

The CEA Voice

www.ceaohio.org

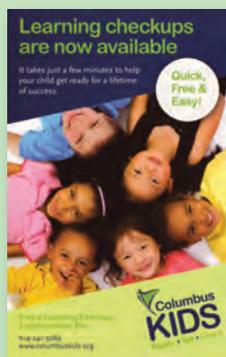
Volume XL, No. 31

Columbus Education Association

April 12, 2010

City program gets kids ready to learn

A new program will give families help getting their children ready for school. Columbus Kids is a new partnership involving more than 30 community organizations, created to champion the need for kindergarten readiness and school success. It's the first of its kind in the nation. Our United Way, along with several major funders, aims to increase the early detection of developmental delays and speech, hearing or vision problems among preschoolers within the boundaries of Columbus City Schools. The *Ready, Set, Learn* initiative helps them get the intervention services they need to be ready to learn.



Among the partners are Columbus City Schools Education Foundation, the Franklin County Board of Commissioners, JPMorgan Chase Foundation, The Limited Foundation and individual donors.

The program will involve every neighborhood, one at a time, with the goal of involving all Columbus City Schools district preschoolers by 2013. Eligible children are 2½–4 years old and not yet attending kindergarten. They live or attend child care in either Weinland Park or Central City areas. Children in other areas within the Columbus City Schools district may opt in by taking part in a Learning Checkup event in the Weinland Park and Central City areas.

Parents can sign up through their child's early care and learning program, home-care professional or by calling the hotline at 241-3089. Each will receive a \$20 gift card each time they complete and turn in their child's Learning Checkup. Each child also gets a free book.

If you love books, hug your librarian!

April 11–17 is National Library Week. Take a few moments to thank your school library media specialists for their help. If you have a favorite book, take a moment to talk to your students about it and about how you discovered it at a library.



Talk to your students about what school librarians do. Their job is to introduce students to literature through book talks, story times and carefully planned lessons. School librarians help connect students with the books they need for class work or just for fun. That means keeping up with the variety of books being published for children today. School librarians teach the Dewey Decimal Classification system and how to use the online catalog to find books on specific subjects or by particular authors.

There are great activities you can do during this week (or anytime). For some ideas, visit www.educationworld.com/a_special/library_week/.

Reach Out and Read campaign ends

The Columbus Education Association's Reach Out and Read Book Campaign was a huge success. The CEA membership donated more than 3,500 books valued at approximately \$29,500. This is about a 10 percent increase over last year's campaign. CEA, Nationwide Children's Hospital and the community applaud you for your generosity.



Special thanks go to Alexa Reck and Barnes & Noble for their continued support of our campaign. As a result of the book fairs held in December and February, CEA received more than \$1,700 in gift cards to purchase additional books. We would also like to thank CEA-R for their contributions and support.

This effort would not have been a success without the support of the Faculty Representatives, Board of Governors and the CEA officers and staff. Your help and donations are greatly appreciated.

A very special thanks goes to the Reach Out and Read Committee, Faye Love (Linden STEM Academy), Robin Lucas (Winterset ES) and Vern Miller (Yorktown MS) for their work in picking up, counting, sorting and labeling the books.

Congratulations go to CEA Vice President Sally Oldham. She is the auction winner of the novel *Midnight on the Moon* autographed by former astronaut and U.S. Senator John Glenn.

Columbus City Schools has the best teachers in the country. Our collective efforts will make it possible for the children in our community to start school ready to learn.

CEUs for online courses

The National Education Association provides online professional development courses to its members. CEA has worked with the LPDC Committee in order for our members to receive CEUs for taking these courses.



If you are one of the teachers who received notification from the district that your contract will be non-renewed due to certification issues or if your certificate/license is expiring soon, you may want to take advantage of this opportunity. You can take all the approved courses and receive up to nine CEUs. That is half the coursework needed to renew your teaching credentials. Courses are \$69 each for NEA members. Offerings included are:

- Effective Teaching in Diverse Classrooms: 3 CEUs
- Teaching the ESL Learner: 1 CEU
- Differentiated Instruction for Successful Inclusion: 3 CEUs
- The 5 Practices of Highly Effective Classrooms: 1 CEU
- I Can Do It!: 1 CEU (free)

For more details and to register for a course, surf to www.nea.org. Click on **Tools and Ideas**, scroll down to **NEA Academy** then click on **Course Catalog**.

You must have an approved Individual Professional Development Plan (IPDP) on file with the district prior to taking any course for CEUs. If you would like to receive CEUs, e-mail Tracey Johnson at tjohnson@ceaohio.org. She will e-mail you the requirements.

Got tuition to pay?

Would you like assistance with your child's college tuition? Friday, May 7, at 5 p.m. is the deadline to apply for a CEA Scholarship. This 25-year-old program provides assistance for children of CEA members who are graduating high school seniors or students already enrolled in an undergraduate program in a college or university.

