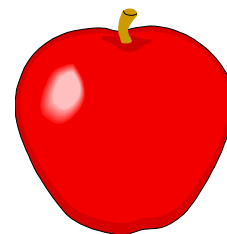


CHALKDUST

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Vice-President's Column:

Holiday and New Year's Thoughts

from Patty Levingston

NCOEA 2009-2010 Calendar

January 7, 2010 January 19	*NCOEA Executive Com. NC Emerging Leaders, Mansfield Sr. H.S., 4:45pm
February 4 February 4-6	*NCOEA Executive Com. OEA Collective Bargaining Hyatt Regency, Columbus
February 16	NC Emerging Leaders, Mansfield Sr. H.S., 4:45pm
March 2 March 4 March 18	Read Across America *NCOEA Executive Com. NCOEA Spring Workshop, NC Emerging Leaders Mansfield Sr. H.S. 4:45 pm
March 31	Chalkdust Deadline Mid-April Issue
April 8 April 20	*NCOEA Executive Com. NC Emerging Leaders Mansfield Sr. H.S., 4:45pm
April 26	NCOEA Spring RA, Mansfield Sr. H.S., 5:00 pm
May 3-7	Teacher Appreciation Week
May 7-8	OEA Spring RA, Veterans Memorial, Col., 9:00 am
May 13 June 5 June 18-19 July 1-6	*NCOEA Executive Com. NEA Delegate Briefing NCOEA Retreat, Mohican NEA Representative Assembly, New Orleans

*All NCOEA Executive Committee Meetings begin at 6:00 pm, at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, at Route 42 North and Route 30 East in Mansfield. All NCOEA members are welcome to attend. Pizza, salad and snacks are served at 5:15 pm.

As I sit down to write this article in the middle of preparing for the holidays, plus preparing for one more week of class before break, the stress of it all started to build. Like a lot of us this time of year, there is never enough time in the day to do everything that is needed to be done. Sometimes we forget what really matters about this time of the year; the giving of peace, joy, kindness, and being with family and friends.

I was reminded of these things in a couple of different ways. First, the females of my family always plan a shopping trip together. There are six of us total. When the weekend of the trip came I was loaded down with work to be done, yet I went anyway because it was family. I was so glad afterwards that I had gone because I had never laughed so hard all day long in my life. Even though family can make you crazy at times, they can also be a great release of stress so enjoy them every chance you can.

The second way that reminded me of the holiday spirit was the spirit of giving from the students and staff at Madison Comprehensive High School where I teach. Every year different student groups or classes and staff members adopt several families from the district to help them make the holidays a little brighter. There were several events that happened, such as food drives to collect food to donate to the families, also penny wars were held to collect money for gift cards

from Kroger to give to each family. Each group that volunteers to adopt a family gets a wish list from the family, then the group goes shopping for the items on the list, wraps each gift, then delivers the items to their family. This year there were about ten families adopted, which is the largest number of families in a long time. With the recession hitting every one so hard and so many families being in need, the students and staff came through to make sure those families had a little something for the holidays.

Your school may do something similar. It gives the students and staff a chance to see that if everyone gives a little, a lot can be accomplished. Plus, it feels good to know you made someone's holiday a little better. So remember, even though the holidays are over you can always make time for your family. Plus, making a difference in someone's life doesn't have to be just during the holidays, it can happen all year long.

I hope your holidays were filled with peace, joy, and kindness, as well as, the rest of the year.



Patty Levingston

NCOEA Vice-President