

The Voice

www.ceaohio.org

Volume XLII, No. 36

Columbus Education Association

May 14, 2012

Sign the petition now!

CEA needs you and every CCS employee in your building to sign the petition for Ohio Citizens' Independent Redistricting Committee Amendment now. If we don't get this amendment on the ballot, the damage that will be done to public education and our profession over the next ten years is unimaginable.



Even though Ohio's registered voters are a 50-50 split of Democrats and Republicans, 80 percent of the newly redrawn electoral districts favor one party.

This situation doesn't seem as dire or immediate as what we faced during SB 5, but the consequences will be much, much worse. In the Ohio House, there is a possibility that seven more pro-SB 5-type representatives could be elected and pass legislation that could be implemented immediately. We would end up like Wisconsin with no chance for a repeal process. And in Ohio, we have no recall provision for removing politicians.

In order to get a fair redistricting process on the ballot, we must collect 385,000 signatures. See your FR to sign the petition and to protect your vote. Call Judy Nelson at CEA at 253-4731 to obtain your own petition to circulate.

Remember, this is a non-partisan issue. The gerrymandered electoral districts affect Republicans and Democrats alike. This amendment is about making sure that your vote counts.

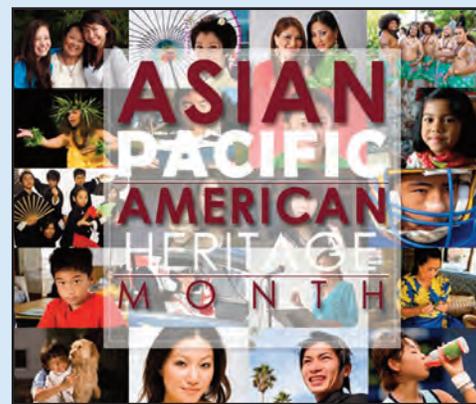
- You may not come back right after school is out to help your administrator or colleagues with schedules, but you may help them in August.

Do not let your administrator fool you or make you feel guilty about not volunteering. Doing so may result in the loss of two months of retirement checks.

Celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage

The first Japanese immigrants arrived in the U.S. on May 7, 1843. Twenty-six years later, during May, Chinese laborers completed the U.S. Transcontinental Railroad.

That is why May has been selected as Asian Pacific American



Heritage Month. During this month we honor the cultures of the Asian continent, as well as 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 treatment of Asian Americans during various periods of history.

For ideas on honoring Asian-Pacific Islander contributions to our history, visit <http://asianpacificheritage.gov>.

Retiring? Do not work or volunteer

CEA has recently received calls about the STRS rules for separating from employment due to retirement. Here are the rules: Re-employment in a public position in Ohio after retirement—even as a volunteer—is restricted during the first two months following retirement. If you are employed by only one public employer at the time of retirement, you must wait 60 days after your retirement date to return to public employment. Public employment or volunteering during the first two months will result in the loss of one or two months of retirement benefits.

If your last workday is May 31:

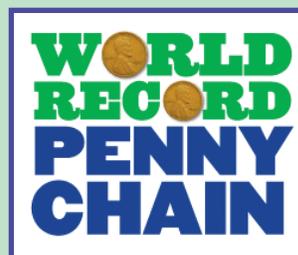
- You may not participate or volunteer in any way in school activities until Aug. 1.
- You may not hand out diplomas or be a line leader in a graduation ceremony, but you may attend graduation exercises and sit with the public.
- You should not attend the final staff meeting if it is being held on June 1. Instead, you should check out with your administrator by May 31.

Put your two cents in

Nearly 40 Columbus elementary schools are participating in the Penny Harvest, a service-learning program that has raised more than \$50,000.

CEA is putting out the all call to celebrate our students' achievements through this program. On Sunday, June 3, a world record setting 75-mile long penny chain will be created at Genoa Park.

Join the CEA team in helping our students construct a mile of the chain. To volunteer for a one-hour shift in a variety of positions, call Phil Hayes at CEA at 253-4731, or email him at phayes@ceaohio.org.



Thank your speech pathologist

May is Better Hearing and Speech Month. We take this time to recognize our Speech and Language Department and to learn more about their contributions to our society.

Their jobs are vital. Because of them, students with communication difficulties realize they can live enriched and fulfilling lives. Our speech pathologists and audiologists work to make effective communication a human right for all. They advocate on behalf of persons with communication and related disorders and promote effective communication.

We also thank them for completing a mound of paperwork, enabling CCS to receive thousands of dollars to serve students with hearing and speech difficulties. For information about the celebration, go to <http://www.asha.org/bhsm/>.



