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| |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | http://can2-prod.s3.amazonaws.com/email_templates/logos/000/006/464/original/tea_small.jpg TEA Tidbits--January 6, 2021 Dear TEA members, [Represent TEA at the state and national level!](https://u1584542.ct.sendgrid.net/ss/c/A7GQnnr_XzUYyessq5BiRMtTjx2ARMm5clNzTZOMCjA8NTZJ-SzJnWg7zkqkQ_qzzX82ZkDAbGRtJuQfjIPw_Whu8lg1Q3dERJGZIlDrapvr4qUZSuf1v39XAjuEPN5bfErUwukOd0heYcakOSoL3TukI5f_Hwyhh_I5MftAea_o6oxoLU-ijp0fI1fVqrmgsMAWz1JC4Uw91f6GXT_usureUuTcQG2dp4sUfAIxoeMTlCKxiGIVT6dWSCYILI3VBM8naY_cU1_0_ag9C4Y8Zw/38c/87229cXARVWESUYx9KHo7Q/h0/641pCn2Q9CdG-zqYdC92NQV71pSJnX9S6EadkKKZa-g) TEA announces elections for our 12 seats at the CEA Delegate Assembly, to be held April 16-17 at the Westin Westminster (or virtually), and for our 4 seats at the NEA Representative Assembly, to be held July 2-6 at the Denver Convention Center (or for a shorter time, virtually). As a result of our by-laws changes, **all members** are eligible to run for these seats.  **What are CEA Delegate Assembly (DA) and NEA Representative Assembly (RA)?**  DA and RA are CEA's and NEA's highest and largest decision making bodies, respectively. DA is comprised of up to 600 members from around the state, and it votes on CEA's budget, policy statements, by-law changes, and other items of new business. CEA is a member driven organization; it cannot advocate for a policy or legislation unless it aligns with the policy and belief statements that DA passes.  RA performs roughly the same function as DA, but with up to 10,000 delegates from around the nation! The energy from 10,000 educators in a room together cannot be underestimated. This year, RA is in Denver, so I hope to get a full delegation from Thompson to attend. TEA will pay all expenses to attend DA; TEA will pay **mileage only** for RA.  **I want to run! How do I nominate myself?**  [Fill out this form](https://u1584542.ct.sendgrid.net/ss/c/A7GQnnr_XzUYyessq5BiRMtTjx2ARMm5clNzTZOMCjA8NTZJ-SzJnWg7zkqkQ_qzyW699EnT8zM3oeRrz-xMKcZ9YuRYdQBuDrpDRKz5XmDh02jExjCyi1ryW-_vk7ntDfcgJUxkDD_MIRNmf0d_b4VBagqGiyBoRwYQXsKmU2BN3ZCpgeaaNEsv-xLI7zXUhZvj-AU490b6vBK_aS9vse8EO_dTOR_dW6ux98Jgcma3Rl6POnz3b0N50Jm_KwI4fG0Z0scdt1gaMz5s8-xCRw/38c/87229cXARVWESUYx9KHo7Q/h1/PsqvpRk3JQMNUrQv92v3MaTMwGfnfW2mX-ppra-Vh4o) by **January 25, 2021.** If there are less than or equal to 12 candidates for DA or 4 candidates for RA, candidates will be considered elected by acclamation; otherwise, we will hold an election. Contact Andy Crisman at [tea@coloradoea.org](mailto:tea@coloradoea.org) or 970-593-8324 with any questions. Return To Learn: Vaccines, PPE, more The district made the decision to return EC-5 students to in-person learning on January 5, middle school on January 19, and high school on January 25. First, I want to recognize that there is a deep level of passion, and a wide variety of opinions regarding this decision. All of them are welcomed and valued by this president. I want to publicly thank our early childhood and elementary ARs for their tireless work during December, gathering member feedback around return to learn and for helping us to advocate. I also want to publicly acknowledge the efforts of more than 50 ESS members who advocated for their safety and the safety of our students.  