

The Voice

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Columbus Education Association

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Honor teachers May 4–8

We know principals can't wait to read each week's *Voice*. That is why we are letting you know that next week is National Teacher Appreciation Week.

On National Teacher Day, Tuesday, May 5, thousands of communities take time out to honor their local educators and acknowledge the contributions they make to our lives.

Show your teachers that you appreciate them. After all, teachers are your key partners, making the difference in learning at the classroom level. You may remember when you were a classroom teacher. It's a job that requires a lot of energy, and it's nice to be appreciated once in a while.

Here are some ideas and activities you can organize or arrange:

- ♦ Hang a sign on each classroom door saluting, by name, the teacher within.
- ♦ Have the National Honor Society, Student Council or other student groups furnish refreshments for the teacher's lounge on Teacher Day.
- ♦ Give teachers candy, apples or other food gifts with appropriate notes attached (e.g., fortune cookies with a note about how fortunate the school is to have a teacher of such high caliber).
- ♦ Provide balloon bouquets and flowers for every teacher's lounge.
- ♦ Set up an after-school wellness "Relaxation and Rejuvenation Spa" on Teacher Day, where teachers are treated to hand, back and neck massages, perhaps while being serenaded by a mellow cello.

In your neighborhood, consider checking into:

- ♦ Congratulatory messages on electronic signs outside banks or other businesses, on billboards, banners or storefront signs.
- ♦ Special teacher discounts on purchases made on Teacher Day.
- ♦ Holding a reception for all teachers, hosted by PTA/PTO, the school board, school administrators, elected officials, the Chamber of Commerce or other groups.
- ♦ Inviting teachers to a before-school "coffee, juice and pastries" salute at a local grocery store or other business—or even in a school parking lot (*think tailgate party!*).

Principals, call CEA if you need ideas about how to honor teachers on National Teacher Day and everyday of the school year. You can also find activities to celebrate your teachers at www.nea.org/grants/29516.htm.



Capital District Representative Assembly to meet



The 87 elected delegates will attend the upcoming Capital District Representative Assembly on Tuesday, Apr. 28, at 5 p.m. at the State Teachers Retirement System building. Capital is one of 10 regional districts in the Ohio Education Association (OEA). Its Constitution and Bylaws direct it to provide professional development and cultural diversity activities for CEA members.

Delegates will be endorsing OEA candidates for offices and establishing the Capital District's positions on resolutions that will appear before the OEA Representative Assembly to be held at the Schottenstein Center on May 8–9.

Additionally, delegates will be voting to fill Capital's OEA Board of Directors seat. The OEA Board of Directors is the executive arm of OEA and is charged with fiscal jurisdiction and developing and implementing policy for the Ohio Education Association. Kriston Crombie and Diana Welsh have declared their candidacy for the position. Additionally, nominations for candidacy may come from the floor of the Capital RA.

ODE Master Teacher designation

A "Master Teacher" demonstrates excellence inside and outside the classroom through consistent leadership and focused collaboration to maximize student learning. This year, the state report card will designate the number of Master Teachers in each building and district. You have the opportunity to add this title to your credentials. If you currently hold a teacher contract and have a minimum of seven years of experience, you are eligible to apply. For those interested, there will be an upcoming workshop on Saturday, May 2, at Northgate Center, 8:30 a.m.–3 p.m. (\$135 stipend).

The workshop will provide specific information and assistance in preparing the application requirements. Teachers may submit entries between June 1 and June 15 to Northgate Center.

For more information on the Master Teacher designation, see www.columbus.k12.oh.us/staffdev/master_teacher.html. In order to attend the workshops, prior registration is required on PD Planner. If you have any questions, contact Mickie Sebenoler at msebenoler8120@columbus.k12.oh.us or at 365-5039.



Know the contract: Personal leave

Every Association member earns two personal days per year, and unused days accumulate from year to year. When using a personal day, you do not need to inform the principal or supervisor of the specific reason for taking a personal leave day. You should, if possible, let the principal or supervisor know 24 hours in advance.

If you take a personal day and that school day is canceled, your personal day will not be deducted from your personal leave balance.

You cannot use personal days for the following reasons:

- Gainful employment or other income-producing activity (such as a craft fair, part-time job, etc.)
- Any activity connected to a strike (such as “study day,” “professional holiday,” or any other work stoppage or any other concerted action related to such activities)

If you file a false statement about the use of the personal days, it is grounds for disciplinary action.

Be prudent in using your personal days. When you retire, you get paid for half of your unused days. For example, if you retire this year with 60 days at a daily rate of \$423.12 per day, that equals approximately \$12,700 in severance pay.

Read more about personal leave in Section 702.12 of the *Master Agreement*.

