

The Voice

www.ceahio.org

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Columbus Education Association

May 9, 2011

Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month

May is Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month. We celebrate the contributions of Asians and Pacific Islanders to the progress of our country. We also recall their history as immigrants and struggles to become fully recognized U.S. citizens.

The month of May was chosen to commemorate the immigration of the first Japanese to the United States on May 7, 1843, and to mark the anniversary of the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869. The majority of the workers who laid the tracks were Chinese immigrants.

Many cultures are included in this annual commemoration, including those of the Asian continent and the Pacific islands of Melanesia (New Guinea, New Caledonia, Vanuatu, Fiji and the Solomon Islands), Micronesia (Marianas, Guam, Wake Island, Palau, Marshall Islands, Kiribati, Nauru and the Federated States of Micronesia) and Polynesia (New Zealand, Hawaiian Islands, Rotuma, Midway Islands, Samoa, American Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, Cook Islands, French Polynesia and Easter Island).

There are many aspects of Asian-American history that teachers can emphasize, including immigration, the influence of Asian arts on American movements, the service of Asian Americans at war and the treatment of Asian Americans during various periods of history.

Draw upon your Asian-American students' own experiences. Involve parents in your school community. Visit <http://asianpacificheritage.gov/about.html> to see what is being done on a federal level, and replicate some of these activities in your school. You will find great resources from national depositories, including the Library of Congress, the National Archives and the Smithsonian Institution.

Elementary recesses: No voting until next year!

Beginning in the fall, each elementary school should be organized with a 60 minute student lunch, with a guaranteed 30 minute uninterrupted lunch for teachers. Elementary teachers have the right to vote on one (1) or two (2) fifteen (15) minute recesses per day. The recesses must be mid-morning or mid-afternoon. Recesses cannot be adjacent to the beginning, lunchtime or end of the school day,

unless the school elects to do so. The placement of the recesses is designed to provide elementary teachers with a daily ten (10) to fifteen (15) minute break. This vote must take place during the first two days of the new school year.

These clarifications in contract language were made in response to a grievance filed by CEA, which was moved to arbitration and resolved during the negotiation process.

Bargained rights should never be given away due to threats or coercion by the administration nor voted away frivolously by members. Every provision in the CEA contract was negotiated. Both sides, CEA and the Columbus Board of Education, voted for and agreed to its terms.

The changes to contract language in Section 302.05 and the Letter of Agreement regarding this issue can be found on the CEA website at <http://bit.ly/jSY1ol>.



Say "Thank you!" to your school nurse

School nurses are busy people. They manage their schools' health programs, coordinating educational programs, handling emergencies and serving as health consultants.

We celebrate their work on Wednesday, May 11, National School Nurse Day. This year's theme "Vision, Voice, Visibility: Sail Toward Healthy Horizons" reflects the overall positive impact school nurses have on the health and well being of students.

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. Children come to the nurse with help 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 provide 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, including 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 and infectious disease prevention and management.

The National Association of School Nurses has pledged to collaborate with students, parents, communities and health-care providers to educate the community about this public health issue and promote a culture of health in schools. School nurses are your No. 1 advocates in the fight to implement healthier school-based practices.

Thank you for all you do!



Have dinner with your CEA family

Don't you love those big, joyful holiday dinners? We've got one coming up, and you are invited. It's the 35th Annual CEA Awards & Retirement Banquet, Friday, May 20, at the Hilton Columbus at Easton. The social hour starts at 6 p.m., with dinner at 7 p.m.

The purpose is to recognize those in our school family, and those in the community, who have supported our work. This is an evening of personal stories, laughter and a few tears. There is no other more moving event honoring Columbus teachers. You won't want to miss it.

All retirees and senior faculty representatives are invited to attend at no charge. But even if you are not a retiree, don't let the name of this gathering put you off. It truly is a CEA family celebration. Please join us. The cost to attend is \$30. To make a reservation, call the CEA office at 253-4731.

Take the calendar survey

On Friday, May 6, CEA sent members an email containing a link to an online survey to vote on the calendar for the 2012–2013 school year. The survey will close at midnight on Sunday, May 15.

You cannot access this survey at a CCS computer or through the CCS computer network. If CEA does not have your personal email address, or if you have opted out of messages from CEA, send your name and email address to tell-cea@ceaohio.org so that you can vote on the school calendar.