There will be some improvements to testing availability and turnaround. Staff who are showing symptoms of COVID will have exclusive access to free, high quality, high reliability rapid response COVID testing three mornings per week by appointment, sponsored by Larimer County. **TEA has been advocating for this since October, and we are pleased that the district is offering this program.**  In addition, the district will also be providing asymptomatic screening one afternoon per week. If you think you may have been exposed, or you have visited or may soon visit someone outside of your normal "bubble," this is a great option. **Again, TEA had been advocating for this for some time.**  TEA continues to advocate for better, more consistent communication regarding quarantines, contact tracing, and related issues. We will be advocating for easier access to PPE and better communication about how that PPE is acquired. There seems to be some progress on this front--building principals were given uniform communication templates and processes on Monday, and more PPE was distributed at the beginning of this week.  **Vaccine update:** Gov. Polis, under pressure from us (CEA), moved educators into a higher priority group for vaccination last week. The timing for the vaccine seems to be a moving target—the district is finalizing its distribution plan today, but we’ve been getting conflicting messages from health departments regarding when vaccines will be available to school districts. For example, Larimer County said on Monday that we might get some vaccine the week of 1/19, but more recently we’ve seen [letters like this one](https://u1584542.ct.sendgrid.net/ss/c/P8Elou2Rvc0qoMPEUZrMXa2ntxTklG3sodrS4IMcWauaYnUNjTNlnQXSorKHv96XuHyO9ulNMWGxdwN-XHIJ6RBWmHK-hAaZXKTDu6YygU7sv83cXC1JQ8hfG0axf1FdkYFpsePJlFGJqNsTO8fPIzMelgthfPSAdSt8rkeMWsUg_DPi8p_h-be2foaW-WSALlQutLETru27EPW4_A5R7eQubeMA2fn4cP9-IhC2LzUYt6CAoa9gImDTDma2gLntm1iEtRJnoHUIIjfmviceNG8eAzaeKUibdwP_pJUOkTaK0e7kQMEsEQTTrgj-gLbiRvj_0wPQJtuEcPOieIkw-sqChLgqDWjF1_J7Z3zxirI/38c/87229cXARVWESUYx9KHo7Q/h2/-sDNljRsFU4yKZ5O4x7BbXiqE5CnZa_QuZOma8_7NyA) go out from other county health departments, suggesting that more vulnerable populations (nursing homes, 70+) will get them before education, and [articles like this one](https://u1584542.ct.sendgrid.net/ss/c/atcYNHk4Eh2YdGnwBh-YDLy6bNHvnjxSZ2NvjH4nDiVe7PfMgdzv-AlBaMzaPJrZ_YGjls_1no3g8oQ8K3svqoAAGvwUEI6RcqPf7g91QBgU6PT1Tx80tOPqJxEKa2r566stFwW9BlSG95PDlPN7vkcqloE2o3xnk1L1y6GJLaQBDtC3gs4NZTepZiEJEyGu0t18EoP9QGClATnlNUdb1wsUZtEmjb-NfSrOSrdrpknHta7nRfPsaaHN3wiFqwNOf9HDPlWSwInUbrlmtsOsRZiDXgi-hT39OuofTRw3NzSMBzZ69MvwOg5khvmEFrbP/38c/87229cXARVWESUYx9KHo7Q/h3/aL-9icaq5qNVVqsxMOeRAlbeGX1D-srqYl2wVTKvx0o) suggesting that we won’t see vaccines until March. Marc is meeting again with Larimer County Health this morning and agreed to send an update on timing, etc. sooner rather than later. I will keep ARs posted as I learn more.  **ESS teachers:** If you are concerned about the requirement to wear PPE, we have been successful advocating on behalf of individual members who object to this requirement for various reasons. Please reach out to Andy or Greg if you would like to advocate for this option.  **Coverage of others' classes is optional, per Article 13-7 of the MOU.** Avoid intermingling of cohorts whenever possible.  **Ask your principal for the PPE you need.**  **If you are not getting the planning or lunch time you are owed, please tell your AR.** Mental health for teachers is just as important as mental health for students. Students deserve a well-prepared, well-rested, well-organized teacher. We can work to get you what you need to succeed.  We are aware that there are many divergent opinions on this issue. TEA will continue to push for clear metrics that clearly state when the district should be remote; better safety precautions for employees; and open, transparent communications around quarantines and contact tracing, as well as reasonable workload expectations and teacher agency around how you help students learn. February and April days off February 12/15 and April 16/19 are all non-contract days. They are noted in a confusing manner on the district calendar. Enjoy the extended weekends! Read Across America Teacher Partnership Program! For Read Across America this year, TEA is hoping to increase engagement and enthusiasm for reading by having classrooms partner together to read to each other, and to add books to your classroom library!  **Early Childhood and Elementary members:** Would you like to have middle and high school teachers and students log in and read to your class? Would you like a supportive audience for your class to practice reading aloud? Would you like a free book? Sign up to partner with a secondary educator to have someone read to your class, and possibly have your class read to them! TEA will purchase a book from the [NEA Read Across America 2020-2021 book list](https://u1584542.ct.sendgrid.net/ss/c/atcYNHk4Eh2YdGnwBh-YDAgsuPv6IdrA3FsB_dcTenMIjwi_gCyH1vYSBFV6wA27X4IsoArSmyXH3jQZEKVsFyusupWoFKPj0O1AhJaFYhyNWomRVUaiZHForqWsOqXCX7jggogELbf3G-OZr_t1-baLv2udYOHpfWUFseEsTBnULXnAK8r_ZJuXR5h5XfXp_NXzD5kB1bMaHk1Yu7_A6QewVCfbsLrvXWElEBs9oeujKFfQIbgebUsybYgc4WdtBGHfbwgChVMvK78QjYo255S126LDBYtN65UzPL8BWpCehryKhuju7-ilkDLSdyceOwtTGeSkHz7zJFlKuFyJlQrsatXfM77gS-2a7og8ejeCay6xrhKyHOgXnsasHVpoQYutrtvDTyYf_ZKZuJUXiU7AJ-9__4ohwmZiAsNGQsccWHiPu8LFw9JEzarSN2p5xORGAK6Ys_xDkIIY80ItKg/38c/87229cXARVWESUYx9KHo7Q/h4/0MG6ZYyYYw0fHn2LW3A4gtXO6c8AciRXhlC-Cck7n3w) for your classroom library.  **Secondary members:** We know our students thrive on helping younger students, and that they still LOVE being read to. Sign up to partner with an elementary classroom for a read aloud event. TEA will purchase an age-appropriate book (middle level or teen-reader) from the [NEA Read Across America 2020-2021 book list](https://u1584542.ct.sendgrid.net/ss/c/atcYNHk4Eh2YdGnwBh-YDAgsuPv6IdrA3FsB_dcTenMIjwi_gCyH1vYSBFV6wA27X4IsoArSmyXH3jQZEKVsFyAL2tLtsrNZxtfRJZg8lNi6nl6XJuV8A4UB7jTRhcEnJWu5HCqE4GcewiItgkcKOhGCixD-LB-M3dvK_80g90NKQ2i7zMSw2qTCpkH1bHh5BQ_q-Ukwsnzpuvvzc7IBepZevVonQKjUWI97ZJJxTvt887hLuUKym82fAipsc6ej1DLsOuYXyRn_gbvDqhjloNyqmJ3y_g0nhksmZdUKOgEyD53hJMLgsThxJziQ8ZMwtTFjflavg2fSXty6VQysGysudtmW_MHMLpLPDUiCvmgs521kZLyo5YruVgu8hGcUIXBc3CFnKypDVEB4-O2kp_XTofG57n1IrEw3TFHDRTIhZmA-A7-QbyApTwabWqFMCEqMBvY4MVUgUff4qrOWUg/38c/87229cXARVWESUYx9KHo7Q/h5/cA9p4gKXRGYhhKGkjWK77QkVfj8oAVV8ULC1Fr3aWCQ) for your classroom library.  **Sign up to participate below!** The first 50 members (25 pairs) who sign up will receive a book from TEA for their classroom library!   |  | | --- | | [Read Across America Interest Form](https://u1584542.ct.sendgrid.net/ss/c/CMxF4nARlf6wAFa1PSfv0g3wdtg9fsYZUCQweLSiUUxlzMVI81DNLdtbxgLvQPXjCupWBFqN-OyZy04MO2ahoS1fmJ3qECX3D4luzEQv-OA1dFyZEjVrffeZjkIzec3E3A3ELqrPAXM0LiBLF4jIjl4N77x17tRwTUrRbYzRDRfcDskTuU8vKB4pQ8K-rKwrdCn3EFgiHttvYSPbgobSTWMh-K9mHoey8fyGXMIZo_82-ZtXt26o2JqNRT60qfDWb9ZzNsmUDAKWelWZUPJk38ATYW1DDKZm_nrL8_22AynBzBSkHIF8vBBvsUWO5OY33EaaPaME-xWCerwfAv3CtiiSX_gdY_MJDaDOgkWb17Pb3IV16w65kxBXR6fw8WEeSACzeNJlDrAbC9YUteiUMAt4le97Gqr1IFhtB69Y_bKvEcNYwB6heK8xwyAtxBugIpvoypt3yHRue9GeTdQIAbw0lgQVSy0hqeZOYSGIYYd6OQ1SkazEkfdWROU5qCYMuRUoUWxffF0krV9t4KiRiB0iAVTrZ7Eyz0T1ONVUloZTzd2JC1AISWCUGMs4AHv7uMtNfLezc-ApaG5SL8_y3Q/38c/87229cXARVWESUYx9KHo7Q/h6/kYvM5SlL3VGoxBBJ_4QmX9Ybem1jg38bu0SH1XtG9Uc) | |  | | TEA would like to partner elementary and secondary members to read with each other for Read Across America day, March 2, 2021! It's simple: 1. Sign up using the form below. 2. Each member at the EC/elementary level will be paired with a member at the secondary level. 3. The two members coordinate a time where the secondary member, or some of their students, read aloud to the EC/elementary students sometime between now and March 5, 2021 (Read Across America day is March 2, 2021), and possibly vice versa. THIS NEEDS TO HAPPEN VIRTUALLY. 4. For their efforts, TEA will purchase one of the books, appropriate for their level, from the Read Across America book list for 2020-2021 to the first 50 members (25 pairs) who sign up. Browse the full list at [https://www.readacrossamerica.org/2020-2021-read-across-america-calendar/](https://u1584542.ct.sendgrid.net/ss/c/atcYNHk4Eh2YdGnwBh-YDAgsuPv6IdrA3FsB_dcTenN83XZUX46Vjdekt1cELLN9-aKFq9ow9syxXQ-d05edVTIIbtxuH4UE8GbRkwVZ3pcN1_ieFtxTB-dtulM_5Rq1O3wvRzsugzA3AQVHHVOQorhPjd_uMY4utGG56KZIsXftZGNNXX8mPkeSbl4kmxtw-WfMeYhEWnK6vrCb0bnyTf7yoGlNDxGS_dQADIa5MpAT_Oh4K5d9CMyrHSfHfJAf9TNW10_BC3W_bUixtyHs1Xj_FfnabGsuPvMPIaLOVb_iJ9gs8WvjxRBb59ePjKx_IulcwhkeGhz9vmjqlXcN08zsdl8maW6DYgsdLHRLTIcAgcO9uPkJjWruGgV2AZb13xJc21TDsvrmDMWI0MK6_vahc9YUWMuH3nFtCUL60NcZAHqZ4upBuXLW9qsCg_d9lP1KHN8TVOyqDsf0b0O9Ss-_YRGh_WRs7LAHU1w9VuwTzPeCfrInMClq0fynE11r/38c/87229cXARVWESUYx9KHo7Q/h7/isQYyHV8TdUWIPEX9wsmKQpDdAaE4eMDSLPoUJmEFw8) |   **Solidarity!**  Sincerely, https://salsa4.salsalabs.com/o/51019/c/147/images/Andy%20professional%20pic.jpg Andy Crisman  [tea@coloradoea.org](mailto:tea@coloradoea.org)  [h](https://u1584542.ct.sendgrid.net/ss/c/zMhPeRdLSH9QavqI0KIPYbYYEpXzaTr0nk3JMyQs3ilVrsrBEQqvBO3l0oEHcMOHxJvrD6ayTD2vmuyfjp-qYl6xi6-9mbrIu9DrlDawJtpsGnqA94a2KI2-X9s1fbaq5oal7gQQfyd47-_SnVpLu-IeBcYUcGi6fzcwNHey1gAbo6kB8jbM59XN5wBW2Zpmtmle3z13swzWYruNGyOJZmL8IZz2ti8vp5DVRURHYU91fZE-RtFSd9Zyo-5-6p4Y/38c/87229cXARVWESUYx9KHo7Q/h8/cbtPgGZFgtGZzLz52r4TxVkyXE7VSM4lllPIdhajKbk)ttp://thompsoneducationassociation.org | |