Tell your students: Women made it happen

March is Women’s History Month. This is a great time to talk to your students not only about an important aspect of the American historical narrative but also to talk about some of its key players: teachers. Here are some points you can cover:

❖ For hundreds of years, women’s lives were limited to the home. They were considered extensions of their husbands and caretakers of their children, and their opinions were not considered important. Many were not educated.

❖ In the 1800s, wealthier girls began attending secondary schools. They learned mostly languages and fine arts. Catherine Beecher changed all that. She opened a school, the Hartford Female Seminary, to teach math and science. She believed that girls were just as smart as boys and should be given learning opportunities.

❖ In the 1900s, the teaching profession grew tremendously. New laws required every child to go to school. Female teachers faced terrible working conditions, including low pay and strict rules banning them from marriage, dating, wearing shorter skirts and sporting certain hairstyles. Teachers began forming unions. Margaret Haley was president of the Chicago Federation of Teachers. She quit her job teaching to help organize the AFT (though because she was a woman, she didn’t get the job as its first president).

❖ In the early 1900s, Mary McLeod Bethune opened a school for black girls. It was called the Daytona Educational and Industrial School for Negro Girls. As well as learning basic academics and domestic chores, the girls learned to respect themselves and to strive for excellence. The school grew into Bethune-Cookman College, which still exists.

You can find much more information at www.nwhm.org/exhibits/education. You can also find great information on women’s roles in history at www.nwhp.org.

I will read one every day; I will learn stuff on the way

March 2 is Dr. Seuss’ birthday and is the perfect time to work with the community to promote the joys of reading. It’s also time again for Read Across America. Through this program, the National Education Association is building a nation of readers. Now in its 14th year, this year-round program focuses on motivating children and teens to read through events, partnerships and reading resources.


Save your photos and videos and enter the NEA 2010 Read Across America Awards. Winners in each category receive $250 and bragging rights for the year. Applications are due Apr. 20 and winners will be announced June 1, 2010.

Read Around the Planet is an initiative of the National Education Association’s Read Across America program. Classrooms use interactive video to connect with other classrooms around the United States to celebrate reading. Each connection is scheduled for an hour: 15 minutes for microphone and camera testing and introductions; 30 minutes for the reading activities (15 minutes per class); and 15 minutes for exchanging information about respective schools and communities.

The following CCS classrooms were matched with another class participating in the event: Duxberry Park ES: Feb. 22, Jeri Smith’s second-grade class connected with a classroom in Flint, Michigan; Oakmont ES: Feb. 23, Amy Crossin’s kindergarten classroom connected with a class in Port Washington, New York; Windsor STEM K–6 Academy: Feb. 25, Melanie Gabriel’s fourth-grade class connected with a class in Sterling Heights, Michigan; Oakmont ES: Feb. 26, Janet Crockett’s second-grade class connected with a class in Suffern, New York; and Olde Orchard Alternative ES: Mar. 2, Katie Higby’s second-grade class will connect with a class in Houston, Texas.

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http://bit.ly/d7xL1q
waiver. The application deadline is Friday, Apr. 30. Go to
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generous support from the Ohio Humanities Council. Par-
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teachers and learners can be well served by knowledge that
about language, and with a deeper appreciation for all aspects
Teachers (LILT). LILT is a weeklong summer program de-
which is held on the third Friday in October each year.

Graduate course for foreign language teachers
The Ohio State University is offering a three graduate
credit-hour course entitled Linguistic Institute for Language
Teachers (LILT). LILT is a weeklong summer program de-
signed specifically for teachers of foreign languages. The goal
is to provide language teachers with greater linguistic aware-
ness and understanding, with the ability to think critically
about language, and with a deeper appreciation for all aspects
of language and language study.
The philosophy behind the program is that language
teachers and learners can be well served by knowledge that
offers them insight into the structure and use of their own
language. The objective is to provide the teacher and learner
with what he or she needs to know about language, in gen-
eral, in order to study a particular language more effectively.
Course times are 9 a.m.–3 p.m., June 21–25. Tuition is
$575; however, 25 full-tuition waivers are available thanks to
generous support from the Ohio Humanities Council. Par-
ticipants need not be teachers in Ohio to qualify for a tuition
waiver. The application deadline is Friday, Apr. 30. Go to
http://bit.ly/d7xL1q to download an application.

