

UPDATE

Lake Washington Education Association

September 8, 2010

Keep your interactions with students safe!

Every year the Association represents colleagues of yours who have been accused by students or parents of inappropriate behavior. Most of the time these accusations are unfounded--- usually they're the result of actions being misinterpreted by the student and unintended by the teacher.

While it's never possible to completely eliminate the chance of being falsely accused of wrongdoing, here are some things you can do to minimize the risk:

Facebook, Twitter, e-mail, etc.

- Never "friend" students on your social networking site.
- If you choose to "friend" former students, they should be over 18 and graduated out of the school system.
- Think about what you post on your site---would you want your students to have this information?
- Same thing goes for posting a photo---would you want it circulating around your classroom?
- Avoid giving your personal e-mail address out to your students. Use your district e-mail.
- Keep e-mail communications brief and related only to school issues. Print out copies and save for your records.
- Communicate with the idea that whatever you write should be able to be read by your students' parents and your administrator.
- If you give out your home or cell phone number for parents to reach you, make it very clear that students are not allowed to call you.
- Do not text students.
- If a student sends you an inappropriate text or e-mail, notify your administrator right away.

Interacting with students

- Touch only "safe" areas, such as shoulders, arms, and upper back.
- **NEVER** touch a student while disciplining or redirecting him/her.
- Touch all students, male and female, in the same manner.
- Keep touching very brief, such as a pat on the back.
- Avoid initiating hugs with students.

- Keep hugs quick, and if possible, make them a side hug.
- Be sensitive to students who react negatively to being touched.

Verbal communications

- Be sure to talk to all students in the same manner.
- Avoid comments that might be interpreted by others as being sexist or sexual in nature.
- Avoid using sarcasm. It can be easily misinterpreted.
- Avoid "good-natured" joking that could be taken the wrong way.
- Compliment students on school-related performance rather than on physical characteristics (such as outfits or hairstyles).

In your classroom

- Try not to be alone with a student.
- If this is unavoidable, make sure your door is open and you're visible to others walking by.
- If you're in a portable and have to be alone with a student, tell another staff member and ask them to drop by unannounced.
- Keep windows, especially in your door, free from obstructions so other staff members have a clear view of your classroom from outside in the hallway.
- Be aware of spending unequal amounts of time with individual students.

Outside of school

- Never invite students to non-school sponsored events.
- If a student invites you to an event, make sure their parents will be there before you accept.
- If you run into a student outside of school, keep any conversation brief.
- If you do private tutoring, make sure a parent or other adult is around. Do not tutor your own students.
- Never transport a student alone in your vehicle unless it's an absolute emergency.
- Always make sure you have other adults with you when you're with students outside of school.

Information & News for Members

Plan to attend

The annual Benefits Fair is scheduled for Wednesday, September 29, from 1:00 to 6 PM. This is a perfect time to evaluate your current benefits selections and to make sure that your dollars are being used in a way that stretches your state allocation as far as possible.

This year, in addition to the regular vendors and benefits information, there will be a worksite wellness focus with a variety of great stress reducers and healthy living ideas.

We'll still have the great door prizes, snacks, and much more! Mark your calendar – plan to be there!

Use this link to access the summary of benefits booklet and premiums chart on to the [LWSD Portal](#).

Did you know?



Your family is covered (at no extra charge) under your dental and vision plans, which includes your spouse or domestic partner and children up to age 26. However, keep in mind that your medical plan premium does increase if you add dependents, depending on the number of people that you cover.

If you haven't listed your family on your dental plan enrollment forms, you do need to add them – it isn't automatic. To obtain an enrollment form, go to the LWSD Portal – [Payroll and Benefits](#).

LWSF offers fall grants

The 2010-11 school year will be a transition year for the Lake Washington Schools Foundation (LWSF) program and the last year of the traditional fall grants. Starting in the spring of 2011, LWSF will award classroom grants for implementation in the fall of 2011 where the grants will focus on helping each school reach the goals they set for their Continuous Improvement Plan.

