12/3/18

Good morning!  I hope this email finds you well and ready to make a difference for each of your students this week!  There is a lot of information in this week's email, and I really appreciate each of you for taking the time to stay informed.

Just a quick update about our Classroom Management PDs...they've both been cancelled.  We apologize for this, but hopefullythey will be rescheduled soon.

Online voting is taking place this week from 12/5-12/7 for the vacant State Council seat.  Please check your personal email the morning of 12/5 for your direct link to the ballot.  There were no nominations for the Alternate Seat, so that remains vacant.

March 18th PD Day - We sent an email last week with a link to a survey in order to get ideas (in your personal email).  It is important to us that what you spend the day learning is useful to you personally, so please take the time to complete the survey. We plan to share the results with the Ed Services department to help with planning for that day.

The new contract is on the District website, the CVTA website (see the link below), and a copy for each of you is being provided.  Please ask your site rep if you don't receive yours by mid-week.

District Mandated Assessments

The conversations are continuing around the workload issues with the District Assessments.  We've had several meetings with representatives from Ed Services, and we will continue to hold these conversations as long as there are issues.  An email was sent to principals on Friday with some updates, so please check with them for the current information.

Additionally, your site testing coordinators should be seeking feedback about the assessments.  Please seek them out and have conversations about any administering or scoring concerns you may have.  It is CVTA's position that any assessments given to the students should be beneficial to both the students and the teachers, and should not negatively impact regular instruction.  Working together with the District, we can make the improvements necessary.

Bargaining

The survey is now closed, but our CVTA Bargaining Team is in the process of making site visits 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 3  Coral Mountain  3:25 p.m.

                      Las Palmitas      3:25 p.m.

December 4  Cesar Chavez     3:25 p.m.

December 5  Cahuilla Desert Ac.  3:30 p.m.

                     Palm View          3:35 p.m.

                      DMHS                2:35 p.m.

                      Mountain Vista Elem.  3:25 p.m.

December 6  DO with and at JOHN KELLEY   3:25 p.m.

                     Adult Education   5:15 p.m.

December 7   Valley View       3:25 p.m.

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:

We are excited to share that CVTA has started up a professional library!  We will 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.  Your reps will also place the list on your CVTA bulletin board.  Happy reading!

Professional Development:

There is a New Educator Weekend in December being offered by CTA.  Find more information here.

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 5th to 7th - Online voting for State Council election...check your personal email

December 6th - School Board Meeting @ DO, 5:30 pm

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 3, 2018:

Universal Expectation :Playground

Classroom Survival Skill: Appropriate Voice Tone

Growth Mindset Affirmation: With effort and determination I can succeed.

Restorative Question: If you had a super power, what would it be and why?

A Tip from Technology Services:

Computer Science Education Week (CSEdWeek) is coming! Are you ready? Computer Science Education Week (CSEdWeek) is an annual program dedicated to inspiring K-12 students to take interest in computer science. This year, we will be celebrating CSEdWeek from December 3rd through the 9th.

One way to introduce Computer Science to your students is through Hour of Code. Hour of Code is an opportunity for every student to try coding activities for one hour as a way to engage in powerful ideas, foster creativity, persistence, collaboration, and problem-solving skills. The philosophy is simple but significant: every student deserves the opportunity to learn computer science and to learn skills they will be able to use in this ever-changing career landscape. Code.org is a great resource for teachers and students and it can all be accessed through the Clever Portal.

Check out the Code.org & Clever Portal Guide  aswell as the hundreds of pre-made lessons to get started! For more EdTech support on how to integrate Coding into your curriculum or to organize a school-wide event, book a T3 from the iCenter using our booking calendar. Don't forget to use #CVUSDLearns, #HourOfCode, and/or #CSEdWeek to share the learning!

A Tip from EL Services:

The English Learner Services (ELS) Department is excited to introduce you to the newest members of our team:

Ms. Elisa Gentry is excited to be joining the department as the English Learner Services Coordinator after spending over 21 years with Coachella Valley USD.  She has been an elementary school teacher, instructional coach, intervention teacher and Teacher on Special Assignment (TOSA) in our District.  Ms. Gentry has spent the last four years as the Tech-Based Intervention TOSA in the Educational Services Division.

Ms. Esther Gaona-Wilson is serving as a Migrant Education Program TOSA after spending over 15 years with Coachella Valley USD. She has been an elementary, middle, and high school math teacher, instructional coach, EL mentor, and migrant lead in our District. Ms. Gaona-Wilson has spent the last 7 years teaching math and ELD at Coachella Valley High School.

Ms. Maribel Carrillo has joined the team as an English Language Support TOSA after spending over 23 years with Coachella Valley USD. She has been an elementary teacher, ELD Coach, and lead teacher in our District. Ms. Carrillo has spent the last 18 years teaching at Mountain Vista Elementary.

The ELS Team is available to support TK-12 teachers and students. Teachers can request individual or grade level support by contacting any member of our team. Our team is striving to do our best to support you. Please book, call, email, or stop us when you see us on your campus to set up times for us to work with you! We look forward to hearing from you!

English Learner Services Contact Information.

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."