December 10. 2018

Greetings!

Good morning!  I'm hearing from a lot of you about stress, workload, and how tired you are.  One thing that we educators tend to forget is that we can give ourselves permission to NOT do work at home,and to ask for help.  You are all doing a great job, and should be proud!

Did you know that there are all sorts of scholarship opportunities for members and their families?  Please check out this email from CTA for details on scholarships.

The CVUSD School Board held their organizing meeting, and Joey Acuña was elected board president, Sylvia Paz as board vice-president, and Blanca Hall as board secretary.  The next board meeting is on December 20th.

I had the opportunity to be a judge for the Alianza Youth Soapbox Speech Competition, Kermes 2018 last week.  The students and parents were amazing, and I look forward to sharing some of the content of the speeches with you.  Much of what they had to say needs to be heard by more than those in attendance at the competition.

PLCs:

I wanted to address Contract Article 2.16 one more time,because I'm not sure that each of you is aware that you have some flexibility with your PLCs.  As long as you are meeting with the purpose of assessing student learning and determining strategies to support student learning, you are holding a PLC.

This is important because I've been at trainingsrecently where teachers stated they wished they could get together to collaborate with each other after the training.  Guess what?  You can.  The TK teachers have been doing this for a while, periodically meeting together as TK teachers even though they aren't at the same site.  Just some ideas...GATE teachers could meet with other GATE teachers, PBIS leads could meet with other PBIS leads, SPED teachers from different sites could meet together.

As a grade level, you can also book our TOSAs or invite someone to present/work with your grade level if there issomething specific your grade level needs that will support student learning.  The options are endless.  You are still accountable for agendas and minutes from these meetings, and of coursethey need to remain teacher planned and directed,and focused on improving instruction for the students.  The point is, you can be creative and make them as useful as possible for you and your students.

VAPA in Elementary:

There have been a lot of concerns about whether the new Pathways to Success positions fulfill the VAPA requirement, allowing the rescheduling of prep periods. This comes from new language added to the contract in the last bargaining round.

What we are hearing from Ed Services is that these teachers will have daily lessons that integrate music, art andother VAPA.  The job description does say they will teach PBIS, AVID, College Readiness, etc., but when we brought up the concern that it might not fit the intent of the language, we were assured VAPA would be integrated every day.  At this pointwe need to wait and see how it goes before making any further assessment.

Bargaining:

Our CVTA Bargaining Team is finishing up site visits in order to give everyone another opportunity to provide input.  Please remember, they are not coming to share information about bargaining...this is your opportunity to share with the team what you would like to see changed in the contract.

December 10  Mecca               3:25 p.m.

                      Saul Martinez     3:25 p.m.

December 11  Peter Pendleton  3:25 p.m.

                       Westside             3:25 p.m.

                      Sea View and West Shores High together  3:25 p.m. (?)

December 12  Valle Del Sol      3:25

December 13   Oasis                 3:25 p.m.

Professional Library:

Don't forget to take a lookCVTA's new 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 for the 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!

Professional Development:

CVTA, DSTA, and PSTA are working to reschedule the Classroom Management PDs that wereunfortunately cancelled.  We are also working to schedule a self-care PD,because inorder to take care of your students, you need to take care of yourself first!

Find information on the incentive grants being offered for CTA Statewide Conferences here. There are some great conferences, and you may qualify for a grant!

Cahuilla CUE will be hosting it's 1st Tech Fest! The Tech Fest will be similar to the CUE Conference in March,but will come at a much lower price. If you aren't able to attend CUE this year in Palm Springs, this might be a great way to attend EdTech sessions and still receive information about some cool tools and strategies you can use for your classroom. Check out the information in the attached flyer for more information.

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.

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.

California Casualty's $7,500 School Lounge Makeover is Back

Serving CTA since 1951, California Casualty knows the importance of a designated space where instructors and school staff can take time to relax, recharge and share with their colleagues.

Your school could join these California schools that have received a makeover: Warner Middle School in Westminster, Sunnydale Elementary School in Lancaster, Gilbert High School in Anaheim, and Madrid Middle School in El Monte

California educators can transform their school lounge by simply entering for a $7,500 School Lounge Makeover at www.NewSchoolLounge.com/CTA. All staff members can enter to increase their school's chances of being picked.

The deadline to enter is July 12, 2019. A winner will be announced later that month.

Founded in 1914, California Casualty has partnered with CTA to provide members auto and home insurance tailored to their professional needs since 1951. To learn more, or to request an auto insurance quote, please visit www.CTAMemberBenefits.org/calcas, or call 1.800.800.9410. MORE

Contractual Issues Happening Right Now

Remember that the contract is an agreement between CVTA and the District.  That means that both sides agreed to abide by what is included in the contract.  Find the contract here. Here are the things we are working on:

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:

December 12th - CVTA Rep Council @ CDA, 4:30 pm (Elementary and Secondary House meetings prior @ 3:45 and 4:00 respectively, open to all)

December 19th - You can go home at the same time as the students (or after any duty you may have), per contract Article 12.1.6.  This would normally be a PD and Staff Meeting day, but those meetings will need to be optional.

December 20th - School Board Meeting @ DO, 5:30 pm

January 7th - Return from break

PBIS Tip:

Week of December 10, 2018:

Universal Expectation :Restroom

Classroom Survival Skill: Following Instructions

Growth Mindset Affirmation: I won't stop until I feel proud.

Restorative Question: My best personality trait is...

A Tip from Technology Services:

No tip this week

A Tip from EL Services:

Thank you teachersfor your efforts in administering the CVUSD ELD Benchmark to your English Language Learners. The purpose of the ELD Benchmark is to measure English language acquisition in the domains of Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing across the proficiency continuum as measured by the CA ELD standards. This once-a-year assessment mirrors the annual English Language Proficiency Assessment for California (ELPAC). The ELD Benchmark exposes students and teachers with tasks that are similar to the ELPAC and helps to target strengths and weakness in the four domains prior to the administration of the summative ELPAC in February/March.

This is the first year of implementing the ELD Benchmark. We are aware of some technical glitches and are currently collecting feedback and suggestions for next year's administration. Please do not hesitate to reach out to the English Learner Services Department if you would like to provide feedback or need clarification of the ELD Benchmark. Additionally, our EL TOSAs are available to support with the analysis of ELD Benchmark data in order to inform your instruction. You may schedule an appointment by using the contact information below:

Araida Flores, EL TOSA

PHONE: (760) 848-1010

ARAIDA.FLORES@CVUSD.US

araidaflores.youcanbook.me/

Maribel Carrillo, EL TOSA

PHONE: (760) 848-1010

MACARRILLO@CVUSD.US

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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 FBaccount.  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."