

The CEA Voice

www.ceaohio.org

Volume XL, No. 35

Columbus Education Association

May 10, 2010

Go see the nurse, and say, “Thank you!”

School nurses are busy people. They manage their schools’ health programs and that means a lot of different jobs. From coordinating educational programs and serving as consultants to handling medical emergencies, school nurses serve in many ways.

We celebrate their work on Wednesday, May 12, on National School Nurse Day. Take some time this week to thank the nurse who works in your building for a job well done.



When you do, here are some things to consider. Nurses help schools in a variety of ways. Children come to the nurse for help with taking their vital medications for conditions such as asthma and diabetes. Nurses monitor students’ overall health, conducting health screenings, such as eye exams and hearing tests, and providing information for teachers and families about keeping children healthy.

As public health workers, nurses are the leaders in the development and evaluation of school health policies. These include chronic disease management, coordinated school health programs, school wellness policies, crisis/disaster management, emergency medical condition management, mental health protection and intervention, acute illness management, as well as infectious disease prevention and management.

Nurses are your No. 1 advocates in the fight to implement healthier school-based practices. The National Association of School Nurses (NASN) has issued position statements on a variety of issues, including childhood obesity. Nurses know that academic performance and a long life are linked to good health. The nurses’ association has been on the front lines of a movement towards healthier school lunch choices.

The NASN has pledged to collaborate with students, parents, communities and health-care providers to educate the community about this public health issue and to promote a culture of wellness in schools.

Tell it like it is

Columbus City Schools’ 2010 Staff Survey is now online. This annual 64-question tool is part of your negotiated agreement. Article 501 of the *CEA Master Agreement* calls for the evaluation of each school’s professional environment, teacher involvement and co-curricular programs in each school. The survey was jointly created by teachers and administrators.

CEA hopes data from the survey is used to make changes in district policies, technologies and requirements.

The survey is your gateway to identify problems in our schools and classrooms that need to be addressed.

When you participate in this survey, you become a voice for positive change. The survey gives helpful information about building climate. Teachers use it as they seek to transfer to positions at different schools. The information also reveals our successes and our difficulties so that we can acknowledge and address these issues.

View the data for the 2009–2010 school year on the CEA website at <http://bit.ly/aGMM01>. Note that the average rating for each category has been rounded to the nearest whole number.

If you have questions about this annual activity, call CEA at 253-4731.

Just say “no” to larger class size, teacher load

The school year is waning, and principals seem to think we’re fatigued and willing to accept anything just to get the year over with. For next school year, many principals are asking our teachers to accept more students into their classrooms, or perhaps to teach more classes than the contract will allow. Apparently, administration has forgotten Article 301 of our contract, quoted directly here:



- All school and grade level regular elementary classes (kindergarten and grades 1–5) will be organized in each school building on the basis of approximately 25 pupils per classroom teacher.
- All middle school academic classes will be organized in each school building on the basis of approximately 30 pupils per classroom teacher.
- All high school academic classes will be organized in each school building so as to have an average class size in each departmental area of approximately 28 pupils.

The March 2009 Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) regarding the Eight-Period Day states that middle and high school teachers shall not be assigned more than five periods of instruction. Additionally, the MOA limits the student load per teacher to a maximum of 150.

Exceptions to class size and teacher load can be made, but a waiver from the contract must be approved by the Reform Panel.

Increasing class size is a sure way to reduce the overall effectiveness of a teacher. Making a class bigger, even for only a month, does not help us teach children. When teachers decide to take too many students, they are reducing the number of teachers in the bargaining unit and preventing laid-off teachers from being recalled.

Please respect the contract. Contact CEA if your class size or teacher class load is above the contractual limit.

Grievances update

Once again, here is a list of the grievances that CEA is working to resolve. Will it ever end? Principals violate the contract repeatedly by simply acting without referring to the mutually-agreed contract. Perhaps we should remind them exactly how many hours both parties spent negotiating in good faith.

Building/Unit Administrator	Statement of Grievance	Relief Requested	Disposition
Parkmoor ES Stacy Harris-MacCarthy	Adm. failed to provide teachers with their daily ten- (10) to fifteen- (15) minute break.	Adm. develop a schedule allowing teachers to receive their daily ten-(10) to fifteen-(15) minute break.	Step 2–Based on the information presented at the hearing, there is no violation of Article 302.03 of the labor agreement. Therefore, the relief requested is denied. Diane McLinn
Maize ES Renea Williams	Adm. failed to give all reasonable support and assistance to teachers with respect to the maintenance of control and discipline in the classroom and within the building that is conducive to learning and provides support to teachers that is legal and consistent with the <i>Guide to Positive Student Behavior</i> and the PEAK Program.	Adm. provide all reasonable support and assistance to teachers with respect to the maintenance of control and discipline in the classroom and within the building, utilizing a plan that includes the <i>Guide to Positive Student Behavior</i> and the PEAK Program; that the adm. provide an atmosphere within the school building that is conducive to learning; that all School Form 190s be returned to teachers in a timely manner, reviewing individual student's behavior to determine when discipline should be progressive; and following through on assigned discipline to make sure it is fairly and consistently enforced.	Step 1–No violation of the contract has occurred. A plan for the teacher has been developed by the administration to help control the behavior of students with severe or extreme behavior problems. Renea Williams Step 2–Hearing pending

Interested in becoming a cooperating teacher?

