

The CEA Voice

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Columbus Education Association

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Let's cure breast cancer

Breast cancer is a killer. But it's also one of the most treatable of cancers—and research is increasing hope all the time. You can help by raising funds for this life-saving effort. On Sunday, Oct. 24, thousands will gather for the annual “Making Strides Against Breast Cancer” walk. The walk begins at 10 a.m. at COSI, 333 W. Broad St. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.



We want to show strong support of this event. Form a team at your school and join thousands of others to raise funds for a future without breast cancer.

Your team members do not have to be employees of the district. Some schools even encourage students and their parents to join their teams. This is a great opportunity to involve the community in your schools efforts.

There is no fee to register, and you can even register up until the day of the event. The first 50 people to register on-line can receive a free CEA Making Strides T-shirt. Sizes are limited so register early. For more information, call Ezetta Murray at CEA at 253-4731. Once your registration is confirmed, you will receive your T-shirt. To register, go to <http://bit.ly/cWoVMh>.

Discipline plan: Got one?

Now that the students are back, it is time to make sure your school's written discipline plan is in place. All schools should have had a building discipline plan in place at the beginning of the school year.

According to the *CEA Master Agreement* (Art. 208), every school must have a discipline policy in place on the first day of school. However, if an administrator is new to a building, the plan must be in place within the first 10 days of school. The ABC is the mechanism for this discussion, and plans are devised in concert with the principal.

Having a discipline plan at the beginning of the school year is critical to providing an atmosphere conducive to teaching and learning. Everyone needs guidelines. Students and parents should know what is acceptable school behavior. Teachers and administrators should work together to make sure that the *CCS Guide to Positive Student Behavior* is followed.

Taking this step will prevent a multitude of problems later. Consensus about how various disciplinary situations will be handled during the year will help avoid a number of conflicts later. If discipline was a problem in your building last year, you may have to revise your plan.

Completed plans should be forwarded to the CEA office to the attention of Vice President Sally Oldham.

If your school does not have a plan, let CEA know immediately. Not having a plan is grievable at Step 2. Members should call CEA so that we can take action. If you have questions about discipline plans, contact CEA.



Rules on food

Teachers and parents love to give parties for our students every now and then as a class reward or to celebrate a birthday. But it's a tricky business, with food allergies more prevalent than ever. As we all know, some students have severe allergic reactions to certain types of food, such as peanuts. These reactions can be fatal.

Nonetheless, there are ways to enjoy a classroom party without the risk of these reactions. The district has directed principals to select from among three options designed to control student exposure to certain foods. Please make sure your students' parents know which one of these is your school's policy.

Option One: No food will be distributed by means other than the school breakfast/snack/lunch/vending programs without prior approval. Classroom celebrations should instead feature non-food items, such as pencils, erasers, stickers, bookmarks, a game to play or a craft. However, you may submit a request in writing for permission to serve snacks. This must go to the building principal within a prescribed deadline before the event.

Option Two: No food will be distributed by means other than the school breakfast/snack/lunch/vending programs without prior approval. But our school allows hosting (monthly) (weekly) (quarterly) celebrations. If you would like to provide food to your student's classroom for activities, please submit a request in writing to the building principal or school nurse within a prescribed deadline prior to the event date.

Option Three: No food will be distributed by means other than the school breakfast/snack/lunch/vending programs. If you would like to provide items to your student's classroom for activities such as a birthday, we suggest that you provide ONLY non-food items, including pencils, erasers, stickers, bookmarks, a game to play or a craft.

It has been reported to CEA that principals have banned all parties and celebrations because of the Board policy on food allergies. This is not the case. Schools must choose one of the three options for parties and celebrations in classrooms and in buildings.

Learn more about service learning

The NEA Foundation announces “Bringing Learning to Life,” a teacher-led project to transform public schools through service learning, using classroom teaching as a basis for students to solve real-life problems through service projects in the community.

This winter quarter, 30 teachers will learn more about this program through a three-hour graduate credit course developed by The Ohio State University School of Education and Human Ecology. Graduates of the course can apply for mini-grants of up to \$1,500 to conduct and document hands-on projects with students and community groups.

“Bringing Learning to Life” is made possible through a \$550,000 grant from Learn and Serve America. The NEA Foundation was among 28 organizations chosen to receive funding. Project partners include the Columbus Education Association and The Ohio State University, in collaboration with Columbus City Schools and the Ohio Education Association.

Any K–12 Columbus City Schools teacher is welcome to apply. Teachers from high-poverty schools will be given preference. For more information and to download an application, go to <http://bit.ly/d2vxlt>. Call Rhonda Johnson at CEA if you have questions.