To ease this transition, LWSF will be offering a one-time Transition Grant this fall, with a streamlined application process. The fall grants will be focused on funding extended learning programs for literacy, math or science in the LWSD.

Each school is eligible to receive up to \$1,500 worth of grant funds. School principals must approve and submit the one-page grant application. The grant process will be competitive with no guarantee that all schools will receive a grant. We encourage submission of applications as soon as possible.

Four (4) copies of the proposal (signed by your principal) must be delivered to the Lake Washington Schools Foundation by 4:00 PM on September 27.

Please go to the [LW Schools Foundation](#) for application details. The LWSF office is located in the Resource Center.



LWEA Executive Committee

President - Kevin Teeley
LWEA / 425 822-3388
kteeley@lwsd.org

Vice President - Mike Blodgett
Kirkland / 425 936-2420

Primary Rep – Ken Egawa
Blackwell / 425 936-2520

Intermediate Rep - Peggy Solum
Frost / 425 936-2560

Junior High Rep – Vincent Noto
Northstar/ 425 936-1760

Senior High Rep – David McGibney
EHS / 425-936-1500

Special Services Rep – Gerry Pappas
Muir / 425 936-2640

Specialist Rep – Jim Eaton
Resource Ctr / 425 936-1363

Ethnic Minority Rep – Ernest Young
Kamiakin / 425-936-2400

lakewashingtonea.org

LWEA Office

10604 NE 38th PI, Suite 212
Kirkland, 98033
425 822-3388

UniServ Rep: Caroline McDowell
cmcdowell@washingtonea.org

Admin Assistant: Sheila Hagerman
shhagerman@lwsd.org

Admin Assistant: Ila Rhea Morrow
imorrow@lwsd.org

Sick leave and substitutes

The LWEA/LWSD contract allows you the choice of taking sick leave, particularly for medical appointments, either in full or half-day increments, or for the actual amount of time you are away from work.

Although substitutes must be contracted in half-day increments, the amount of time charged against your sick leave need only be the time you are gone. For example, if you leave for the dentist at 10:30 and return at 12:00, your sick leave balance will only be charged for 1.5 hours. Your sub, however, will be in your building for 3.5 hours, and may either assist you or be assigned other work by the principal.

Please note - you still have the option of taking the time off in entire half-day increments and having your sick leave charged for that time.

Also, you might not be aware that you can request half-day subs for midday, rather than just AM or PM. For example, you can get a sub for time slots such as 10:00 – 1:30 if that works out better for your medical appointment.

Loss of another friend



It is with great sadness that we report the passing of Bea Feit, a teacher at Keller Elementary. Bea lost her battle with cancer on Saturday, September 4.

Starting as a substitute in 1990, Bea served in a variety of short and long term assignments. In the fall of 1999, she was hired for one school year at Audubon. Bea then began teaching at Keller Elementary in 2001, where she continued to work up through this last school year.

Bea will be greatly missed by the staff, students, and entire Keller community.

A service has been planned for 2 PM on Saturday, September 25, at Faith Lutheran Church in Redmond. Anyone is welcome to attend.

Hispanic Heritage Month

National Hispanic Heritage Month, observed each year from September 15 to October 15, honors the histories, cultures, and contributions of U.S. citizens who trace their ancestry to Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, and the Spanish-speaking countries of Central and South America. Visit the [NEA website](#) for celebration details.



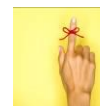
IA time must be determined

Each junior and senior high building is entitled to receive 30 minutes of IA time per FTE classroom teacher per week. This time is to be used for instructional assistance or other direct help to relieve workload. The staff of each building must meet each fall to determine how this time will be allocated.