CEA finances the fund with interest earned from Association bank accounts. Two scholarships are available: the \$1,500 Christa McAuliffe Scholarship awarded to an education major and the \$1,000 CEA General Scholarship. CEA-R also provides two \$500 non-renewable scholarships. Both CEA scholarships are renewable for up to four years but at a reduced level from the first-year award.

To apply, go to the CEA Web site to download an application. Return it to the CEA office. This year's scholarship recipients will be recognized at the 34th Annual CEA Awards & Retirement Banquet on May 21. This scholarship program is not to be confused with the CEA Members Scholarship Foundation awards made to college seniors in December.

Middle school turnaround

In the fall, CCS hired Community Research Partners (CRP) to study the district's middle school performance and identify turnaround strategies. CRP conducted interviews with middle school administrators, as well as focus groups with teachers, non-teaching support staff and parent consultants.

The CRP study found that teachers felt that district middle schools do not meet the unique developmental needs and learning styles of young adolescents. Teachers asked for specific changes to middle school curriculum, including: increased curricular depth and focus, higher levels of thinking and mastery, learning opportunities for vocational and other life skills and less of a one-size-fits-all approach.

CCS middle school teachers believe the district needs to change the middle school instructional model. Changes that teachers requested include time for teaming, flexible scheduling and learning experiences outside of the classroom for students.

Teachers identified that effective discipline strategies, like in-school suspension or other types of disciplinary intervention options, were needed for positive change. Additional factors, such as increased parental involvement, greater parent education and more student-led activities were highlighted by teachers as key factors for middle school success.

The recommendations in the CRP study confirmed what CEA members have been saying are necessary to improve middle school achievement. Recently, your Association invited members to submit their middle school turnaround ideas on the CEA Blog. Many of the suggestions highlighted by the CRP study are echoed by members' comments on the blog. Go to <http://bit.ly/9yBudh> to read what members are saying.

Free professional development

Enhance your classroom value by taking Otterbein College's Teacher Quality Enhancement (TQE) classes. The classes begin June 14 and offerings include Introduction to Physical Science, Earth Science and Humankind, The Nature

of Mathematics and Being an Effective Mentor. You can apply online at www.otterbein.edu/GradEd/prof-admission.asp.

If you have questions, call 823-3210 or e-mail grad@otterbein.edu. TQE is a federally funded initiative aimed at specialized urban teacher preparation and professional development. These courses are free for Columbus teachers. This is a great way to contribute to our ongoing effort to improve educational outcomes for our urban students.

CCS to apply for federal grant

Ohio was awarded \$132 million in School Improvement Grant (SIG) money from the U.S. Department of Education. The award is part of \$3.5 billion set aside in the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act and the federal budget.

"We're grateful for these federal resources, which will greatly improve the ability of our lowest-performing schools to develop a strategy for improvement that fits their unique circumstances," said Governor Ted Strickland.

CCS will apply on behalf of seven of its schools for federal money from the SIG grants. Each school can be awarded up to a total of \$2 million per year for up to three years. Eligible schools include: Alum Crest HS, Champion MS, Columbus Global Academy, Linden-McKinley STEM Academy, Southmoor MS, Weinland Park ES and West HS.

During the following weeks, each school will develop its own plan and goals through the School Leadership Team in partnership with CCS. Senior FRs and principals will meet on Tuesday, Apr. 13, to begin the process. Ohio school districts have until Apr. 30 to submit their applications. The Ohio Department of Education will announce in June which districts' applications have been approved.

RttT first round winners announced

U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan announced the first-round winners of the Race to the Top (RttT) education reform fund. Delaware and Tennessee prevailed over Ohio and 12 other states and the District of Columbia to win the first slice of the \$4.5 billion competitive grant program. Delaware will receive approximately \$100 million and Tennessee will receive \$500 million to implement their comprehensive school reform plans over the next four years.

With billions still remaining in the RttT coffers, states designated as first-round finalists are being encouraged to apply for round two. Ohio's original application requested \$400 million in grant funding. CCS and CEA were both signatories to Ohio's original RttT application.

Special notes

- Support the **OEA endorsed STRS candidates, Mark Hill and Dale Price**. By now you should have your STRS ballot. Vote by phone, online or by mail. The deadline to vote is Monday, May 3.
- Teachers** may now **apply online for summer school positions** at all levels, OGT tutoring and summer bridge. Visit <http://columbus.k12.oh.us/summerschool> to complete the application. The **deadline** is **Apr. 12 at 4:30 p.m.**
- Applications for the **Teacher Dream Grants** must be submitted online to the CCS Development Office by **Monday, Apr. 12, at 4 p.m.** Go to: <http://www.columbus.k12.oh.us/dreamgrant> to access the online application. For more information, contact the Development Office at 365-8733.
- The **Capital District** is offering **scholarships** to members who are interested in attending the **OEA Leadership Academy** to be held **Monday, Aug. 2–Wednesday, Aug. 4**. If you are interested, go to <http://bit.ly/93s0bT> to complete a scholarship application form.