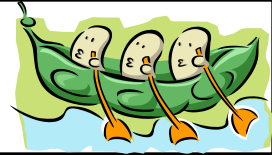


P.E.A. Patch



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What's YOUR class size?

Despite a Supreme Court mandate to fully fund public schools, class sizes in Washington State rank 47th in the nation. Only Oregon, Utah and California have larger classes than we do.

In Vermont, which has the lowest class sizes in the nation, a typical teacher has almost half as many students as teachers in Washington. Think about all you do and the stacks of papers, answering parent e-mails or try to give students in your class the individual help they need.

WEA members, parents and community leaders throughout the state are working to lower class sizes and reverse the decades long trend of balancing the state budget on the backs of students and teachers. Together they have formed CLASS SIZE COUNTS, a community group dedicated to reducing class sizes in Washington schools. They need your stories to share with legislators when the next session begins in January. Share your story with legislators and parents at www.ClassSizeCountsWA.com

Sub Crunch!

The sub crunch has hit especially hard at the Middle School level where teachers are being asked to cover classes for colleagues on a regular basis.

The reasons are many starting with above average illness for this time of year, add teacher trainings pulling thirty to forty subs out of mix, and subs who do not go to middle schools and you have a perfect storm.

This is not only our districts issue...upon investigation of other districts, regardless of pay, are experiencing the same problem. The district is reviewing options for the long term but this does little for our members in the short term.

PEA is well aware of the problem - the money one gets for covering classes is hardly worth the trouble...we need our planning time. PEA has had discussions with the district as to solutions.

This will be discussed again at DAC.

Hang in there, help is on the way...probably not fast enough but it is coming.

Peninsula Education Association – Affiliated with the WEA and NEA

5209 Pt. Fosdick Dr. N.W. Gig Harbor, WA 98335 Ph# 851-8710
email president@pea.comcastbiz.net website Peninsulaea.com

President	Jim Falcocchio	851-8710
Vice President	Carol Rivera (Goodman Middle School)	530-1600
Secretary	Jennifer Prince (Gig Harbor High School)	530-1400
Treasurer	Karin Ashabraner (Goodman Middle School)	530-1600

Visit the Peninsulaea.com for more information

Need an attorney?

If you need a lawyer, **WEA's Attorney Referral** network provides WEA members with attorney services at a discounted hourly rate for personal legal matters (not employment related).

Participating attorneys will provide each member with two 30 –minute consultations per school year. This benefit allows you to discuss with an attorney if you need additional legal services.

The attorney's fee will be discounted 30% for Real estate matters..Wills and estates..Domestic relations...Traffic violations.

This benefit is part of your WEA membership...for more info and to obtain attorney names and numbers go to the **WEA website**.

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If you have a pet, you know it can be expensive to care for your furry friend. NEA Member Benefits offers a premier pet insurance. Go to Nea.org to learn more about NEA services.

Social networking—protect your career

While social networking, such as Facebook and Twitter, is an effective way to keep in touch with friends and family and to connect to the broader world. School employees need to take precautions to make sure their posts don't jeopardize their careers.

Here are some suggestions to protect you in your role as an educator:

- Make sure your privacy settings allow only your friends to view your profile and your posts.
- Be vigilant what others post about you.
- Before posting something, ask yourself, " Would I want my (principal, students, parents) to see this?"
- Do not accept friend requests from current or potential students of their family members.
- Do not post negative information about your students, co-workers, or administrators. Even though you may think it is safe, these things have a way of getting out.

Monitor what's being published about you. Do a Google search on yourself to see what information others can access about you. You may want to set up a Google alert that will send you and e-mail any time you are published. Go to www.google.com/alerts to set up a notification.

Holiday Giving

**You can help the WEA Children's Fund to meet the modest and immediate needs of students encountered by WEA members in our daily workplaces.
Support our students....email WEAChildrensFund@washingtonea.org**

Know your contract: ...did you know????

The employer shall grant up to three(3) days personal leave with full pay per school year. An employee desiring to use such leave shall give at least twenty-four (24) hours advance notice when possible. Each day of personal leave used by an employee shall be deducted from the twelve (12) days and an employee may carry over two personal leave days each year up to a maximum of five (5) days of personal leave per year. Personal days shall not be used on days immediately preceding or following school holidays or vacation periods, nor to extend other leaves, nor during the first or final week of school except for religious holidays or extraordinary family related events (e.g. weddings or graduations) where scheduling the event is outside the control of the employee.

This is in the new contract under Section 4.1 Sick Leave...page 10...for more details go to the **PEA website and read your contract.**

This is part of your collective bargaining agreement and was bargained by your association.
Thank you bargainers!

Tips all employees should take

1. Learn to read your paycheck and check it every month.
2. Introduce yourself to your building rep...they can assist if any issues arise.
3. Plan NOW for retirement...visit NEA Member Benefits for information.
4. Know your particular certification rules and requirements.
5. Learn about and track your contracted financial benefits...see building rep.
6. Know your length of workday and work expectations..
7. Know the rules of your hiring condition..provisional?
8. Keep a file for your professional status.
9. Turn in all clock hours....it helps all members by driving more funds from state.
10. Be informed...attend a building rep meeting...go with a friend.
11. Visit the PEA Website and connect with WEA and NEA services and benefits.

Are you aware of how many benefits your membership affords you?

Pending available space, ads are run n the PEA Patch on a first come , first served basis.
Ads are accepted only in written form– send directly to Jim Falcocchio– president@pea.comcastbiz.net

Co-curricular Committee

As part of your collective bargaining agreement a committee will be meeting this week to begin the process of reviewing and revamping the co-curricular stipends as listed in your contract. Building reps will be listing current stipends and wish list stipends. If you have any desires in this area please contact your building reps so they can forward the information to the PEA committee members. This is your contract...ask for what you need....contact a building rep.

Only a fool would try to deprive working men and working women of the right to join the union of their choice. Dwight D Eisenhower