Share your students’ Hispanic heritage

Each year, we honor the contributions of Hispanic Americans with National Hispanic Heritage Month, beginning Sept. 15. The date marks the anniversary of independence of five Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on Sept. 16 and 18, respectively.

More than 130 million Americans come from Spanish-speaking countries. They comprise the nation’s largest ethnic minority—16 percent of the nation’s total population. In addition, there are approximately 4 million residents of Puerto Rico, a Caribbean U.S. territory.

The study of Hispanic heritage offers you the chance to explore many diverse and rich cultures with your class. Ideas include reading *The House on Mango Street* and *Shadow of a Bull*, teaching about Mexico’s Day of the Dead, playing mariachi music, practicing Spanish vocabulary and discovering the customs and traditions of Hispanic heritage by creating musical instruments, learning about the Spanish-language influence on English. Your students can help you with your class activities, many of them sharing their own customs with their fellow students.

Central Ohio organizations, such as the Ohio Commission on Latino and Hispanic Affairs (466-8333) and the Ohio Hispanic Coalition (840-9935), can help you with resources.

First CEA Legislative Assembly

On Thursday, Sept. 16, Faculty Representatives will meet for the first CEA Legislative Assembly (LA) of the school year, to be held at Confluence Park. The LA is the policy-making body of the Columbus Education Association.

Faculty Representatives will meet to accomplish a variety of objectives. Several proposed amendments to the CEA Constitution will be referred to committee. Additionally, the Legislative Assembly will receive recommendations from the CEA Board of Governors for political endorsements. (To access the LA agenda with the proposed slate of candidates, go to the CEA website member login beginning Friday, Sept. 10.)

CEA’s endorsement is highly valued and is sought by those running for statewide offices, city council, positions in the

county judiciary and other Columbus and county offices. Candidates seeking CEA’s endorsement screen with the Teachers for Better Schools Screening Committee or with OEA screening committees.

Elementary teachers, complete the survey

Members should have received an e-mail with a link to a CEA survey. This survey will close at midnight on Sunday, Sept. 19. The link was sent to your personal e-mail address and can only be completed on your personal computer. You cannot access this survey at a CCS computer or through the district computer network.

If CEA does not have your home e-mail address, you will not be able to complete the survey. Additionally, you may have opted out of all e-mail messages from CEA when you opted out of one message. If you have not received the e-mail with the survey link, send an e-mail to phayes@ceaohio.org.

CEA Governors vote to realign districts

During the 2009–2010 school year, the Columbus Board of Education voted to close nine schools and to open three new school programs. The Board also voted to adopt a new school reassignment plan for elementary, middle and high schools.

After an extensive analysis and discussions over the summer, CEA’s Board of Governors voted to realign the Association’s nine geographic electoral districts. This realignment means that a number of units may be represented by a different CEA District Governor. These changes were deemed necessary by the Board of Governors to ensure representational consistency, taking into account the changed feeder patterns and five new CCS administrative regions. To see the list of realigned CEA Districts, go to <http://bit.ly/baK3cv>. To see the five administrative regions, go to <http://bit.ly/bYc1fb>.

Grossman paver dedication

A dedication service for the late John Grossman’s STRS Discovery Park paver will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 20, at 4:30 p.m. Attendees can park at the STRS building and the Columbus Education Center.

The short service will include music by the CEA-R Notes and singers from South HS. CEA-R President Judy Valentine will speak, along with CEA President Rhonda Johnson and CEA Chief Negotiator Rick Logan. John, a longtime CEA President, educator and dedicated Association leader, died July 28, 2008. To share your memories of John, send them to CEA Vice President Sally Oldham by Oct. 11.

After the dedication, join CEA for a reception at the Maennerchor, 866 S. High Street. A cash bar will be available. Please *RSVP* to CEA-R President Judy Valentine at 235-4572.

Special notes

- ❑ Apply for **\$750 in tuition assistance** for your **college senior**. Students must have a 2.0 GPA. The Members Scholarship **deadline is Oct. 29**. If you have questions, call Cora Miller at 253-4731. Go to <http://bit.ly/bmKk1B> to download an application.
- ❑ **CEA thanks** Robert D. Brown, Rhonda Johnson, Richard and Elizabeth Kennedy, Dorene Sikdar and Betty Thurn who have been added to the list of **contributors** to **Stewart ES** teachers.

CEA Pre-Paid Legal Services Plan OEA/NEA Attorney Referral Program

At Cloppert, Latanick, Sauter and Washburn, we have dedicated ourselves to teachers in and out of the classroom. Our experienced personal injury, divorce, dissolution, criminal, probate and real estate attorneys are available to you at moderate rates which are lower than we normally charge our private clients.

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