

# The Voice

[www.ceaohio.org](http://www.ceaohio.org)

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Columbus Education Association

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## American Education Week, Nov. 11–17

This week begins NEA's 86th annual celebration spotlighting the importance of providing every child in America with a quality public education and the need for everyone to do his or her part in making public schools great.

Many activities will be going on nationally on the theme, "Great Public Schools: A Basic Right and Our Responsibility." For instance:

- 🦋 **Tuesday, Nov. 13**, National Invite Parents to School Day: Schools across the nation will invite parents into the classroom for a hands-on experience of what the day is like for their children.
- 🦋 **Wednesday, Nov. 14**, Support Professionals Day: Celebrate the valuable role CCS classified staff and other educational support professionals (ESPs) play throughout America's public schools.
- 🦋 **Thursday, Nov. 15**, Educator for a Day: Invite community members to get a glimpse of a day in the life of a school employee.

Celebrate! You've got so many reasons. To find out more, visit <http://www.nea.org/aew/index.html>.



## You make it possible

Your contributions to United Way of Central Ohio are allowing community agencies to help hundreds of thousands of residents. We want to thank you again for joining the effort to meet the school district's \$390,000 goal this year. The funds are going toward United Way's overall goal of \$56 million to support more than 200 programs and initiatives, including after-school programs, food shelters, housing support programs. Two programs directly affecting children are:



- 🦋 **Start Smart**, supporting early learning: The program has improved the quality of early child care and education for more than 12,000 children by providing training for child-care providers.
- 🦋 **Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Ohio**: Having a mentor dramatically improves a child's chances for success. Sixty-four percent of the children who have had mentors have improved their academic performance, and 84 percent increased their self-confidence.

## CEA gets out the vote

On Sunday, Nov. 4, volunteers worked for several hours to inform our membership of Election Day 2007. Through the grassroots organization America Votes, these activists reminded our members to vote on Nov. 6.

They also informed members of CEA's endorsed candidates. Members from the CEA staff, the CEA Board of Governors and our members called more than a thousand CEA members registered to vote in the Columbus City School District. These teachers devoted a Sunday afternoon to contribute to the political process. We applaud their efforts. We look forward to continuing this relationship with America Votes in future political efforts.



Dwayne Zimmerman

A thank you goes to the following list of phone bank volunteers: Kriston Crombie, Paul Froehlich, Greg Goodlander, Phil Hayes, Bob Hern, Vern Miller, Diane Norman, Deb Starr, Diana Turner, Diana Welsh and Dwayne Zimmerman.

## Leading the local

CEA President Rhonda Johnson feels strongly about the role of the Association and its relationship with the administration. She was among 30 union leaders who spoke candidly about education issues in a recent report, "*Leading the Local: Teachers Union Presidents Speak on Change, Challenges*," released by Education Sector.

The report covers such subjects as reforming teacher pay, coping with the *No Child Left Behind Act*, competition from charter schools and the challenges of leading multiple

generations of teachers whose views often clash.

Johnson spoke about the varying needs of teachers who are at different points in their careers. “Younger teachers expect immediate, direct service,” she said, “while older teachers remember the struggle to organize and see the organization as a fraternity of educators upholding their rights for the long term.”

Johnson also highlighted the importance of good administrative leadership to the success of a school teaching team.

Explore other areas of the study and read about topics such as attracting good teachers, labor-management relationships, pay and benefits and the changing role of the union president at [http://www.educationsector.org/usr\\_doc/Union-Leaders.pdf](http://www.educationsector.org/usr_doc/Union-Leaders.pdf).

Education Sector is an independent, nonprofit, nonpartisan education policy think tank based in Washington, D.C. The study was conducted by Professor Susan Moore Johnson of the Harvard Graduate School of Education and a team of researchers through intensive interviews with union presidents throughout the country.

## CEA leading the way

An informed membership is the foundation of a strong organization, and you hold in your hands one of our key communication instruments.

*The Voice* started nearly 40 years ago at a time of great transformation for the CEA. Between 1965 and 1970, CEA was reexamining its purpose. New leaders wanted the organization to take a more activist role. Up until this time, the association had met infrequently and communicated through a quarterly newsletter. There was no contract, no benefits package and salaries were very low. Change was needed.

The newsletter was a good vehicle for change. In the first few years, it was published as needed; but the demand for information continued to grow. Soon, *The Voice* evolved into a weekly report on all the pressing issues that members needed to know. Today, *The Voice* is published each Monday during the school year. Sometimes more than one issue may be prepared in a week's time. Each member will receive from 35 to 40 issues of this CEA newsletter each year.

