

THE

VANTAGE

THOUGHTS FROM PAUL KEMP: 2013-14 TEACHER OF THE YEAR



The first thought I had after being told I was Teacher of the Year for Newington, (after the initial shock wore off), was of all the amazing teachers I know in Newington. During the first week back to school, friends, colleagues, and acquaintances would come up to me and say things like, “You deserve it!” I didn’t feel deserving above all the other fine

teachers I know, but people’s hugs and kind words were incredibly heartwarming.

I have had a few wonderful opportunities this year. The City Council honored me during a meeting at Town Hall in September. Mayor Woods and other council members had very thoughtful things to say about my program and about music in Newington during that meeting. The Board of Education held a special dinner in my honor in October. It was a wonderful chance to meet former Teachers of the Year and to deliver a speech to the Board. Later that month, I was honored at the Bushnell Hall along with other Connecticut Teacher of the Year nominees throughout the state.

All of the hoopla is over, and my major Teacher of the Year responsibilities have passed. Although I am happy to get back to a normal routine, one experience above all others stands out. In my lifetime, there will be few memories more positively etched into my mind than the moment I was able to share my thoughts, hopes, and dreams with my peers, with the administration, and with my family on the morning of convocation. Your warm reception of my words meant the world to me, and I will always remember your kindness.



LEGISLATORS IN THE CLASSROOM!

DURING THE LAST WEEK OF JANUARY, STATE LEGISLATORS WILL BE VISITING THE CLASSROOMS OF CONNECTICUT. IT IS AN EVENT PROPOSED BY CEA, CALLED "WALK A DAY IN MY SHOES".

LEGISLATORS MAKE THE LAWS THAT AFFECT TEACHERS, YET FEW HAVE BEEN IN A CLASSROOM SINCE THEY WENT TO SCHOOL. THIS IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THESE LEGISLATORS TO VISIT A CLASSROOM WITHOUT POLITICS BEING INVOLVED. THE LEGISLATORS WILL SHADOW A TEACHER AND SEE THE NORMAL ACTIVITIES THAT FILL THE DAY OF THESE TEACHERS. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN HAVING A LEGISLATOR THAT REPRESENTS NEWINGTON, VISIT YOUR CLASS ROOM, CONTACT HOLLY MIOTKE (HMIOTKE@NPSCT.ORG)

SPECIAL EDUCATION WORKSHOP: MAR. 13TH NHS AUDITORIUM 4:00-6:00 P.M.

CEA EXPERT ROBYN KAPLAN-CHO WILL PROVIDE A WORKSHOP ABOUT SPECIAL EDUCATION FOR TEACHERS IN HARTFORD COUNTY AT NEWINGTON HIGH SCHOOL ON MARCH 13TH. THE WORKSHOP WILL INCLUDE POINTERS ABOUT PPT PROCEDURES, TEACHERS RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES, IEP FORMS AND REQUIREMENTS AND A QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD. ALL TEACHERS ARE WELCOME. SIGN UP BY CONTACTING: JAMIE RODRIQUEZ (JRODRIQUEZ@NPSCT.ORG)



Your Chance to Tell Legislators What's Happening in Your School

by Laurel Killough on December 28, 2013

Many of you have voiced concerns about the rapid changes in public education and their impact on students. CEA officers and staff have shared your concerns with state policymakers, and now they want to hear directly from you.

Let your voice be heard. Join your colleagues and participate in Regional Teacher Meetings with state legislators. This is your opportunity to tell legislators about meaningful changes that will improve education in Connecticut.

Meetings are free and will take place from 4:30 to 6:30 pm. Food will be provided.

WINDHAM COUNTY Monday, January 13 The Gold Eagle, Dayville

TOLLAND COUNTY Tuesday, January 14 Georgina's, Bolton

MIDDLESEX COUNTY Wednesday, January 15 Crowne Plaza Cromwell

NEW HAVEN COUNTY Thursday, January 16 Cascade's, Hamden

NEW LONDON COUNTY Tuesday, January 21 The Spa at the Norwich Inn

HARTFORD COUNTY Wednesday, January 22 The Chowder Pot, Hartford

LITCHFIELD COUNTY Thursday, January 23 Crystal Peak, Winchester

FAIRFIELD COUNTY Monday, January 27 Cinzano's, Fairfield

You will need to go to the CEA website to sign up:
www.cea.org . Go to the Regional Teacher meetings
registration. OR you can go to the cea link via
www.newingtonteachersassociation.org



DUES

IF YOU HAVE BEEN WORKING IN NEWINGTON FOR MORE THAN ONE YEAR, YOUR DUES FOR NTA/CEA/NEA ARE: **\$776.65.** IF YOU JUST BEGAN THIS YEAR, CHECK YOUR DECEMBER 20 PAYCHECK.



UPCOMING CONTRACT TALKS: THE NEGOTIATIONS AND GRIEVANCE (NAG) TEAM WILL BE HAVING A MEETING IN EACH BUILDING. THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETINGS IS TO HEAR CONCERNS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR THE NEXT CONTRACT. NEGOTIATIONS BEGIN THIS SUMMER! YOU MAY ATTEND A MEETING IN YOUR BUILDING OR ANOTHER IF IT FITS YOUR SCHEDULE BETTER!

JANUARY 23 – MARTIN KELLOGG	3:15
JANUARY 30 – JOHN WALLACE	3:15
FEBRUARY 5 – HIGH SCHOOL	3:00
FEBRUARY 12 – E GREEN	3:30
FEBRUARY 20 – A REYNOLDS	3:30
FEBRUARY 26 – J PATERSON	3:30
FEBRUARY 27 – R CHAFFEE	3:30

SAVE THE DATE:

**NTA RETIREMENT PARTY
MAY 1, 2014
(INDIAN HILL C.C.)**

**NTA ANNUAL MTG:
MAY 21, 2014
(MKMS CAFETERIA)**



SMILE FILE:

YOU KNOW YOU ARE A TEACHER WHEN:

YOU WRITE YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS AS A SMART GOAL.

THE VACATION ACTIVITY LIST FOR YOUR FAMILY HAS A LEARNING TARGET ATTACHED!

SEND YOUR "YOU KNOW YOU'RE A TEACHER WHEN..." TO HFLORIAN. SUBMISSIONS WILL BE REVIEWED USING RUBRIC AND EXEMPLARY WORK WILL BE POSTED !