The Staff Development Office is preparing for field observations, methods and student teaching/internship placements for the 2010–2011 school year. The district continues to expand the opportunities for Columbus teachers to work with university students who are interested in our profession. In order to be considered as a cooperating teacher, the minimum expectations include five years experience and Highly Qualified Teacher status. Research shows that effective cooperating teachers exhibit the following qualities:

- ◆ Positive rapport with students, parents and colleagues
- ◆ High organizational skills
- ◆ Extensive content knowledge
- ◆ Effective communication skills
- ◆ Effective classroom management
- ◆ Positive professional role model
- ◆ Willingness to contribute to the teaching profession by sharing classroom expertise with pre-service teachers

Productive and effective student placement is one of our most powerful recruitment tools and a mechanism to eliminate unwarranted stereotypes of urban education. Principals and district offices are currently compiling recommendations. If you possess these qualities and want to be on the list for consideration, talk to your principal by Friday, May 14.

United Way focuses on graduation rates

United Way of Central Ohio has been tapped to participate in a year-long national pilot project exploring ways to improve high school graduation rates across the country.

The project, organized by United Way Worldwide, is called the Education Mobilization Group. It has called on 10 local United Ways to work with consultants in crafting strategies involving local agencies, communities and key decision-makers. Consultants include the Blue States Digital Group, which led the digital communications and fund-raising efforts for the Obama Presidential Campaign.

United Way of Central Ohio has a goal of increasing high school graduation rates in Central Ohio from 87 percent to 95 percent.

CEA Legislative Coordinator position open

If you enjoy Association involvement and want to keep your finger on the pulse of legislative action, then the job of CEA Legislative Coordinator (LC) may be for you.

Eligible applicants must demonstrate experience working with political issues related to public education and public education employees. He or she should be able to motivate and work with people.

The coordinator's job involves informing CEA leaders

and members about political issues that relate to public education and employees. The coordinator also works with the CEA President, Board of Governors and Faculty Representatives to increase member political activity and involvement.

The LC works with OEA and NEA political action personnel to relay information from the state and national level to local leaders and members. He or she also promotes member participation in raising contributions to the Teachers for Better Schools (TBS) Fund. This is the political action arm of the Association.

The LC receives a stipend, but is not released from the classroom. Interested applicants should submit resumés to: Greg Goodlander, CEA Legislative Coordinator, CEA Office. The deadline for submission is Friday, May 14. Applicants will be contacted for selective interviews.

Hot deals and discounts

NEA members can get a lot of cool stuff. For instance, there's the NEA Member Benefits website sweepstakes, featuring five \$200 Best Buy gift cards. NEA members can register until May 20 at 11:59 p.m., EDT in the "ENTER TO WIN" area of the NEAMB website (neamb.com). No purchase is necessary.

Also check out the NEA Click & Save "Buy-lights" for May. These are online discounts by select retailers and merchants, including Reebok, PETCO, Nordstrom, Sephora, 1-800-Flowers and Restaurant.com. Go to www.neamb.com/home/1207_2678.htm today.

Traveling? NEA members save \$5 per day, up to \$35 off a weekly or weekend rental of an economy- or higher-class car at participating Hertz airport locations in the U.S., Canada and Puerto Rico. Go to www.hertz.com/neamb, call your travel agent or call Hertz directly at 1-800-654-2210 to make your reservation. Use CDP #50655 to get your NEA discount and promotion code #142564 through May 31, 2010.

Special notes

- ❑ Attend the **CEA Awards & Retirement Banquet on Friday, May 21**, at The Westin Columbus. The social hour starts at 6 p.m., with dinner at 7 p.m. The banquet is free for Senior Faculty Representatives, retirees and honorees. Tickets for all others are \$30. Full tables are available. Reservations can be made by calling CEA at 253-4731.
- ❑ **Article 211: Round 2 Interviews close Tuesday, May 18.**
- ❑ Join **Tom Busher, Steve Drobik, Pam Kindinger and Ann Reiser** at their **retirement party on Thursday, May 20**, from **3–6 p.m.** at **Club 185**, 185 E. Livingston Ave. Send \$12 to **Bruce Mortland** or **Cheryl Cooper** at the Columbus Downtown HS by **Thursday, May 13.**