LLI: Smoother sailing

CEA has been working on your behalf for months to get the administration to make needed changes to the LLI program, specifically at the kindergarten level.

In the fall, CEA filed a grievance. We prevailed, but the administration did not comply with the relief granted. So, in January, CEA hired an outside facilitator and convened two meetings, bringing together teachers, instructional assistants (IAs), tutors and the reading supervisor. Each participant was asked to respond to four questions about the LLI program. The facilitator then brought them together for focus-group discussions about the training and implementation processes. We found that the LLI program was implemented in as many ways as there were schools.

Finally, at our last Joint Labor-Management Committee meeting, the administration agreed to make changes to the LLI program that will support teachers and kindergarten instructional assistants. These are the agreements:

- ◆ Train kindergarten teachers and IAs together
- ◆ Respond timely to requests for materials
- ◆ Copy lessons early in the year and make them available
- ◆ Provide implementation support, including hiring highly trained hourly teachers and TOSAs where needed
- Collaborate at all levels, from the basics through college and career readiness

We thank our elementary personnel for hanging in there as we worked to get changes that benefit students and are fair to adults. We also thank the administration for working with us to improve implementation of this program, which will help our students considerably.

To see the entire report, please visit the CEA website's "members only" section.

Rise Sister Rise

On May 22, from 4–6 p.m., the Rise Sister Rise Research Project is hosting a data presentation for teachers, educators and school administrators at Mansion Day School, 72 Woodland Ave.

Fran Frazier, Principal Investigator for the Rise Sister Rise Research Project, will share project data relevant to educa-



tors. The presentation will focus on the 101 Columbus girls who participated in the research project. The girls shared important insights about their social relationships, school performance and commitment to learning by participating in surveys and focus groups.

The local Rise Sister Rise Columbus Committee and community stakeholders have identified five local concerns based on research project data: conflict resolution, high-risk behaviors, parental involvement and positive adult support, exposure to violence and safety and youth as resources—youth leading youth.

The project was originally funded as a partnership between the Ohio Department of Mental Health, Women'sWorkfff, Inc. and Mental Health America of Summit County.

To register for the presentation, contact Linda Kanney at lindakanney@sbcglobal.net or 348-1930.

Tutors, subs may apply

Tutors, substitutes and others interested in applying for a teaching position with the Columbus City Schools now have their opportunity. CCS will hold job fairs from 4:30–7:30 p.m. at Huy/A.G. Bell School, 1545 Huy Rd., for these licensure categories: June 4, Math 7–12, Science 7–12, Special Education; June 5, English 7–12, Social Studies 7–12; June 6, Middle School 4–9, Elementary 1–8 and K–8; and June 7, Early Childhood PreK–3, Elementary 1–8 and K–8.

Applicants must have one of the following: A standard certificate or licensure in the designated teaching disciplines, a pre-evaluation for alternative licensure in the designated disciplines or a Praxis score sheet in designated areas for upcoming graduates, student teachers, etc. Substitutes with temporary licenses do not meet the criteria for attendance at this job fair.

Special notes

- ❑ Senior FRs must submit requests by fax (253-0465) for **alternative interview panels** to the CEA President **prior to interviewing**. The panels for **Eastmoor Academy** and **Northgate Center** have been approved.
- ❑ **Reminder:** On **May 18**, you will receive a **half paycheck**, followed by **another half paycheck** on **May 25**. On **June 8**, you will receive a **full paycheck**. Full pay will continue every two weeks until the end of the pay year.
- ❑ On **Thursday, May 17**, the **Teachers for Better Schools Board of Trustees** will meet at CEA at 4:30 p.m. to consider recommendations for endorsements for the November 2012 Election. Following the TBS meeting, board of trustee members will be elected for 2012–2014. All interested members of TBS are invited to attend. You must be a member of TBS to participate.
- ❑ **Winterset ES** is hosting its **16th Annual Camera Club Auction** on **Thursday, May 17**. Registration begins at 6:30 p.m., and the auction starts at 7 p.m.
- ❑ **The CCS Administration asked CEA to pass along the following information:** The Ohio Auditor of State's office maintains a system for the reporting of fraud, including misuse of public money by any official or office. The system allows all Ohio citizens, including public employees, the opportunity to make anonymous complaints through a toll-free number, the Auditor of State's website, or through the U.S. mail. Here is the Auditor of State's fraud contact information: 1-866-FRAUD OH (1-866-372-8364), Ohio Auditor of State's office, Special Investigations Unit, 88 E. Broad St., P.O. Box 1140, Columbus, OH 43215 or www.ohioauditor.gov.