

Dear Teachers,

A Message from your 2009 – 2011 President:

Thank you for electing me as your new President. I look forward to serving all members and building a strong, unified union. I hope to be highly visible in the next two years by making sure that I'm out in buildings on a regular basis. I also want to encourage as many of you as possible to become involved in some way. The more visible and active we are, the stronger we can be. Have a great rest of the year!!!

Richelle Palmer

It's Evaluation Time

Evaluations of certificated staff are to be completed by May 15. (Yes, that does mean signed and conferenced.) Make sure that only negotiated evaluation forms and procedures are used by your principal.

PGO participants have until June 1 to have their documentation completed.

Remember to sign and date your evaluation. Your signature does not imply that you agree with what it written.

If you receive an unsatisfactory evaluation or you have questions or concerns about your evaluation, please call me right away at 525-7810 or email me at wwveatoni@gmail.com

Toni Lynn Steele

The year is coming to a close and so much is happening in both the Walla Walla and College Place Schools. A lot of change and tightening of the finances as we receive many cuts from the State. Thank you to all who were able to contact our legislators and our Governor. Both districts have strived to keep all continuing contract teachers and there have been no RIF's. Yes, there has been a lot of movement but nobody has been laid off. Walla Walla has also been able to open up some jobs to those that had Non-Continuing contracts for consideration.

Our End of Year Get Together will be on Wednesday evening from 5:30 – 7:30 at Hence Cellars. Please make sure you RSVP by Friday, May 15, so we can order enough food. I know that it is now conflicting with something at Garrison, but at the time of planning, there had not been anything on the Walla Walla Calendar for that evening, so I went for it.

Please take the time to thank our substitute teachers for being there for us when we need them. Please let them know how important they are to us.

College Place Negotiators will be getting together to draw up a survey that will going out to teachers on the 12th of May.

As the school year comes to a close, I want to wish you the best. Please have a peaceful end of the school year! I am President through the summer; so if something should come up, please do not hesitate to give me a call. Have a terrific Summer!

Toni Lynn Steele, President

More on Cover Your Booty

As promised, I stated that I would be sharing information that I learned from the "Cover your Booty" Training that I attended put on by WEA. Here is more:

Relationships:

- NEVER give a student a ride in a car.

Exceptions would be if you have a type 2 license and it is a school-approved activity. Follow school policy, get prior approval from the building administrator and always get parent approval. Try to take more than one student.

- NEVER allow a student to obsess on you.
- Always meet with a student so that anyone walking by can see in! Keep door open. Keep lights on. Keep window blinds open.
- If you receive love letters from a student, do not throw them away. DO share them with another responsible adult and/or your administrator and always keep the original. Be unequivocal/firm in your response. Remember any reply letter will be read out of context.

This Just in From WEA

Layoffs challenge members' livelihoods

— Snoqualmie Valley is anticipating 18.5 teachers involved with lay offs.

— Wapato Association of Educational Office Professionals will have a secretarial position eliminated and the school administration is asking for \$40,000 more in cuts from this unit.

— University Place EA is laying off 21 certificated employees.

— Clover Park Education Association is laying off 29 certificated employees but provisional contract employees are on a recall list.

— Steilacoom EA will experience a layoff of four teachers.

— Washington Virtual Academy will have 15 teachers laid off. They are part of the Steilacoom EA and have 63 teachers working there with 38 members.

— Other Soundview layoff meetings: University Place May 13; Steilacoom Classified May 14; Clover Park EA meeting TBA.

— Kent School District will send out 124 notices to members on May 11.

— Stanwood EA faces 13 layoffs.

— Battle Ground will lay off 79 certificated positions (in addition to 24 attrition).

— Burlington-Edison EA will deal with 20 layoffs.

— Anacortes EA will face layoffs of 27 certificated personnel.

— Coupeville EA will face layoffs of two certificated folks.

— Concrete School District will lay off two certificated folks.

These are the latest cuts, and I have heard of more. Please hang in there as we also go through many changes and be glad you have a job. As you can see, there are many who will not be working next fall for their school

districts. The legislators have surely let us down and have not fully funded education. Not only is it hurting educators, but it will surely affect the children that we teach.