



## Celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Honor Contest Winners January 14

Educators, students, and families are invited to attend the free public Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration on Sun., Jan 14 at the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts. The writing contest winners will be honored at the celebration along with winners of the speech and art contests. Please share this information with your students and encourage them to attend!

The writing contest is co-sponsored by MTEA and the Milwaukee Journal

Sentinel. This year, over 2,700 students entered the contest under the theme, "Take a Stand for Truth and Justice."

The winning contest entries will be published in a special section of the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel in January, as well as on the MTEA website. All teachers and students who participated will receive buttons and certificates that will be distributed by building representatives after the January 10 Representative Assembly.

Classroom projects can be picked up at the MTEA during regular office hours. For questions, contact Melissa Zombor at [zomborm@mtea.weac.org](mailto:zomborm@mtea.weac.org) or 414-256-6752.



## Fighting Together to Win Victories for our Classrooms

As educators, we know first hand that our teaching conditions are our students' learning conditions. Last month, MTEA leaders together with rank-and-file members began the meet and confer process with MPS administration to address a number of workplace issues. Members of the MTEA Bargaining Team and our Collective Action Team (CAT Team) met with MPS administration in our opening bargaining session and meet-and-confer session.

MTEA leaders spoke about the importance of reasonable cost of living increases to attract and retain quality educators as well as other issues we are prepared to fight for including a fully funded salary schedule, affordable healthcare for ALL full-time educators, full-time opportunities for educational assistants, reduction in administrative-directed meetings, safety and school climate protocols followed by administration, and improved teaching and learning policies.



Members of the Bargaining and CAT Teams meet with MPS administration (MTEA photo/Joe Brusky)

All interested MTEA members can participate in future Meet and Confer sessions and can help by joining the CAT Team. If you haven't already taken the MTEA Bargaining and Meet and Confer survey, please take time to identify the issues that are most important to you.

Member participation conveys power. When MTEA members unite and act together, we can win real change for our schools. Please talk to other members in your building and remind them to take the survey today. To complete the survey, visit: <http://bit.ly/2017mteasurvey>.

Also, expect important school board mobilizations in January and February. There will be other important dates where school communities will need to stand together to escalate this successful campaign for better teaching and learning conditions.

Watch your email for additional updates.

## Professional Development this Winter at MTEA

This January, the Milwaukee Center for Teaching, Learning and Public Education is excited to offer the following free PD sessions exclusively for MTEA members. For additional details and to register, visit [mtea.weac.org/events](http://mtea.weac.org/events).

### Winter Courses Include:

#### New Teacher Cohort

Mon., Jan. 29; Mon., Feb. 26; Mon., March 19; May 14 from 4:30-6:30pm.

#### Restorative Practices Cohort

Mon., Jan 8; Mon., Feb. 5; Mon., March 5; Mon., April 9; Mon., May 7 from 4:30-6pm.

#### Bilingual Cohort

Tues., Jan 9; Tues., Feb. 13; Tues., March 13; Tues, April 10; Tues., May 8 from 4:30-6pm.

#### Educator Effectiveness Mid-Year Review

Tues., Jan. 9 or Thurs., Jan. 11 4:30-6pm.

#### Supervising Student Teachers

Sat., Jan. 20 from 8:30am-1:30pm.

#### \*NEW\* Love & Logic: The Recovery Process

Tues., Jan. 23 from 5-6pm.

#### \*NEW\* Managing Classroom Behavior: Proactive Strategies Second Semester Restart

Wed., Jan. 24 from 4:30-6pm

#### National Board Support Sessions

Wed., Jan. 24; Wed., Feb. 28; Tues., March 20; Wed., April 18 from 4:30-6pm.

#### Restorative Practices Part 2

Mon., Jan. 29 and Mon., Feb. 5 from 4:30-6pm. Space is limited.

#### \*NEW\* Paraprofessional Learning Series:

##### Understanding Students' IEPs

Thurs., Jan.18 from 4:30-5:30pm.

##### Microsoft Office 365 Basics

Thurs., Jan. 25 4:30-5:30pm.

##### Managing Student Behavior and Transitions

Thurs., Feb. 1 from 4:30-5:30pm.



## Holiday Office Hours

The MTEA office will be closed Dec. 25 through Jan. 1 and open from 8am-4pm Jan. 2. Regular hours will resume on Jan. 3.

We wish all of our members a safe and happy holiday season!



## Upcoming events

All events held at MTEA unless otherwise noted. For more information and to register, visit [mtea.weac.org](http://mtea.weac.org) and go to *events*.

**Professional Development at the Milwaukee Center for Teaching, Learning and Public Education,** located in the MTEA office. For details see the article to the left. For registration, visit [mtea.weac.org/events](http://mtea.weac.org/events).

**Building Leader Training** Thurs., Jan. 18 at 4:30pm.

#### The 34th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration

Sun., Jan. 14, 1pm at the Marcus Center. Free and open to the public

#### Preparing for Retirement

Thurs., Jan 11 from 5-7:30pm.

## Are you Saving Enough?

WEA Member Benefits Retirement Savings Consultant, N'Kenza Whitlow can help you maximize your retirement savings and help you reach your retirement goals. To meet with N'Kenza during your lunch, prep, or after school, call 414-259-1990 x1133 or email [nwhitlow@weabenefits.com](mailto:nwhitlow@weabenefits.com).

## Update Contact Info

If you have changed your name, email address, or home address, or if you are retiring, going on leave, or resigning, please contact Kim Rhode at the MTEA office, 414-256-6761, or email [scherliek@mtea.weac.org](mailto:scherliek@mtea.weac.org), so we can update our records.

### Early Retirement Window Notification Deadline

**Jan. 31**

If you are planning on retiring at the end of the school year under the Early Retirement Window, you must provide MPS notification of retirement by January 31, 2018.

**This date is earlier than in previous years.**

WEA Member Benefits is holding Preparing for Retirement seminars at the MTEA office on Jan. 11 that can help you understand the different retirement planning solutions available and the implications of the decisions you will make as you approach retirement. Register at [mtea.org/events](http://mtea.org/events).

### Understanding Short-Term Disability Options

Come to an informational session at the MTEA to compare the Aflac and the Standard short-term disability options, understand the pre-tax benefits of a flexible spending account and dependent care, and learn about services available such as negotiating your out-of-pocket medical expenses once you receive an invoice from the hospital and more!

**Tues., Feb. 20 or Wed., Feb. 28 from 5-6:30pm.**

# mtea

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