March 4, 2019

Good morning!  It's hard to believe we are already in March.  This is a busy time of year, so hang in there!  There are just a few additions to the newsletter this week. Please let me know if you have any questions.

RIFs:

At this time, we still have not been informed of any RIFs.  As mentioned before, we will let you know as soon as we hear anything.  There should be something on the agenda for this week's school board meeting, which will be emailed to everyone later today.

CVTA Read to Succeed Community Event:

We have scheduled a free community event, including a free book for every child that attends.  This will be held at the Coachella Library on March 23rd from 9-12.  There will be performances from several student groups from our schools, and we will need volunteers to fulfill several roles.  If you are interested, please contact Karina Vega, CVTA's Human Rights Committee Chair, at kariandanzel@yahoo.com.

Important Cal STRS Information:

With the growing population of retiring members and as individual in-person appointments are limited especially in Palm Desert, CalSTRS is now reserving their one-on-one appointments for members that are retiring in the current year and members requesting disability sessions.   We want to ensure members that are retiring now are provided with the information necessary to make an educated decision about their retirement and know the process to retire with CalSTRS.

CalSTRS has expanded theirservices to accommodate the growth discussed above.  The creation of their Group Benefits Planning Sessions has helped meet that need.  It provides members not retiring right now with estimates and the same information provided in an individual appointment.  Specialists are also able to speak with members after the session to answer any questions they did not want to discuss in the group.

(more Cal STRS info below)

Elections:

Nominations close on 3/11/19 at 4pmfor two elections, CVTA Executive Board and NEA-RA Local Delegates.  Flyers for each should have been placed in your mailboxes, posted on your CVTA Board, and can be found here: CVTA Executive Board Nominations (and Timeline) and NEA-RA Nominations (and Timeline).  These elections will be run at the same time, and electronic voting will take place at the same time, as well.  If you need to update your personal email address, please reply and let me know.

Yoga Discount for Teachers:

See this flyer for a great opportunity just for teachers!  Only $10.

Reminders:

* When you are called into a meeting with your admin, make sure to ask for a rep if the meeting has anything to do with discipline or could lead to discipline, even if you need to stop the meeting to request one.  We have a lot of members lately going to these meetings without the support and witness of a rep.
* You do not need to set SMART Goals or provide date reports to admin unless your team decides to do so.  The only documents required from a PLC are an agenda and minutes.
* All combo class teachers get 2 extra days prep.  Please see your admin if you didn't get the days.
* Let me know if you want me to show you how to set up your STRS account online...you should be checking your account for accuracy at least once per year!

Listening Tour/Site Visits:

Dr. Gomez and I will continue to visit sites this week during lunchtimes, and we are lucky to have Isadora Jimenez from CSEA beside us.  Please come visit us to share concerns, ask questions, or just to say hello.  Communication is key in keeping things running smoothly, so I truly hope you come see us!

Here is our schedule of visits:

DATE               LUNCH TIMESCHOOL

March 5 - Tuesday10:45 -  1:30MOUNTAIN VISTA

March 6 - Wednesday10:45 - 12: 40PALM VIEW

March 12- Tuesday11:44 -   1:10TORO CANYON

March 13 - Wednesday12:40 -   2:10BOBBY DUKE

March 15 - Friday10:30  -   1:30SAUL MARTINEZ

March 19 - Tuesday10:30 -   1:30VALLEY VIEW

March  21 - Thursday11:05 -   1:05VALLE DEL SOL

Professional Development for our Members:

On April 2nd we will have a Self-Care PD for you.  This is such an important thing to do, to take care of yourself, but is so often overlooked because we are too busy or too tired.  Please plan to make time to attend.  Registration information will also be coming for this.

We will also be holding a Legal Training, but have not scheduled a date yet as we are trying to secure a GLS Attorney to present.  This is a session we offer each year to our site reps, and it is a highly recommended one!  As soon as we have details we will share them.

Professional Library:

Don't forget to take a lookCVTA's professional library!  We have books available for you to borrow if you want to learn new techniques, stay motivated, and more.  If you have any books you would like to donate forthe library, please let me know.  You can find the list of available books here.  The list should also be available on your site's CVTA bulletin board.  Happy reading!

