

# The eWEATHERvane

December 2011

## *Important Dates*

\* *Winter break*

*Dec. 22-Jan. 2*

\* *Teacher Work Day*

*Jan. 3*

\* *Martin Luther  
King Day*

*Jan. 16*

\* *Early release*

*Jan. 19*



## **WEA Officers:**

### **President**

Chris Williams

### **Vice President**

Rhonda Gilpin

### **Treasurer**

Amanda Koenig

### **Secretary**

Lynn Yoho

### **Fac Rep At Large**

Sam Liebfreund

Jordi Vilanova

Candy Peak

Tom Peet

Todd Ebbrecht

Julia Stout

## **The President's Corner**

### ***Happy Holidays!***

*It is my hope that in this time of dismal doom (weather and our professional climate) you are able to compartmentalize enough to leave work behind and find some joy and solace during the winter break. We need to rely on our personal lives to help hold us up. I wish for each of us that this holiday season will provide the needed buffer to allow each of us to re-center.*

*As a group, we public educators are a pretty resilient group, able to overcome large and difficult obstacles while multitasking on the countless details of our job (if the public only knew what we really do). We are able to live in the moment to meet the needs of our learners and shelter them and ourselves from the bigger problems outside of our classrooms. In my opinion, this has been one of our problems. As a profession, we have too often closed our doors and have simply done what we came into this profession to do: take care of the needs of our students. Unfortunately now, the political storm is raging so strongly out there that our classroom doors are flying off their hinges and our walls are being blown down. We are feeling the bite of the cold winds of political reality from every direction. Right now we are being tested like never before.*

*Eventually this crisis will pass and through our resiliency, we will be able to weather this storm. The love we have for what we do in the lives of our children, along with the support of our families and each other, will give us the strength to find our way through.*

## **MY ED PORTAL ACCOUNTS**

There are many activities sitting under verification, some of which are for activities that occurred as far back as 2006. Please look at your account, your MyEdPortal dashboard and see if you have activities waiting to be verified.

**IF** your activities are not in green then you have not received credit. If you have an activity from 2009 or earlier, please send in the paperwork to verify the activity. This is regarding activities from 2009 or earlier, don't panic if you have more recent activities. The LPDC is swamped therefore trying to play catch up every month. Starting Jan. 1, 2012 the LPDC will be returning any activities from 2009 and earlier so that you can delete them.

## Thank you OEA RA delegates

A big thank you goes to the following teachers who gave up a Saturday to attend the OEA Representative Assembly.

*Sam Liebfreund*

*Tami Martine*

*Rhonda Gilpin*

*Geoff Mize*

*Chris Williams*

*Jordi Vilanova*

*Mark Brugger*

*Karen Lee*

*Linda Mitten*

*Candy Peak*

*Cathy Monteiro*

*Sandra Duckworth*

*Julia Stout*

*Kathy Conley*

*Elizabeth Spaulding-Hitesman*

### ***Feeling Blue?***

The holidays can be a really fun and exciting time for many, but for some the holidays are an extremely difficult time of the year. Reminder that we have an Employee Assistance Program as part of our Master Contract (18.8) The program is completely confidential. If you have questions call the WEA office at 890-5997.

### **INSURANCE PREMIUM CHANGE**

New insurance premiums for Jan. 2012, which are taken out of your pay a month in advance (starting in Dec. 2, 2011 paycheck) are:

Family: \$297.43 monthly

Single: \$ 28.45 monthly

This is a 5% increase, which is pretty good considering we were looking at a 9-12% increase originally.

2011 Premiums were Family \$283.27

Single \$ 27.09

Also, if you have insurance issues that you can't get resolved, either through the Treasurer's office or through Medical Mutual, please call Gallagher & Co. at 614-761-2901.

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A HUGE thank you to those of you who are already stepping up to help with the March levy drive! With as low as our reserves are at present (financial and personal energy), we will need to have many more help out than we have ever had before. We will be asking for your help.

Expect to see the communications and activities ramp up early in January. Rest up over break, we will all need to contribute!

Happy Holidays  
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**from WEA**