



# EAST

## » » Guest Teacher Update

May 2011

**Question:** *What does it take to make a guest teacher happy?*

**Answer:** *Plenty of assignments.*



That was easy to answer but not so easy to make true in the present climate of cutbacks in education. With fewer school days, teacher meetings, trainings and professional development workshops there are and will continue to be fewer opportunities for guest teachers to reach their personal quota of assignments. Complicating the situation is the number of guest teachers in the local school district systems. In Eugene School District 4J there are more than 400 guest teachers to serve a teacher population of fewer than 1000; there are few days, if ever, on which all of us are dispatched. With the prospect of layoffs of licensed teachers looming on the horizon for the District, we do not expect the situation for guest teachers to improve. With four local universities training and graduating teachers at a rapid rate, one resource the Eugene area is NOT running low on is professional educators. Add to that number, teachers coming out of mothballs to replace reduced or lost income and retired teachers reentering the field as guest teachers to stay active in the profession, there is more than an abundance of teachers in the Eugene/Springfield area. That being the case, some of our ranks are scrambling for jobs: checking Aesop at every opportunity and even waking in the middle of the night to search for elusive guest teaching assignments. In addition, those teachers who are laid off will be offered a spot on the already bulging list and the competition for guest teaching assignments will stiffen. Unfortunately, it doesn't look like many of us are going to be happy any time soon. ~ Loressa Dunn

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# Guest Teacher Update



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### Support Measure 20-182!

A possible light at the end of the tunnel is the local tax measure we will be voting on May 17th. It is predicted Measure 20-182 will bring in as much as \$12 million a year for the 4J District over the next 3 years. The Eugene Education Association is interested in volunteers to phone bank and canvass in support of the measure. Without the funding to keep teachers in the classrooms and school days on the calendar, the outlook for guest teachers will be bleak. If you are interested in being directly involved in the effort to pass Tax Measure 20-182, contact Donna Deforest at 541-521-4406 or by email at dlforest@comcast.net, or visit [www.strongschoolseugene.org](http://www.strongschoolseugene.org) and sign up.

### Bargaining Update

Speaking of outlook, contract negotiations between 4J and the Eugene Association of Substitute Teachers (EAST) have not commenced and at this time there are no "hard" future dates on the schedule. EAST is asking for a status quo agreement with a raise only if the state salary average increases. That offer has been sent to 4J's representatives but the Board has not made a decision on the terms yet. That is to be expected since the District is deep into negotiations with the contract teachers unit; our hope is that the process will soon be resolved to the satisfaction of both parties.

### End-of-the-Year Dinner Meeting - Wednesday, May 18th

To get the latest news of EAST/EEA happenings and the bargaining progress join us on Wednesday, May 18th for our end-of-year dinner meeting. We look forward to this annual event because it is the best way for our guest teachers to get together and enjoy the company of colleagues, share experiences and advice and support our fellow guest teachers. Please plan to join us: mark your calendar or set a reminder in your smart phone. To let us know you are going to be there, email or call Julie Otis at [julie.otis@oregoned.org](mailto:julie.otis@oregoned.org)/541-345-0338 or Loressa Dunn at [loressa.dunn@comcast.net](mailto:loressa.dunn@comcast.net)/541-915-8526, so we can set a place at the table for you. Don't forget to wear your ID badge. Oh, and there will be a drawing for prizes so be there or be square!

### STONE SOUP

BY JAN ELIOT

