CVTA President’s Newsletter

November 5, 2018

Good morning!  Things have been relatively quiet since the last email.  The new contract is just about finished, and we will have a hard copy for every bargaining unit member once they are printed.  Please make sure to read it.  It truly doesn't take long to read cover to cover,and includes the rights and responsibilities of both CVTA and the District.

Don't forget to vote tomorrow!  Polling places are open from 7am-8pm.  You can find CTA's Voter Guide here.

Please check this email for upcoming Professional Development provided to our CVTA Members, as well as conferences available from CTA (grants available).

Mecca Fall Festival: CVTA is going to have a table at the Mecca Fall Festival on November 9th from 3-6 pm. We can set up at 2:30pmand pack up after 6pm.We will have some freebies for kids and a carnival game.

We are looking for volunteers to help with working at the table, set up, or clean up. All we need is a one hourcommitment from several people. 3-4, 4-5, 5-6, or the before and after work of setting up or cleaning up.

Participating in our community is such an important part of building relationships. We'd appreciate any help you, or others from your site, are willing to give on behalf of the community.

This week's restorative question is: What is your favorite thing to do?  Mine is traveling! I don't get to do my favorite thing often enough, which is unfortunately likely very typical of educators.

I hope you get to do your favorite thing soon! :)

Professional Development:

There will be two Classroom Management PD sessions offered at the Palm Desert CTA Office on Cook St. in PD.  This is a joint effort brought to you by PSTA, DSTA, and CVTA, and it's free!  Dates are listed below in the calendar, and it will be limited space.  Please watch for flyers with registration links to be posted soon.

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 coming to the CTA Palm Desert Office: Please keep an eye out for upcoming information.  You will be able to schedule sessions locally (usually we have to drive to either Palm Springs or Riverside).  Another way to schedule an appointment with these counselors is on the www.myCalSTRS website.  It is a good idea to visit that site soon, anyhow, to check your account.  They have recently posted last year's information.  You should also be able to schedule by calling (800) 228-5453 and selecting option 3.

New Benefits Exclusively for CTA Members

CTA is always looking for ways to enhance their member benefits. CTA understands the emotional and financial burden members may experience due to outstanding student loans or being out of work on a disability claim due to a Cancer diagnosis. That's why CTA created and is providing the Student Loan Benefit and Cancer Benefit for CTA members. These benefits will be available at no additional cost to Members enrolled in the CTA-endorsed Voluntary Disability Insurance plans from Standard Insurance Company (The Standard). MORE

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:

Special Education Class Sizes:  A couple sites have had to file informal grievances because there has been no adjustment to their class sizes since the implementation of the new contract language.  Right now, these numbers can be found in the TA here. Please check the class sizes at your sites and follow up with an informal, if necessary.

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:

November 8th - School Board Meeting @ VDS, 5:30 pm

November 9th - Mecca Fall Festival

November 12th - Veteran's Day Holiday

November 14th - CVTA Rep Council @ CDA, 4:30 pm (Elementary and Secondary House meetings prior @ 3:45 and 4:00 respectively, open to all)

November 19th - 23rd - Thanksgiving Break

November 28th - Elementary Conferences 2:20-6:45

November 29th - Elementary Conferences 1:20-4:00

November 29th - Secondary Classroom Management PD @ CTA Office 4:30-6

December 6th - Elementary Classroom Management PD @ CTA Office 4:30-6

PBIS Tip:

Week of November 5, 2018:

Universal Expectation :Library

Classroom Survival Skill: Staying on Task

Growth Mindset Affirmation:Iam capable of doing difficult things.

Restorative Question: What is your favorite thing to do?

A Tip from Technology Services:

The iCenter Team wanted to share with you a curated typing curriculum aligned to Common Core writing and reading standards from Typing.com; best of all it can be accessed from Clever! Keyboarding is a necessary skill that helps students communicate their thoughts and express themselves. As part of an ongoing effort to support Writing and Digital Literacy, this keyboarding curriculum was developed to prepare students for:letter recognition, build typing speed and accuracy, vocabulary development, reading and writing, punctuation and grammar, language acquisition and development, online assessments, and other skills. By using Typing.com's platform on iPads and computers, teachers can receive analytics on student progress and students can receive badges in a fun, gamified method for learning valuable keyboarding skills. For more information, book a T3 today!

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."