

Is this our students' future?

Expect us to be on the menu and not at the table if either of the GOP presidential frontrunners wins the battle for the nation's executive office in the November General Election. The former Senator turned-presidential hopeful has said, "Primary (and) secondary education is a failure in America, and at the heart of it is the teachers' unions..." Despite the need to improve our students' kindergarten readiness, he would cancel early-education programs like Head Start. "It is a parent's responsibility to educate their children," he said at an Iowa Caucus campaign stop. "It is not the government's job." Indeed, in a January debate, the former Senator promised that, if elected, he would "...repeal all of the federal government's role in primary and secondary education."

The other presidential hopeful, a New England millionaire, said in 2007, "I like testing in schools." In his book published in 2010, he supported the idea of teaching to the test, saying, "I'm all for it." He thinks that your class size has no bearing on your ability to educate your students, saying that smaller class sizes are simply "promoted by the teachers' unions to hire more teachers." This presidential hopeful said in 2010 that when it comes to education policy, "School accountability, school choice and cyber schools will be priorities."

We don't have \$10,000 to wager, but if we fail to re-elect President Obama, we bet this will be our future. We must stand up and fight for the President that has stood up and fought for us. Help us win our fight by becoming an Educator for Obama. Go to <http://www.neafund.org>. Your President, your country and your students are counting on you.

UNCF drive begins soon

Mar. 5 marks the kickoff of the Columbus City Schools UNCF workplace campaign. UNCF, the United Negro College Fund, has been America's prominent scholarship organization serving children from all ethnic backgrounds who desire to attend college. Originally founded in 1944,

UNCF serves more than 60,000 students annually with over 10,000 scholarships and 400 programs. This year Columbus City Schools staffs are invited to participate by donating to the UNCF-Columbus City Schools Scholarship Fund. Half of the money we raise will be used specifically for students from Columbus City Schools who desire to attend college and break the generational cycle of poverty. Our goal this year is to raise \$200,000. If every staff person made a gift of \$100 through payroll deduction, we would reach our goal.

Please consider supporting the UNCF-Columbus City Schools Scholarship so that we can impact the children we work with for a lifetime, "because a mind is a terrible thing to waste!" For more information, visit www.uncf.org or call Natalie Coles at 221-5309.



Retiring Class of 2012: We need you

Most of us who are retiring have many papers to fill out, t's to cross and i's to dot. To PLOP or not to PLOP is the question. However, there is another consideration that retirees should make—donating days to the Catastrophic Leave Bank.

As you know, many colleagues are faced with illnesses that deplete sick leave accounts. CEA Vice President Sally Oldham said, "Fortunately, I have been a lucky one. I have not

suffered through the diagnosis and treatments of life-threatening illnesses. I am asking that you donate some days so others will not have to worry about the loss of a paycheck on top of their illnesses."

Look at the super severance guidelines and decide how many days you can afford to donate to help others. Fill out the Employee Absence Form. Indicate the number of days you would like to donate, and have your principal/supervisor sign the form. "You and I can help others by this simple act. Do it because you can. Pay it forward," stated Sally. "What a difference one day will make in another member's life."

CEA voting is now

We are now in midst of campaigning and voting. Ballots were sent from CEA to Senior Faculty Representatives through school mail. The ballots for itinerant staff were mailed to school addresses or U.S. mail addresses. If you have not voted, contact your faculty representative for a voting date. Also, contact Michele Mays at CEA if you have questions. The CEA Elections Committee members will pick up ballots on Tuesday, Mar. 6.

Faculty representatives assemble

We thank everyone for attending the Legislative Assembly (LA) held on Feb. 2. The main focus of the meeting was the CEA elections.

The LA is the policy-making body of the Association. All FRs should attend the meetings of the Legislative Assembly. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, Mar. 1, at 4:30 p.m. at the Columbus Downtown HS.

The following buildings/units were represented Feb. 2:

6th St. Annex, A.G. Bell Program, Alpine ES, Alum Crest HS, Arlington Park ES, Art, Avalon ES, Avondale ES, Beechcroft HS, Berwick K-8, Binns ES, Briggs HS, Broadleigh ES, Brookhaven HS, Buckeye MS, Burroughs ES, CAHS, Cassady ES, CEA, Cedarwood ES @ Stockbridge, Centennial HS, Champion MS, Clinton ES, Columbus Afrocentric EC ES, Columbus City Prep. School for Girls, Columbus Downtown HS, Como ES, Devonshire ES, Duxberry Park ES, East Columbus ES, East HS, East Linden ES, Eastgate ES, Easthaven ES, Eastmoor Academy, École Kenwood K-8, Fifth Ave. K-7, Forest Park ES, Ft. Hayes MEC HS, Georgian Heights ES, Gifted & Talented, Guidance Counselors, Heyl ES, Highland ES, Hilltonia MS, Hudson Comm. Ed. Ctr., Hudson St. Warehouse, Huy ES, Independence HS, Indian Springs ES, Indianola K-8, Innis ES, Johnson Park MS, Juvenile Detention Ctr., Liberty ES, Lincoln Park ES, Lindbergh ES, Linden STEM Academy K-6, Livingston ES, Maize ES, Marion-Franklin HS, Maybury ES, Medina MS, Mifflin HS, Mifflin MS, Music, Northgate Center, Northland HS, Northtowne ES, Nurses, Oakmont ES, OT/PT, PAR, Parkmoor ES, Parsons ES, Phys. Ed., Psychologists, Pupil Services, Salem ES, Scottwood ES, Shepard Center, Sherwood MS, South HS, South Mifflin STEM Academy K-6, Speech & Language, St. Vincent, Starling MS, Stewart ES @ Beck, Sullivant ES, Tutors, Valley Forge ES, Walnut Ridge HS, Wedgewood MS, Weinland Park ES, West HS, West Mound ES, Westgate ES, Westmoor MS, Whetstone HS, Windsor STEM Academy K-6, Winterset ES, Woodcrest ES, Woodward Park MS, Work Study and Yorktown MS.

Special notes

- Mar. 2 is the deadline to apply for continuing contracts.** Eligibility requirements can be found in Section 401.16 of the *CEA Master Agreement*.
- Early voting for the Mar. 6 primary election** has begun. Request an absentee ballot or vote in person at your local county board of elections now. Check the Ohio Secretary of State's Website at www.sos.state.oh.us for locations.