



ADVOCATE

Ontario-Montclair Teachers Association

October 2018

IMPORTANT DATES NOVEMBER

- 1st OMSD BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
- 2nd FALL SOCIAL
- 5th OMTA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
- 6th ELECTION DAY
- 12th VETERANS DAY NO SCHOOL
- 15th OMSD BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
- 19th – 23rd THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY
- 26th OMTA REP COUNCIL MEETING

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

This is an article from our nurses. This is hopefully the first of many articles I am hoping to print regarding the depth and breadth of our OMTA's workforce. I am offering varying factions of our "specialized" certificated staff to share about their job and the inherent duties and responsibilities their position entails. This is not to say that any one group works harder than another. I know that each and every person employed by OMSD works diligently, and in a variety of ways, to care for our students and to also provide a first-class education for every one of our students.



*Together We Are Stronger,
John Egan, OMTA President*

Dear OMSD,

When the nurses were asked to write about our jobs, my mind immediately jumped to statistics. We can share tons of data about how approximately 12 FTE (or 13 Nurses) will (with some help) conduct hearing and vision screenings about 50% of the student population this year, help track over 600 medications that are stored on campuses, cover over 40 daily procedures (not including Lincoln Elementary), and participate in more than 3100 IEPs across the district. We have the boggling statistic about having more than 120,000 collective health office visits per school year. There is so much data to share, but those numbers only share that we are busy and not truly what we do.

Daily we see the hard cases. The case where you have an otherwise normal healthy child who suffered from severe shaken baby syndrome and is now confined to a wheelchair, he can no longer talk or eat like we do, and now resides in a group home. Our nurse has visited his group home. On the walls were words of love and encouragement the staff have made for him. The nurse works with the teachers, aides, and group home to make sure the student has all his needs met.

We allow a 10 minute phone conversation go to 30-45 minutes because the parent needs to voice concerns and questions for their special needs student and ask health related questions. We have sat and listened to parents explain that they do not believe their sons/daughters will be totally independent, but parents would like for him/her to be able to ride a bus, count money, and most of all not get lost when he/she becomes an adult. These same parents talk about moving but are reluctant because of the support their child and family receive from the health office.

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One of our responsibilities is to know a variety of symptoms and illnesses in order to be the first line of health care for students. As an example, an OMSD nurse recognized the symptoms that a student had and realized that the student was in need of immediate medical care. As a result of her quick action the student was diagnosed as a diabetic. That student needed a week in the hospital to become healthy again and now needs insulin injections. OMSD nurses check for decaying teeth, infections, or other health issues that need immediate care and help students secure the care that they need. OMSD nurses follow up with the families and make sure the students are able to return to their daily normal routines.

We also work with the 5-year-old diabetic and help teach him/her how to count and learn fractions since it is necessary for his/her health. And, if we are lucky, we will help the same student as he or she grows until they are ready to leave for high school. We will care for more than 30 diabetics across the district this year.

We work closely with administration and school staff to help when parents show up with ill students or students who are new to the district or are new to the country. We will work with outside physicians, psychiatrists, and other organizations to promote healthy students. The nurses work with Health Aides, OutReach Consultants, and Counselors to organize services for students such as shoes that fit, Operation School Bell (new school clothes), Kids pack (meals on the weekends), Spark of Love (Christmas Gifts), Virtual Dental academy (for dental services), BreathMobile (for students with Asthma), and many more programs. The OMSD nurses are an active link between students and school services and health care.

More importantly, the OMSD nurses come to work daily for the students. We, like their teachers, form bonds and a special friendship with each child as we work to take care of their needs, and a friendship with parents who trust and depend on us to provide quality care for his or her child. We work tirelessly to advocate for each student to provide the opportunity to access curriculum as a healthy, pain free, stress-free child. Lastly, we try to make sure every child returns home at the end of the day whole and healthy. If you have ever wanted to shadow a professional registered nurse in OMSD, we would love to host you. Just know, it's both a marathon and a daily sprint.



friendship with each child as we work to take care of their needs, and a friendship with parents who trust and depend on us to provide quality care for his or her child. We work tirelessly to advocate for each student to provide

OMTA SAYS GOOD-BYE TO PAST PRESIDENT BEVERLY COWAN.

Bev was born in Boise Idaho. She was the youngest of four children. She married Joseph Cowan and had six children. She started teaching in 1969 when her youngest daughter was seven. Her annual salary was less than \$6,000.00 a year.

She was at two schools in the 25 years she taught for OMSD. She was at Moreno Elementary School where she taught K – 4th grade. While she was teaching, she was also the SIP coordinator for many years.



She left Moreno when there was a staff reduction. She was teaching kindergarten at the time. Three weeks into the school year they decided there were not enough students for there to be 5 kindergarten classes so she was going to be moved to second grade. Then the new teacher in second grade was going to be shipped off to Corona. Instead of making two classes change teachers, Beverly elected to move to Corona. She taught second grade at Corona for many years.

She was OMTA president 1976 through 1979 during this time the president was still teaching in the classroom and split her time between teaching and representing the OMTA members. Other positions she held for OMTA were vice president, bargaining chair, Service Center 1 Rep. and State Council Rep. She received the Who Award twice for all the work she did to make OMTA stronger.

The one thing that people noticed about Bev, was she always had a smile. She worked hard to make Ontario Montclair School District a great place for teachers and students.