Member Benefits:

CalSTRS Counselors at the CTA Palm Desert Office: Now you can schedule sessions locally (usually we have to drive to either Palm Springs or Riverside).  One way to schedule an appointment with these counselors is on the www.myCalSTRS website. You can also schedule by calling (800) 228-5453 and selecting option 3. A real CalSTRS Counselor will never send you an email advertising his/her services via District email...those are spam and are usually salespeople.

There are three options for meetings: group informational for those just getting started looking at STRS info, smallergroup for those of you 5-6 years out from retirement needing more personalized information, and individual meetings for those about to retire.  Don't hesitate to call...they book up 6-8 weeks out, as space is limited.

Contractual Issues Happening Right Now

Remember that the contract is an agreement between CVTA and the District and it was bargained in the best interest of students and teachers.  That means that both sides agreed to abide by what is included in the contract, so when something needs to be cited from the contract, it isn't what "the District said" or what "CVTA said"... it is what was agreed to and is therefore legally binding.

Find the contract here. Here are the things we are working on:

* No Grievances at this time.
* Grievances need to start at the informal level.  This means that you have a conversation with your immediate supervisor, whether face to face or via email, in order to give them the opportunity to remedy the situation.  It is important that you actually state, "This is my informal grievance."  This will begin the timeline,and will ensure your administrator understands that there is a timeline to follow.
* Williams Complaint Form - Some of you have asked for this form, which can be used for complaints about facilities and textbooks or instructional materials. This form could be an option when a grievance isn't the appropriate path to deal with a situation at your site.

Here are some important dates to keep in mind:

* March 7th - School Board Meeting @ DM, 5:30pm
* March 13th - Elementary Conferences 2:20-6:45
* March 14th - Elementary Conferences 1:20-4:00
* March 15th -  Bargaining...please wear your CVTA shirts to support our team!
* March 18th - DisctictProfessional Development Day (This is a workday!)
* March 19th - Bargaining...please wear your CVTA shirts to support our team!
* March 20th - CVTA Rep Council Mtg. 4:30 @ CDA Library
* March 21st - School Board Meeting @ DO, 5:30pm
* March 23rd - Celebrate Reading Event at the Coachella Library, 9am-12pm
* March 26th - High School Conferences 4:30-6:30
* March 26th - CVTA Executive Board Meeting, CVTA Office, 4:30pm
* March 28th - Middle School Conferences 4:30-6:30
* March 28th - Secondary Minimum Day

PBIS Tip:

Week of March 4, 2019:

Universal Expectation :Playground

Classroom Survival Skill: Following Instructions

Growth Mindset Affirmation: When I practice I see great results.

Restorative Question: Tell about an unforgettable memory.

A Tip from Technology Services:

The iCenter is excited to announce that our students under the age of 13 now have Adobe Spark accounts. Adobe Spark Video is an amazing, high quality, freemovie-making application that can be used in grades TK-12 across all disciplines. Within Adobe Spark Video there is an image search that is safe with Creative Commons licensed images. This is a very user-friendly platform with intuitive features allowing students to easily create stunning video and audio presentations. Students can save an unlimited amount of work automatically to the cloud and continue working on their projects from home if they have a device connected to the internet. Along with Adobe Spark video, and with the same login credentials, you and your students now have access to Adobe Spark Post and Adobe Spark Page. Adobe Spark Post helps you to create stunning infographics. Adobe Spark Page is a simple, yet powerful tool students can use to create web pages. The classroom uses and possibilities for all of the Adobe Spark apps are endless; from student portfolios, science projects, film analysis, ASB announcements, and much more. We put together this brief tutorial with an explanation of how to have your students log in.

If you need any assistance with incorporating technology tools into your lesson design, don't hesitate to book a member of our iCenter Team.

A Tip from EL Services:

If you would like assistance in your classrooms, please schedule an appointment with one of our EL TOSAs by clicking the links below:

Araida Flores araida.flores@cvusd.us, araidaflores.youcanbook.me/

Maribel Carrillo macarrillo@cvusd.us, maribelcarrillo.youcanbook.me/

Please share this email with anyone you know that does not already receive it.  There is a link near the top to sign up on our mailing list.  These newsletters are always posted on our Facebook page, as well, which can be accessed even if you don't have a FB account.  It is a public page and can be seen by anyone who visits it. Thank you!

Carissa Carrera

CVTA President

"You can't do it unless you organize."