

# SGTA Executive Board

October Newsletter

October 3, 2016

## **SGTA UNITY/DRESS DOWN DAY- October 11, 2016**

Please wear your red SGTA shirt and donate to the scholarship fund!

### **A FEW REMINDERS**

1. Please check with an SGTA rep BEFORE making any changes that involve the business office for advice.
2. You are entitled to take an SGTA rep with you if you are called into any meeting with an administrator. Please see a building rep if you have any questions at all.
3. SGTA Dues will start coming out of your paycheck on October 21<sup>st</sup>
4. Please remember to check your paycheck EACH time and make sure it is accurate
5. If you get 26 paychecks (you take the big summer check) you should be able to see this on your paycheck, please double check that this is accurate!!
6. At the end of the year, the 403b deduction will be taken out of ALL SIX paychecks (the big check), so please plan accordingly if you need to make changes to this. Last year, since it was the first time, we were able to get refunds for members. This will not be the case this year.

### **Sharon Fellner, Events Coordinator**

Sharon is looking to set up some Happy Hour events for our membership with raffles. If anyone has any connections to a local business that might make a donation, please get in touch with her through email!

### **Teacher Assistants, from Linda Risley TA rep**

Teacher Assistant contracts have been printed and sent to all buildings at this time. If you have not received a copy of the contract, please contact Linda Risley and she will send one through interschool mail. [lrисley@sgcsd.net](mailto:lrисley@sgcsd.net) The new copies have a bright blue cover, make sure you have the most up to date copy!

Spotlight on  
Stephani  
Dimopoulos-  
DiCocco and her  
art exchange  
with a school in  
India



Stephani Dimopoulos-DiCocco, art teacher at the high school, has set up a special project this year with a school in India. After visiting India in 2015, she realized what a beautiful partnership it would make to create an art exchange with a school in the foothills of the Himalayan mountains. Purkal Youth Development Society is a special place whose mission is *"To enhance the lives of underprivileged rural children through holistic education, nutrition and healthcare."* Swamy, the owner of the school ( who just celebrated his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday), started the school 15 years ago after observing a poor school system for rural children in India. The school has its humble beginnings in makeshift classes operating out of cow sheds and garages. The community children flocked to join the school but the criteria for taking on new students remained unchanged; they had to want to work and succeed and they had to come from poorest backgrounds.

The school has several goals. One is to provide a free education to 150 students who live in the foothills on the Himalayan Mountains. Another goal is to make sure that every student has a toilet in their homes. They work tirelessly to empower women by teaching them to quilt and sell the quilts for a small profit. The school provides free childcare to these women while they train them.

Stephani and the art teacher at the school have worked throughout the summer to create a common curriculum. Students in Scotia-Glenville will work on art pieces that represent their culture while the students in India will do the same. In the spring, students at Scotia-Glenville will skype with students in India and share their art work. There will be an art show here in Scotia-Glenville that will represent both the American and Indian art pieces.

To learn more about the school, you can visit [www.purkal.org](http://www.purkal.org)

Purkal School in India  
Strives for excellence in rural  
children through  
free holistic education, day long  
nutrition, transportation and  
complete health care.



One mission of the school is to put a toilet in every child's home as well as to empower the women to support themselves. To do this, the school provides free childcare and teaches them to quilt

The school provides a free education to 150 students in the foothills of the Himalayan Mountains



# **Negotiations Updates**

## **Negotiations Update- Teachers Only: Jeffrey Denney, Negotiations Chair**

The negotiations team has received many responses to our survey that went out a week and a half ago, and we're looking forward to seeing what our membership would like to see in our contract proposal when we start negotiating in January. Below is an outline of upcoming dates regarding the negotiations process:

- Friday, October 7th - last day to provide feedback through the survey, which will close at workday's end
- Thursday, October 13th - negotiations team will meet to start analyzing feedback from surveys
- End of October through November - negotiations team members will visit individual buildings to get further feedback and answer questions from members - team will meet to start putting together our proposal
- December - negotiations team will finalize our proposal based on feedback from membership
- Beginning of January - negotiations team will meet with Susan and her team to exchange proposals, reach agreements on specifics regarding the negotiations process, and set next date to start the bargaining process

Thank you to all of our members who have completed the survey, and thank you in advance to those who plan to complete it this week. If you have not received the survey, please contact the [sgteachersassociation.com](http://sgteachersassociation.com) email ASAP so we can get it to you.

## **Negotiations Team Members:**

Negotiations Chair - Jeffrey Denney  
High School- Sarah Hoffmann  
Middle School- Margaret Zarnofsky and Sarah Cardinali  
Sacandaga – Jeannine Dowdle  
Glen-Worden- Deb Mancini/Stacy Bisanz  
Glendaal- Maureen Blazejeski  
Lincoln- Jeffrey Denney

## **Aides/Monitors Negotiations Update – Patrick Collins, First VP and Aides/Monitors**

An Memorandum of Agreement has been agreed upon by the school district and the Aides/Monitors unit. Printed copies of the contract will be available in schools soon.

### **APPR UPDATE- from Liz Ryan-Fawcett, Chairperson**

The APPR Committee is currently in the process of scheduling meetings for the 2016.2017 school year. The APPR committee held two information meetings about the closing of 1516 school year and the move to the new three year APPR plan. Thank you to those who attended and thank you for your thoughtful questions! You should now have access to the SG district-wide APPR folder in your SG Google Drive. In the folder is a copy of the PPT used at this meeting. Please review the PPT and reach out to any APPR committee member with questions. The APPR committee will continue to add documents to this folder.

SGTA District APPR Committee members include: ***Liz Ryan-Fawcett, Lee Ann Napolitano, Ric DeCarlo Chris DeCarlo, Suzanne Doyle, Cheryl Ladopoulos, Molly Irvine, Natasha Sweet and Sarah Adkins***

### **Payroll Updates**

1. Payroll direct deposit stubs are now being EMAILED only. You MUST email Colleen DiCaprio and let her know if you want your paycheck stub emailed to your school account or provide her with a personal email account. Once you do this, the paycheck stub will be emailed from this point forward.
2. If you are still not receiving your pay stub electronically, you can provide Colleen DiCaprio with a personal email account, as the problem district office is having seems to be only with the school email accounts.
3. District office is working to rectify the mistakes on paychecks. They will issue the refunds in your paychecks as soon as possible.



Brenda Tessier and Lexi Marquis



Congrats Sarah Adkins on her recent marriage!