Calendar

Sept. 13	School Board Meeting
Sept. 21	Rep Assembly
Sept. 28	Executive Committee
Sept. 29	Benefits Fair & Worksite Wellness Resource Center – 1-6 PM

Remember to go
to the
Benefits Fair!



Marketplace

WANTED

Nanny for 2 children (4 mths & 3 yrs) – about 6 hours a day, starting mid-late Sept. Jessica Coburn (Rose Hill Jr) 425-829-5071.

FOR RENT

Woodinville 2-story home, 1,500 sq ft, 3 bedrooms, 2.75 bath, located on cul de sac in quiet neighborhood. New paint inside & out, new carpet & floors & much more. Bonus/family room, spacious 2-car garage, low maintenance yard & landscaping, Deck overlooking large (1/3 acre) yard & greenbelt. No smoking, pets considered on case-by-case basis. 1-year lease - \$1,775/mth + security (refundable, installments OK) + \$600 cleaning deposit. \$35 professional credit check (non-refundable). Scott Hageman (Alcott) 206-715-8027.

VACATIONS

Maui for a full week, 8 days, 7 nights during spring break (Sat – Sat). About 10 steps to ocean, see whales & sea turtles, view of 3 other islands, sunsets are gorgeous. Full refrigerator, cooking facilities, queen-size bed, AC. Kona Coast of Hawaii available next summer. Michael Chapin (Audubon, Rush, Evergreen) 425-885-7346 or musichapins@aol.com.

FOR SALE

Broyhill floral full-size couch, rose colored wing back chair, green wing back chair, cocktail table in cherry wood, side lamp table in cherry wood, & office armoire in cherry wood. Entire living room furnished for \$700 or buy separately. Susan (Rush) or Peter (Kamiakin) Conrick, 425-788-5652 or pconrick@hotmail.com or susanconrick@yahoo.com.

Professional Felker FTS-150 tile saw w/ ceramic blade, glass blade, & roller metal stand. Like new, \$200. Kathy Wright (EHS) 425-868-7685 or 425-577-1025 or dekrwright@yahoo.com.

Are you, your students, or parents in need of a piano? I have small inventory of quality used pianos – from \$995. Chuck Telford (Retired) 425-822-7110.

SERVICES

New Eastside law firm: Announcing opening of Law Offices of Gregory Rooney & Reese, PLLC, specialize in all areas - family law, criminal, commercial or civil litigation. Over 20+ combined years of exp, ready to assist w/ compassion & understanding you deserve. Contact at 425-452-3870. (Chuck Crain, Alcott).

Hannah Marie Photography: 15% off all portrait pkgs, just mention this ad. Expires 1/1/11. Contact me for more info, including my website. Hannah at 206-276-9677 or HMS4@aol.com. (Sharon Schmale, Einstein).

Remodel, additions, & new construction: specializes in kitchens, bath, decks, siding & more. Over 30 yrs experience. Licensed/bonded – RICKTC196QA. Rick Tachell Construction at 425-823-5046. (Janine Tachell, Frost).

To The T Home Inspection: Buying or selling a house? Need a home inspection? Fully licensed & pest and dangerous chemicals inspector. Call Tyler Tachell at 425-466-7441 or Tyler@TDTHomeInspections.com.

Pretty tile – ugly grout? Let the Grout Doctor take care of all your grout & tiles needs. For a free estimate, call John Start at 425-947-0060. (Ila Morrow, LWEA).

Prepare your yard for winter. Landscape, irrigation, yard work, no job too big or too small. Call David at 206-963-2068. (Janette Cimburek, Resource Ctr).

Membership packets were delivered to buildings this week. If you did not receive your new membership card and calendar, please contact [Sheila Hagerman](#) at the LWEA office.



**Pending available space, ads are run in the Update on a first come, first served basis.
Ads are accepted only in written form – send directly to Sheila Hagerman – shhagerman@lwsd.org.
Ads are subject to approval by the Executive Committee and may be edited for length.**