
- ◆ January 22nd: Rep Council Meeting, 4:00-6:00 pm BHS Library



Teaching Tip

Research shows that students become more engaged in classroom activities if they know they *all* might be called on to respond to a question. Microsoft Excel programs can be used to randomly choose names for you...or you can use an old fashioned method: a cup of popsicle sticks labeled with your students' names.

Source: NEA Today

President's Message

It is hard to believe that Thanksgiving is just around the corner. It is even more difficult to believe that Winter Break begins in just 26 school days! This is an extremely busy time as elementary teachers gear up for fall conferences, and we all start to prepare for the holidays!



Thanks to all the NSEA members involved with doorbelling for Eric Oemig! Our team included: **Justine Hurley, Katie Drov Dahl, Celia Wilson, Jane Weiss, Diane Friddle, Tim Nowak, Ann Massengil, Mary Hyndman, Patty Trovato** and her husband, **Kathy Rose, Gail Barnfather, Christy Michaelis, Peggy Sherman, Jamie Clarke** and her mom, and me. The weather held, people were friendly, and as of this writing Eric Oemig holds a 10% lead over Toby Nixon!

The **boundary proposal** put forth by the District is coming under sharp criticism. The projected impacts to NJH and IHS are at the center of the controversy for NSEA members. After listening to the debate, as well as listening to the proposal through the planning process, NSEA sent a letter to both the NSD Executive Cabinet and the NSD School Board. The main point of the letter is to ask the School Board to delay the implementation of a boundary change for one year. This will allow for greater parental input into the process, other alternative realignment plans to be created and studied, and the cost of the realignment to not impact a projected budget shortfall of \$3.5 million next year. The vote by the school board is projected to be November 28th. At the next board meeting options will most likely be presented to the community.

The *Seattle Times* article, regarding former Northshore teacher **Carl Leede**, in late October came as a blow to many in Northshore. This case had been settled many years ago, and we thought it was behind us. The district learned from the mistakes of the past and has implemented many changes. Many of these changes were arrived at and implemented with the cooperation of NSEA. Superintendent Forsys will be sending another statement to NSD staff in the near future.

The YMCA has decided to not pick up the **elementary cross country and track and field programs** as they had indicated earlier. A large number of coaches did not apply to coach for the Y, parents were not happy with the structure of the program they were proposing, and NSEA was not happy that our coaches were losing both bargaining rights and retirement benefits. After listening to all parties it appears a compromise is coming together. The compromise will involve these sports falling under the umbrella of the community schools program in the NSD. Parents will pay to have their children participate, coaches will receive their negotiated salaries under the AAA contract as well as benefits, and the structure of the program will essentially remain the same. A formal written description of the proposal will be presented to NSEA soon.

Patrick Holmes from Bothell High School has agreed to coordinate the Northshore Take The Lead Team. **Geoffrey Gilmore** (IHS), **Yvonne McCord** (LJH), and **Greg Wirtala** (FL) will be joining Patrick in this work. Their primary task will be internal organizing and messaging for NSEA. Patrick has a great deal of political experience and is a wonderful addition to the NSEA team!



Take the lead.
Restoring Washington's Commitment
to Great Public Schools

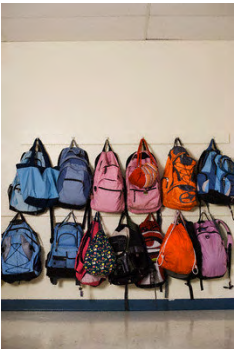
WEA is anxiously awaiting the final **Washington Learns Report** that is due out this month. The report continues to disappoint many with its lack of specificity concerning education needs in Washington state. Please watch for an announcement once the report comes out.

Many of you expressed interest in **walking to Olympia** to draw attention to the plight of public school funding in our state. If you are still interested, it might be wise for you to begin training and buy a good pair of walking shoes. It is likely this walk will begin at the RA in Tacoma at the end of March and arrive in Olympia early in April. Please watch for more information concerning this activity to be released in January.

Safe Interactions with Students

Every year the Association represents colleagues of yours who have been accused by students or parents of inappropriate interactions. Most of the time, these accusations are unfounded. They are usually the result of actions being misinterpreted by the student and/or unintended by the educator.

Teacher unions are often accused of protecting teachers who were found to be guilty of sexual misconduct with students. This is simply not true. Your union does not condone the illegal and unprofessional behavior of members, and we do not protect those who have been found guilty so that they can get jobs in other school districts.



What we do, however, is ensure that members have the right to due process, that they are treated fairly, and that a thorough investigation is conducted. When an accusation is found to be false, we protect the privacy rights of those individuals by fighting attempts to make those false accusations public. The courts have ruled in our favor—there is no compelling public interest in disclosing the names of school employees who have been falsely accused of sexual misconduct with students. To do so could ruin the careers and lives of many fine educators who were completely innocent.

As an Association, we also need to educate our members on ways they can reduce the risk of an accusation of misconduct. While it's never possible to completely eliminate the chance of being falsely accused, there are some things you can do to minimize the risk.

- While in the past areas of safe touch on a student's body were identified, NSEA would suggest that today there are **no** safe areas.
- If a student initiates a hug, NSEA recommends you let that student know you are uncomfortable hugging students.
- Rather than a hug, use a "high five" as a form of praise
- Do not be alone with a student in a room with the door closed.
- For primary elementary teachers, use a side hug if you find it necessary to hug your students.
- Treat **all** students (boys and girls) the same.

While NSEA does not like having to advise you to depersonalize your interactions with students, at this time it is important for us all to be sensitive to the concerns in the community.

Classifieds

INTERESTED IN LEARNING SPANISH? I am a certified teacher in Northshore who has tutored all ages in the Spanish language. Your trip to Mexico will be a lot more fun! Please call or email Michelle Ward at 425-894-6216 or wardmeliz@aol.com.

BUNK BED FOR SALE: Bright red metal frame bunk bed. Double on bottom, single on top. Great for kid's room. Also have mattresses and bedspreads. Call Pam at 425-778-4265.

MAPLE DRESSERS FOR SALE: Matched set of antique bird's eye maple dresser drawers. One tall, one low. Anxious to sell. Call Pam at 425-778-4265.

YOUR AD HERE: Email all information to Lydia King at lking@washingtonea.org. Please use your **home** phone number and/or **home** email address. Ads are run on a first come, first serve basis pending available space. Ads may be edited for length.

Congrats, Cal!

Congratulation to Bothell High teacher Cal Pygott. Cal's Construction Academy program at BHS was selected as a KCTS Golden Apple Award recipient. Cal is among 10 other Puget Sound-area teachers recognized by KCTS. Cal's achievements will be honored at the Golden Apple Awards Ceremony in January where a video profile of his work will be presented.

If you have good news to share with the Association, please contact Lydia King at lking@washingtonea.org.

Northshore News is a publication of the Northshore Education Association. NSEA is the bargaining agent of the certificated staff of the Northshore School District.

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Temporary Changes in the NSEA Office

Kelly Allen, NSEA's WEA UniServ Representative, has taken a leave of absence for the remainder of the calendar year. Members needing representation should contact the NSEA Office at 425-486-7101.