

October 15, 2007

OSSE Team,

I hope you had a great weekend and had an opportunity to enjoy the glorious fall weather!

Next week includes pay day (except for the OSSE team from UDC who gets paid today!). You will be notified later today who your new OSSE timekeeper is, but timekeepers have already been notified whose time sheets they will be responsible for. We are confident that this coming pay day will transpire glitch-free, but we ask that you keep an eye out for your paycheck (especially those of you with direct deposit!). I take your payroll concerns **very** seriously. My Transition Team Leader, Robert Thorne and his team will be ready to respond should you experience any problems next week. Please do not hesitate to contact him at [Robert.Thorne@dc.gov](mailto:Robert.Thorne@dc.gov) or (202) 727-8807.

This week promises to be another exciting for the OSSE, with Wednesday, October 17th being our busiest day ever! OSSE has many wonderful events taking place and we want DC to know about them. If you or your department are planning events that involve DC residents, please contact John Stokes at 202-724-2010 or [john.astokes@dc.gov](mailto:john.astokes@dc.gov) so that we can assist you with community outreach.”

First, in honor of National School Lunch Week (October 15-19), the School Programs Team under Nutrition Services will be hosting a celebration at Hardy Middle School @ Hamilton School. National School Lunch Week is an opportunity to recognize food service professionals, school officials, and parents for their dedicated efforts to provide healthy foods to America's children. This week, we recommit ourselves to encouraging children to make nutritious food choices and lead healthy lifestyles.

This is the third annual NSL Week event and is guaranteed to be bigger and better than last year! The theme this year is, “Vote for School Lunch”. The candidates are; Biff Burger, Jesse Wrap, Patti Mac ‘n’ Cheese, Pippa Potato and Yumi Rice Bowl. The event will include remarks from members of the DC Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE), District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Hardy Middle School administration, as well as a proclamation from Mayor Adrian M. Fenty. We will also have performances by the IDEA Public Charter School Marching Drill Team and the Hardy Middle School Jazz Band, as well as a T'ai Chi demonstration to promote physical activity. More importantly, don't miss the opportunity to see the candidates up close and personal! The five candidates will be represented by students from; Hardy MS, Webb/Wheatley ES, Bilingual Community Academy PCS, Potomac Lighthouse PCS and Howard Road PCS. We are anticipating 475 children and will conclude the program by serving a healthy and nutritious school lunch! If you are interested in helping out or attending, please contact Wayne Gardiner ([Wayne.Gardiner@dc.gov](mailto:Wayne.Gardiner@dc.gov)). The program begins at 10:00 a.m. Hardy Middle School @ Hamilton School is located at 1401 Brentwood Parkway, NE, Washington, DC 20002

Also on Wednesday, the OSSE will be co-hosting a satellite conference with Pre-K Now and SPARK DC in order to raise awareness about pre-kindergarten issues in the District. This national event provides an opportunity to connect and interact with thousands of pre-k advocates and an all-star lineup of federal, state, and local pre-k leaders including U.S. Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton (NY). The event will also allow for all of us to strategize new ways to improve the lives of children in the District. If you would like to attend, please RSVP at: <http://events.preknow.org/page/event/detail/w71>

On Wednesday evening, the State Board of Education will have its second meeting and will be focusing on early childcare and literacy issues in DC. The meeting will start at 5:30 p.m. and take place at Judiciary Square (441 4<sup>th</sup> St NW) on the ground floor in the Old Council Chambers.

The temperature is dropping, the leaves are starting to turn, and this can only mean two things: we are only a month away from the Project Runway season premiere **and** it's time for the Annual Enrollment Audit. From October 17<sup>th</sup> to November 8<sup>th</sup>, our contracted auditing firm, Thompson, Cobb, Bazilio & Associates, will visit all 158 of our public and all 82 public charter school campuses to count each of the nearly 75,000 children who are enrolled. The enrollment audit is what determines funding levels for both DCPS and public charter schools. In order to accomplish this important task, we need your help! We are asking for OSSE staff to volunteer as audit observers. You'll get a chance to visit schools and see how the physical counting of students happens. If you'd like to volunteer, please email [Phillip.Chang@dc.gov](mailto:Phillip.Chang@dc.gov) for a copy of the site visit schedule.

Thanks to all of you who attended last Thursdays Managers' Orientation. The business and Support Services staff will follow up with electronic documentation as promised as well as responses to your questions this week.

In breaking news, the suggestion box at DCPS has gone missing! Eyewitness reports initially pointed to a tall brunette woman wearing a red trench coat and oversized hat, but authorities have since cleared the internationally renowned thief since, at the time of the suggestion box theft, Ms. San Diego was actually in Wisconsin snatching victory from the jaws of the Washington Redskins. We are urging any OSSE employees who have any information about the whereabouts of the DCPS suggestion box to please come forward.

I wish everyone a very productive work week. Remember, next Monday, October 22nd will be our 2<sup>nd</sup> OSSE All Hands meeting from 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. at Van Ness Elementary School, 1150 5th Street, SE). I hope you're looking forward to it as much as I am! Please wear your OSSE Founding Member name tags to the All Hands. I know no one would dream of throwing it away, but if you misplaced yours or the Suggestion-Box Thief nabbed your name tag, please make a new one and be sure to wear it to the All Hands.

Sincerely,



**Deborah A. Gist**  
State Superintendent of Education  
Office of the State Superintendent of Education  
441 4<sup>th</sup> Street NW, 350 North, Washington, DC, 20001  
Phone 202-727-6436  
Assistant, Mr. Juan Garcia, 202-727-3471  
[deborah.gist@dc.gov](mailto:deborah.gist@dc.gov)