Her belief in education was that every child could learn, but children learn in different ways. She created a town at Moreno where students at the school could earn, bank and spend money just like in a regular town. The students who were at Moreno at the time had experience writing checks.

She ran for OMTA office because she believed that you should not complain if you are not willing to try and improve the situation.

She was a serene individual. Raising six children and teaching made her used to a lot of commotion. Even going through all the cancer treatment, she had a smile on her face. The doctors and nurses loved her at Kaiser because she did not let her sickness get her down. She told everyone she was going to live the life she was given and when her time came then she would go. Her message to her family and friends was that: "I know you will be sad, but I just want you to remember that I had a great life. I lived 88 years and have no regrets. I want everyone to celebrate my life, remember me with love, and sing and dance".

KNOW YOUR CONTRACT

ARTICLE VII - SPECIAL EDUCATION

The District recognizes its responsibility to provide a continuum of special education programs and related services in compliance with the applicable state and federal statutes and to adhere to the regulations and requirements of the Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA). In addition to the requirements set forth by the SELPA and applicable state and federal statutes, the Association and the District agree to the following:

- A. If there is a recommendation to change a student's current placement a potential receiving teacher shall be invited to the IEP meeting for that student. The District will provide the receiving teacher with pertinent information regarding a student considered for placement prior to the IEP meeting so that the receiving teacher can be an informed and knowledgeable member of the team.
- B. When new services by a teacher are included as part of the student's individual education program, the Individual Education Program (IEP) team will define the frequency and duration of services in addition to the date services will begin. Consideration shall be made by the IEP team to provide the receiving teacher with at least five (5) duty days after the IEP meeting before receiving the student. This will allow the new teacher time to prepare for the arrival of the student.

Excluded from this provision are special education students with an active IEP new to the District. Should a student with an active IEP new to the District not be placed within the program identified within their IEP, the student will be transferred to the appropriate program by a Special Education administrator.

- C. When unit members are requested to attend IEP meetings called during regular instructional hours, the District shall provide for the release of the unit member from his/her assigned duties in order to attend.
- D. At any time, unit members may request an IEP meeting when concerns associated with identified students are evident (e.g. lack of student progress, modification to goals and objectives, assessment(s), additional support(s)).
- E. Unit members shall be provided staff development/information to explain applicable Special Education legislation, provisions, and regulations.

(Bear in mind there are thirteen more sections beyond E; for the sake of other information we will continue Article VII in the November Advocate) 🍏

WHAT WONDERFUL THINGS ARE YOU DOING IN CLASS?

I would like to initiate something new this year. I would like to visit classrooms, so I can see all the wonderful things that are being taught and accomplished by all your students. If you are comfortable with a visitor and there is something you are excited about that your class is doing, being academic or elective, I would enjoy seeing it! My goal is not to stay long and/or disrupt your teaching; it's simply to pass along the good word to others. If you're interested in having me as a visitor, drop me a line; give me a call with at least three dates & times. And most important, notify your administrator that I'm coming.

Thanks, John Egan • president@myomta.org • 909-986-2414

P. S. I'll bring a little something for your students



OMTA LENDS A HELPING HAND

By Trudy Cowan

One year I was asked if I could coordinate a food drive. I took on the challenge and asked for the OMTA representatives to put a box at their site and bring it back full. I was surprised with the amount of food we received. Last year, we filled up a truck to the brim with the food donations. Because of your effort and hard work we were able to help many families.

This year I am asking for your help again with the holiday food drive which is from November 1st to December 10th. Please help your OMTA Rep fill up a box, or two, or more. It will mean a lot to the families in our community who are struggling. It is just another way to show our community that we care. 🍏



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Central: Marina Garcia
Corona: Julie Rafeedie
DeAnza: Inaki Bizkarra
Del Norte: Natalie Cantos/Mary Braunstein
Edison: Rayvelyn Swift
El Camino: Susie Imrich/Sandi Missick
Elderberry: Kevin Dixon, Dennis Kelly
Euclid: Wendy Beltran, Kelly Duffy
Hawthorne: Monique Gray, Celina Marshall
Haynes: Robert Mariani, Cecil Malacarne

Howard: Kelly Pawley
Kingsley: Michelle Montes, Javier Sandoval
Lehigh: Robin Carr, Jennifer Barringer
Lincoln: Holly Baca, Denise Dryden
Mariposa: Sendai Parker,
Dionne Treadway Contreras
Mission: Debby Hilak, Vince DeFabiis
Monte Vista: Kay Hoover
Montera: Ana Zoque, Dawn Falkenberg
Moreno: John Ross
Oaks: Lora Dahms, Lisa Eckersley
Ramona: Kelly Albers, Lindsay Gallagher
Serrano: Ana Moreno, Curt Albers
Sultana: Terri Tucker, Elsa DeShazo

Vernon: I-Esha Scott, Rosa Whitton
Vina Danks: Lisa Ochoa, Glenn Wong
Vineyard: Nila Delise
Vista Grande: Monica Lite
Wiltsey: Kim Hunter, Brad Joplin
Counselors/Orcs: Deana Shoultz
Early Ed/Pre-School: Alison Guadalupe
HFB/Hardy Center: Laura Smart
Health/Nurse: Dana Smith
Music: Daniel Salcido
PE/APE: Daryl Durston
Special Ed: Aurora Mejico
Speech: Ulla Tang Larsen