



# WORDS FROM WTEA

Washington Township Education Association Newsletter

February 2016

*"Every day may not be good...but there's something good in every day."*

*-Alice Morse Earle*

## Action Items

- Attend association stand-up meetings in your building this month. These 5-10 minute meetings will keep you up to date on the important things that affect you.
- Stay informed about upcoming bills and laws affecting your profession and salary by going to [wteainfo.org](http://wteainfo.org) or [ista-in.org](http://ista-in.org).
- When communicating with politicians, you must use personal email and personal (non-district) technology outside of contract hours.
- Vote for State Delegates to represent you at the NEA Representative Assembly. Your ISTA Advocate magazine contains the official ballot which you should receive this week. If you do not receive it, contact [breed@ista-in.org](mailto:breed@ista-in.org).

## Member Benefit Spotlight

- NEA members can save 20% off 1800Flowers.com and 1800Baskets.com orders. Use the promotion code "NEAMB" when you order. For more information, check out the NEA member benefits website at [neamb.com](http://neamb.com).
- ISTA and the ISTA Foundation are proud to honor educators and public education advocates through numerous scholarships, grants and awards.
  - Scholarships are available to members and their dependents pursuing an education degree and professional development activities. Applications are due March 1, 2016.
  - Awards recognize teachers, education support professionals, minority educators and many more. Nominations are due by March 1, 2016.

## Central Discussion Updates

The following topics have recently been shared at Central Discussion. For more detailed information, please consult your school's discussion representative.

- Curriculum Updates: Administration shared that science representatives from all levels have met to discuss teacher survey results which will help them make decisions about science curriculum. Meanwhile, at the elementary level, the math textbook adoption process is entering its final stage as the top 2-3 choices have been selected.
- Evaluations: WTEA discussed several issues regarding evaluations that were common across the district, such as timeliness of feedback, discrepancies between evaluators in each building, and fairness of observation times. Administration shared that the Indiana Department of Education has selected MSDWT as a candidate for distinction as a state Model District in the area of Teacher Evaluation.
- NWEA: WTEA requested that administration study whether the amount of growth expected for high ability students is a fair evaluative expectation of teachers.
- District Testing: WTEA shared scheduling concerns regarding the overlap in dates for the final round of NWEA and ISTEP, and asked that administration review this for further discussion.
- Middle School Master Schedule: WTEA requested that teachers have an idea of the classes they will teach in 2016-2017, before they leave for summer break.
- Accident Reports: If you are injured on school property, even if it seems minor at the time, you should complete an accident report located in the yellow binder in your school's office. Reports must be filed within 24 hours of the incident.

## Stay Connected

**WTEA website:** [wteainfo.org](http://wteainfo.org)

**WTEA President:** [sabrawtea@gmail.com](mailto:sabrawtea@gmail.com)

**WTEA Building  
Representatives**

**Allisonville:** Josh Bolles  
**Crooked Creek:** Bev Huneck & Pam Williams  
**Fox Hill:** Becky Miller  
**Greenbriar:** Heather Pollock  
**John Strange:** Heather Pitcock  
**Nora:** Stacie Hamilton  
**Spring Mill:** Cindy Moore  
**Eastwood:** Laura VanderHaeghen & Chad Wallace  
**Northview:** Angel Picket-Chiton & Jim Perry  
**Westlane:** Stacie Kleeman  
**JEL:** Kandy Smitha, Carrie Jacques & Kristine Kelly  
**North Central:** Bruce Quilling & Martin Kelty

**Central Discussion  
Representatives**

Becky Coffey & Josh Bolles (Elem. Chair)  
Dawn Richardson  
Becky Miller  
Kevin Miller  
Heather Pitcock  
Stacie Hamilton  
Elizabeth Streit  
Brian Camp & Jean Gentry  
Jim Perry  
Sabra Gage (Middle School Chair)  
Kandy Smitha  
Kari Fritz (NC Chair)