Through archived editions of *The Voice*, you can trace the history of the Columbus City Schools and the progress of the teaching force. Administrators and the media read it. They quote from it. And this paper has been a major force for change in our school system.

Do you know of any other teachers union in the nation that publishes a weekly newsletter?

## SuccessWorks Academy accepting students

SuccessWorks Academy (SWA) is accepting applications for students in grades 3–7 for the 2007–2008 school year. The SWA admissions packet is available on the CCS Intranet. The CEA/CCS Joint Discipline Committee has been charged with providing oversight for SWA and, more specifically, for the admissions process. Representatives from the joint committee, the SWA principal and selected school support staff members will comprise the district admissions committee. This committee will review completed applications and make determinations on the student selection process.

The criteria for admission to SWA are outlined in the student admissions packet. However, there must be documented evidence of behavioral interventions for the students with the results of those interventions. SAIL Outreach Services (SOS) provided to CCS by Directions for Youth are to be included in the admissions packet, when available. The specific SAIL forms that provide the documentation needed are attached to this document. It is also important to note

that parent permission via signature is required for any student to be considered for enrollment in the program. All questions can be answered by SWA staff at 365-8306.

## Health concern explained

Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA) has recently received a lot of attention in the media. The following information regarding MRSA has been provided to Columbus City Schools by Dr. Teresa Long, the Columbus Public Health Commissioner.

MRSA is a bacteria that commonly causes skin infections. The skin infections due to MRSA can look like a spider bite, pimple or boil and can be red, swollen, painful or have pus or other drainage. Without proper treatment, MRSA skin infections can progress to invasive disease involving the bloodstream, bones, joints and lungs. MRSA is resistant to some antibiotics but can be treated with the appropriate medical intervention.

MRSA is spread in one of two ways: (1) direct person to person contact (usually skin to skin) with someone who has MRSA, or (2) indirectly through shared personal articles like towels, razors, bar soap, clothing and athletic equipment. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the environment has not played a significant role in the spread of MRSA.

The spread of MRSA infection can be prevented by:

- Frequent and thorough hand washing (This can be done with soap and water or with alcohol based hand sanitizer.);
- Keeping any skin wound covered at all times;
- Avoiding sharing personal items; and
- Routinely cleaning shared equipment, classrooms and common areas with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) registered disinfectant.

Exclusion from school and activities should be reserved for those with wound drainage (pus) that cannot be covered or contained. Closing schools and classrooms due to a MRSA infection is not recommended since this has not been found to be effective in reducing the spread of MRSA from one person to another.

Resources are available to you from Columbus Public Health at 645-1474 or at [www.publichealth.columbus.gov](http://www.publichealth.columbus.gov) or from your school nurse.

## Special notes

- ❑ Congratulations to the newly elected **Middle School Governor-at-Large Diana Welsh** (Dominion MS).
- ❑ The **open enrollment period for short-term disability** has been **extended to Nov. 15**. New teachers may not have received a personalized packet in the mail. However, they are eligible for the Colonial Short Term Disability, Cancer and Accident offerings by surfing to: <https://harmonyenroll.coloniallife.com>.
- ❑ The OEA magazine **Ohio Schools** is now **available online**. Surf to: <http://www.ohea.org/GD/Templates/Pages/OEA/OEADetail.aspx?page=2&TopicRelationID=121>.
- ❑ **Flu shots** are free for staff who have Aetna EPO (Select) and PPO. Locations and times include: **Nov. 12, Brookhaven HS**, 4–8 p.m.; **Nov. 14, Health Services Office**, 8 a.m.–12 p.m.; **Nov. 14, AIMS**, 3–6 p.m.; **Nov. 15, Briggs HS**, 3–7 p.m.; **Nov. 15, Eastmoor Academy**, 3–7 p.m.; **Nov. 15, Marion-Franklin HS**, 4–7 p.m.; **Nov. 15, Independence HS**, 3–7 p.m.; **Nov. 19, Beechcroft HS**, 3–7 p.m.; and **Nov. 20, Centennial HS**, 4–7:30 p.m. If you have questions, call at 365-5824.
- ❑ **Blue Jacket Tickets** are available from the CEA office for the following dates: **Nov. 12**, Nashville (2); **Nov. 14**, Chicago (4). Call the CEA office at 253-4731 to purchase tickets.