

Hello and Happy Holidays to Everyone,

Between holidays, finals, semester end, and reporting windows; this is an especially busy time of year. I'd like to urge everyone to take time during the upcoming winter break to decompress and find time for some self-care. It is important that we take care of ourselves as well as our professional responsibilities. The often used comparison of putting on an oxygen mask before aiding fellow passengers is particularly accurate here. Educators give so much of themselves that we often put our own well-being at the bottom of our priority list.

Meetings between OPS and OEA Negotiating teams are continuing. The next scheduled sessions are January 11th, from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM at the OEA Office, and January 19th from 5:00 to 8:00 PM. Negotiating sessions are open and the OEA team encourages members to attend meetings when possible. We also urge members to wear red on these dates to demonstrate unity and support for the members of the team who are committing so much effort towards achieving a just and equitable agreement for all members of our bargaining unit. Leanna Doig-Gray, Leanna.DoigGray@yahoo.com is our chief negotiator and Liz Figueroa is our NSEA specialist for negotiations, elizabeth.figueroa@nsea.org.

Winter recess is from December 25, 2017 to January 5, 2018. January 8th, 2018 is a designated teacher work day. There should be no meetings or professional development planned for this day. This is a time for teachers to work on their priorities in their classrooms. We believe that this time at the teacher's discretion is absolutely vital for educators. I strongly believe in respecting and honoring the professional judgement of educators. A designated work day is a strong statement of support for this work.

Please take note that the OPS teacher transfer process began on December 18, 2017. Please keep in mind that this is the only time that teachers may apply to the district for a transfer. It is important to note that OPS practice does not allow for a transfer request after this window closes on January 15, 2018; regardless of the reason. As a result, we recommend that all teachers complete a transfer request in order to ensure their ability to transfer should the need occur.

"The Teacher Transfer Request Posting opens on TalentEd on December 18th. Window to submit transfer request 12/18 – 1/15. For more information visit the OEA website @ <http://omahaoea.org/2017/12/2018-teacher-transfer-process/> OEA posted this notification on the OEA Website <http://omahaoea.org> and on the OEA Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Omaha-Education-Association-146542422023475/>. OEA relies on the website as a primary resource for informing members of Association Activity. The calendar is updated daily if needed.

You are the OEA. Our strength, our success comes from our unity. In union there is strength.