Health
In 2006, cardiovascular disease cost $403 billion in med-
c ial bills and lost productivity. By 2025, an aging population
is expected to drive up the total
by as much as 54 percent. But
we can take steps to reverse the
trend:
Encourage legislators to
require more graphic warnings on cigarette pack-
ages.
Create commitment contracts to quit smoking. A
Yale economist tried this successfully in the Philip-
pinnes: As smokers quit, they deposited the cost of
their cigarettes into a special bank account. Those
who quit, kept the money. Those who didn’t, for-
feited the money.
Lobby for the food-stamp program to subsidize
whole grains, fruits and vegetables. Right now, $1
buys 100 calories of carrots but buys 1,250 calories
of cookies.
Advocate making physical fitness part of ESEA
(No Child Left Behind). We prep for standardized
tests but fail to acknowledge that exercise improves
mood, concentration and overall health.
Find ways to reduce stress in your life. Get more ex-
ercise and eat better. Take a yoga class. Begin medi-
 tating daily. Spend more time with friends and
family and less time working overtime.
Read about a remarkable strategy that could save all of
our lives. It’s called the AARP/Blue Zones Vitality Project,
started by Dan Buettner, author of The Blue Zones. Residents of Alberta Lea, Minn., were the test subjects. They created a
new kind of community with walking paths, community gar-
dens and better school nutrition. For instance, schools
banned hallway eating and sold wreaths instead of candy to
raise money during the holidays. Within six months, partici-
pants boosted their life expectancies by nearly four years.
Within 10 months, city and school-district health-care
claims fell by 32 percent. Check it out at www.bluezones.com/vitality-project.

Special notes
In late February, the HR Department revised the Art.
211 calendar which affects postings, interview dates and
notification deadlines. Postings for Round 1 begin Mar.
12 and will close on Mar. 23. Interviews for Round 1
begin Mar. 15 and end on Mar. 31. Please note that the
deadline to notify members of staff reductions is Mar. 1.
Vote now through Mar. 8 for CEA President; CEA Vice
President; 2010 NEA delegates; and 2010–11 OEA dele-
gates. Ballots will be picked up by the Elections Commit-
tee on Mar. 9. Ask your Senior Faculty Representative
for your ballot.
Senior FRs must submit requests for alternative inter-
view panels to the CEA President prior to interviewing.
These are the buildings/units that have been approved to
date: Africentric EC HS, Binns ES, Briggs HS, Kings-
wood Data Center, Northtowne ES, OT/PT, Speech &
Language Pathologists, Starling MS, West HS and
Windsor ES.
Brush up on your job-interviewing skills. CEA and CCS
will conduct interview training at Northgate Center,
Room G, on Wednesday, Mar. 3, at 4:30 p.m. to help you prepare for the Art. 211 process.
CEA’s Reach Out and Read book campaign wraps up
on Friday, Mar. 5. Members can continue to donate new
books until then. Faculty Representatives or designees can
begin dropping off donations to the CEA office Mar.
5–12. If you have any questions, contact Tracey Johnson at
253-4731.
The deadline to apply for a continuing contract is Friday,
Mar. 5.
Friday, May 7, at 5 p.m. is the deadline for applications for
CEA scholarships. Two scholarships are available: the
$1,500 Christa McAuliffe Scholarship awarded to an ed-
ucation student and the $1,000 CEA General Scholar-
ship. Both are renewable for up to four years but at a
IRS deductions for union dues: Some CEA members
may be able to deduct a portion of their union dues on
their income tax returns. If you are a full-time employee
and are on Pay Plan A (21 Pays), you can deduct $778.02. If you are on
Plan B (26 Pays), the amount is $777.31. If you switched
from Plan A to B, the amount is $724.20; and if you changed
from Plan B to A, the amount is $831.13. Half-time employees
on Plan A (21 Pays) can deduct $437.18 and Plan B (26 Pays)
would allow a $437.18 deduction.