Look before you leap

The *Master Agreement* provides for a district-wide evaluation of each school by members. The survey administered during the month of February rates schools on professional environment, school climate, democratic procedures, teacher involvement and other categories. This information is a valuable tool for members who are applying for new positions. The data for the 2010–2011 school year can be viewed at <http://bit.ly/iEHHMm>.

Keep the signatures coming

The stroke of your pen says a lot, especially now. It is important that we all sign the petition to help put a "reverse on Senate Bill 5" in November.

You can come to the CEA office to sign weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. We need to work hard to ensure that we get the job done. This effort requires all of us to collect more than 231,149 valid signatures. If you are a trained petition circulator, you can pick up your petition at the CEA office now.

It's not too late to apply

Applications for joining a unique opportunity—"Bringing Learning to Life," a service-learning class—are still available. Applications are due to the CEA office by May 18. "Bringing Learning to Life" will integrate classroom instruction and meaningful community service, teach civic responsibility and encourage students to stay engaged in school.

Dr. Valerie Kinloch, OSU, will teach the class. Participants can earn three graduate credit hours. After completion of the course, teachers are eligible to apply for mini-grants up to \$1,500 to conduct and document hands-on projects with students and community.

The first class will meet in early August, and subsequent classes will be flexibly scheduled through late summer and fall. Any K–12 teacher is welcome to apply; but because of limited resources, only 30 can be accommodated.

An information session will be held on Tuesday, May 17,

at the Columbus Downtown HS from 4:30–5:15 p.m.

The project is funded from a grant to the NEA Foundation, awarded by Learn and Serve America, and partners with CEA, OSU, in collaboration with Columbus City Schools and OEA. For more information, call CEA President Rhonda Johnson at 253-4731; or contact Doreen Uhas-Sauer at 477-1124 or sauerd@ceaohio.org.

Wear red at CCS night with the Clippers

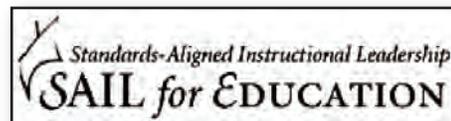
Thursday, May 19, is the annual CCS Employee Night with the Columbus Clippers at Huntington Park.

The game between the Columbus Clippers and the Pawtucket Red Sox will begin at 6:35 p.m. Discounted tickets are available to CCS staff for \$3 (general admission) and \$7 (reserved seating). Go to <http://bit.ly/lfpGv6> to order tickets. Orders must be received by Friday, May 13, to qualify for discounts.

The game is on a Thursday, so don't forget to wear red to show our solidarity.

SAIL for teacher leaders

CCS will continue to support leadership development for teachers interested in participating in the Standards-Aligned Instructional Leadership



(SAIL) for Teacher Leaders program. This 18-month professional development program blends face-to-face institutes, online support learning and professional coaching. SAIL for Teacher Leaders energizes and mobilizes the untapped attributes and contributions of teachers to strengthen student performance and to increase student achievement.

An information session will be held on Tuesday, May 17, at Sullivant ES, 4:30–6 p.m. For an application and for more information, go to www.columbus.k12.oh.us/staffdev. The deadline to apply is June 1.

Ingram Award for principals

The CCS Development Office is accepting nominations for the Ingram Award for outstanding principals. This award, including a \$1,000 professional development grant, will go to five CCS principals. Employees, parents, students and friends of CCS may make nominations. All nominations are due to the Development Office (78 S. Fifth Street) by 4 p.m., Friday, May 13. Nomination forms are available on the CCS intranet (click on Departments>Grants>Ingram Principal Award) and the CCS website (click on Staff>Grants>Ingram Principal Award). Call 365-8733 with questions.

Special notes

- ❑ **All terms of current Faculty Representatives expire at the end of the 2010–11 school year.** Every building/unit must hold an election. All certification forms must be returned to CEA by May 31.
- ❑ **Senior FRs** must submit requests by fax (253-5052) for **alternative interview panels** to the CEA President **prior to interviewing**. These are the buildings/units that have been approved since the last edition of *The Voice*: **Broadleigh ES, Cedarwood ES, Ft. Hayes MEC, Lindbergh ES, Maybury ES, North Linden ES, Parkmoor ES, Stewart ES @ Beck and Wedgewood MS.**
- ❑ CEA member **Paula Garfield** is working with **We Are Ohio** and its coalition members to get **signatures on S.B. 5 petitions** at the **Race for the Cure** event on **Saturday, May 14**. If you can volunteer to help, contact her at 905-2872 (call or text) or reply to the event on her Facebook page.