More Ingram funds

Columbus City Schools Development Office is receiving nominations for the Ingram Award for outstanding principals. This award, including a \$1,500 professional development grant, will go to 10 principals. Employees, parents, students and friends of CCS may make nominations.

The award was established by the Edward W. Ingram Foundation to recognize outstanding leadership and a commitment to quality. Nominees are judged on academic achievement, leadership, staff development, parent and staff involvement, resource management and interpersonal communications.

A seven-member committee, including teachers appointed by CEA President Rhonda Johnson, will review the nominations. Forms are available in school facilities and posted on the CCS intranet (Click on *Departments*, and then click on *Grants*.) Request copies by contacting the Development Office at 365-8733. The deadline is May 15.

Catastrophic Sick Leave Bank in need

The Catastrophic Sick Leave Bank is in need of donated days. There are currently no additional days remaining in this bank. This bank is for colleagues who are experiencing very serious or life-threatening illnesses or for those who must take care of a family member experiencing such illnesses. A teacher can receive up to 45 days of Catastrophic Leave, providing there are enough days in the bank and request for the leave has been approved by the Catastrophic Sick Leave Committee. Donations can be made directly to the bank by filling out a sick leave form, or days can be given for specific teachers. These days can be donated at any time.

The Catastrophic Sick Leave Bank described above is different from the regular Sick Leave Bank, which can grant up to 10 days at a time for teachers needing additional sick time for illnesses that are not life threatening. Teachers must join this Sick Leave Bank to receive days. Teachers may join the Sick Leave Bank by donating two days. The deadline to donate these days for this school year was Oct. 7, 2008. Teachers who have donated two days in the past do not have to donate again. Read *The Voice* in the fall for the dates for the next enrollment period for the Sick Leave Bank.

Member Benefits workshop

CEA and NEA Member Benefits business partners are sponsoring a free workshop, *Venti Mocha Latte Decaf: A simple strategy for a secure future*, on Wednesday, May 6, at 4:15 p.m. at the Downtown HS, 365 S. Fourth St. This presentation is designed for members with 15 or fewer years of experience who know they should save for retirement but for whom the money just doesn't seem to be there. Participants examine ways to begin a savings program using money already in their budgets and through savings on expenses using NEA programs. This is an easy way to start the process of saving; and the hardest part is starting.

Call Ezetta Murray at 253-4731 to register for these valuable presentations. Refreshments will be provided.

America Saves results

The MidState Educators Credit Union reports that 94 new credit union accounts were opened this year as part of America Saves Week, which ended Mar. 1. These included 65 teachers, three administrators and 29 classified staff members.

In addition, 44 students opened accounts. Participants in Project Mentor have worked with their mentees to help them understand the importance of saving. The following schools tallied these student accounts: Africentric (4), Briggs HS (11), Brookhaven HS (1), CAHS (1), East HS (1), Eastmoor Academy (3), Independence HS (2), Linden-McKinley HS (1), Mifflin HS (6), South HS (1), Northland HS (3), Walnut Ridge HS (9) and West HS (1).

Our CCS staff winner of the \$500 drawing was Susan Smith (NECC @Downtown HS). A student winner's name will be drawn on June 1.

The Africentric Senior Class also won \$500 for the highest percentage of seniors who opened a savings account with MidState Educators Credit Union during America Saves Week.

Still to come is a \$1,000 Senior Class winner. The CCS Senior Class that has the highest percentage of seniors who deposit at least \$20 in their savings account at MidState Educators Credit Union each month in March, April and May will win \$1,000. The winner will be announced on June 1.

Special notes

- ❑ Join **AFL-CIO** on **Saturday, May 2**, and help **clean up Workers' Memorial Park**. Meet at 9 a.m. at the park at Front and Long Streets. The cleanup is in preparation for Workers' Memorial Day on May 9. On this day, those who have been killed or injured on the job are remembered.
- ❑ The **deadline to submit an application for CEA Scholarships is Friday, May 8, at 5 p.m.** Five scholarships are available for members' children who are high school seniors. Contact Judy Nelson at CEA at 253-4731. Download an application at <http://tinyurl.com/c2e8sy>.
- ❑ **Vote in the STRS Board elections.** OEA and OFT have endorsed **Carol Correthers** for the **active member seat** and **James McGreevy** and **Dave Preslan** for the **retired member seats**. Vote by mail, or to save money for STRS, vote by phone or via the Internet. The **deadline for voting is May 4, at 4:30 p.m.**
- ❑ Celebrate our talented Columbus City Schools' poets at the **1st Annual CCS District Poetry Slam** on **Thursday, Apr. 30**, from **6–9 p.m.** at **Eastmoor Academy, 417 S. Weyant Ave.** Approximately 14 CCS high schools will be sending student teams to perform original poetry in competition for the title of district champion. A team and an individual winner will be awarded the coveted titles. For more information, call Wyk McGowan at 804-5535.