

The eWEAthervane

December 2016

Important Dates

- * *Winter break*
Dec. 22-Jan. 2
- * *Teacher Work Day*
Jan. 3
- * *Martin Luther King Day*
Jan. 16
- * *Early release*
Jan. 26



WEA Officers:

President

Rhonda Gilpin

Vice President

Tom Cook

Treasurer

David Johnston

Secretary

Kelly Modlich

Fac Rep At Large

Tami Martine

Jordi Vilanova

Amanda Koenig

Molly Wassmuth

Diana Tisdale

Mark Brugger

The President's Corner

Well we made it to the half way point. You have been amazing, and I know it hasn't been easy. Between the Presidential election, OIP, parent/teacher conferences, OTEs and passing an important levy, you have been BUSY.

But because of all these things, and I am sure many more, take some time for yourself over this holiday break. Read a book, laugh with a friend, hug a family member, sleep in, do nothing, whatever it takes to rejuvenate yourself. Use the time to reflect on what is important and think about your health and well-being. We will come back after break and hit the ground running, we always do, so take this little bit of time off for yourself and your family.

Always know that I appreciate how much you do!

Rhonda

Happy Holidays
Happy Holidays
from WEA

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.

Mark Brugger

Jackie Ryan

Jordi Vilanova

Rhonda Gilpin

Geoff Mize

Ericka Boesch

Molly Wassmuth

Kelly Modlich

Kathy Conley

Cathy Hall

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

Because We Care...

Births

Huber Ridge– Dawn Ramsey– Baby Boy
Walnut Springs-Kathy Conley-Grandson

Condolences

Huber Ridge -Erin Berg– Mother
Genoa -Caley Baker– Grandmother
-Liz Stimer—Mother



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

contact Gerlach, Lear & Assoc.

toll free (888) 775-2236 or www.glaeap.com

Username: WCS

SB 3 Passes Legislature

Senate Bill 3, which makes multiple changes to education law, passed the House by a vote of 56-29 and is now heading to the Governor for his signature. The bill would allow certain districts to be exempt from some policies such as hiring licensed teachers, class size restrictions and mentoring new teachers. OEA opposes these provisions of the bill.

To qualify for the exemptions, a school district must have received all the following on the most recent report cards: at least 85% of the total possible points for the performance index score; a grade of “A” for performance indicators met; a four-year graduation rate of at least 93% and a five-year graduation rate of at least 95%. Since the bill was passed last year by the Senate, the number of qualifying districts has dropped substantially from around 120 to 18 based on the latest report cards.

The bill also contains a cap of 2% of the school year on the amount of time spent on the administration of state and district-wide assessments and limits the amount of time on practice tests to 1% of the school year.

On Wednesday, December 7, the House Education Committee adopted additional amendments before voting out the bill on a party-line vote. One amendment re-stored “blizzard bag” language that had been deleted by the committee two days earlier, but clarified that schools no longer had to submit such plans to ODE. Notably, the committee refrained from including provisions that would have weakened charter school accountability.

The Ohio Education Association represents 123,000 teachers, faculty members and support professionals in Ohio's public schools, colleges and universities.