

# PERSPECTIVE



Central Valley Education Association

March 2013

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## Reopeners to Focus on Unfinished Business

As we have progressed through this year, I have tried to keep all members informed about the work the committees have been doing in preparing language to take to the bargaining table for re-openers this spring. There have been articles in this newsletter, lengthy conversations at building visits and building meetings, and regular reports to the Building Representatives meetings. Some of the committees have completed their work and others are making good progress toward doing so. Because this is a bargaining process we won't be going into details in this newsletter concerning the committees' recommendations, but rest assured whatever agreements we are able to reach with the district will be brought to you for your ratification at the end of the process. The Team of 5 will be working with the Team of 12 as we move through the reopener's this spring. Stay tuned to the updates from your Building Representatives.



## Special education online courses

Registration is now open for WEA's 2013 special education online courses for members. Coursework can be accessed 24 hours a day within the course's two-week timeframe, making the education experience convenient and inexpensive.

Cost per class is \$60. Participants also can earn 10 clock-hour credits from WEA (this is included in the course fee), or one college credit from Seattle Pacific University for an additional \$40. If you want to take a class for college credit, please contact Shirley Jeffrey for the required paperwork.

The following course offerings remain open for registration. Each course is limited to 30 students and classes fill quickly.

### • Legal Issues in Serving Students with Special Health Care Needs

The goal of this course is to provide professional educators, paraeducators, related services personnel, and interested others, a thorough understanding of the federal and Washington state laws and regulations affecting the provisions of ed

ucational services to students with special health care needs. [Register for the April 1-15, 2013 session.](#)

### • Disability History

This course is designed to provide educators an introduction to disability history, advocacy and law. The course include a review of the western highlights of disability history -- not exclusively the American history, but selective nonetheless. In addition to the historical highlights, the course includes information on disability terminology and the models of disability. This course is offered April 22-May 6, 2013. [Register for this class.](#)

### • Addressing the Needs of Students with Mental Health Concerns

This 10-hour course covers selected issues related to serving students with mental health care needs in the school setting. The course materials will provide background information on the mental health concerns that nega-



tively impact the ability of some children to learn; review the primary legal issues raised in schools when serving these children, and introduce educators to new developments in school-based services and community collaborations in Washington state. The course is available May 13-27, 2013. [Register here.](#)

If you have questions, please contact Mark Anderson at 253-765-7066 or Shirley Jeffrey at 253-765-7073.



Once again the Central Valley Education Association is sponsoring up to three \$1000 scholarships. The scholarship information has been delivered to the our high schools. The scholarships are intended for those students who are planning to pursue a degree in education. If you know of a deserving student please encourage them to contact their counseling or career center to obtain scholarship information and application. Scholarships are awarded to the most deserving applicants regardless of which high school they attend.

The scholarship deadline is April 24 for the completed scholarships to be in the Central Valley Education Association office. Each school should have a deadline that will allow them to meet April 24 deadline.

The scholarship recipients will be notified on or around June 1.

## Classroom Freebies

Created by a former educator who left the profession to be a stay at home mom, the website Classroom Freebies offers free resources for your classroom. Learn more [here](#).

## OurVoiceWashingtonEA.org

If you want to keep abreast of the developments in Olympia relative to public education and your job, you need to bookmark this site on your home computer:

[www.ourvoicewashingtonea.org](http://www.ourvoicewashingtonea.org)

Check it regularly for up-to-date information on legislative actions and how those actions may affect you and your students. In this time of education reform, it is important to be vigilant in monitoring and responding to these actions.

## VEBA Clarification

If you want to be able to cash out your sick leave days, and the VEBA vote determines VEBA conversion (as it always has,) you must have less than 180 days of sick leave at the beginning of the year. In other words, If you start the school year (9/1) with less than 180 days, you can only cash out excess sick leave (12 days less what was used in calendar year 2012) at a 4 to1 ratio. If you start the school year (9/1) with 180 days, you can only convert excess sick leave (12 days less what was used in calendar year 2012) to VEBA at a 4 to1 ratio. The cash out and VEBA conversion are done with the February payroll.

## St. Patrick's Day Parade

It is kind of like Halloween, but the kids stand on the side of the street and the parade participants go by giving out candy, bookmarks, and other goodies. CVEA will be participating with WEA Eastern Washington and many other local associations in the parade again this year on Saturday, March 16. If you would like to participate, contact Steve Lalonde at 926-0201.

### CVEA Executive Board

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