

The Voice

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www.ceaohio.org

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Columbus Education Association

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28th Annual King Dinner

Plans have been finalized for the Columbus Education Association 2007 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Award Dinner. It will



be held on Thursday, Jan. 11, 2007, at the Hyatt Regency Columbus. The social hour will begin at 6 p.m., and dinner will be served at 7 p.m. Reservations can be made through Minority

Involvement Program (MIP) Committee members, faculty representatives and the CEA office.

The Annual King Dinner is a very special event for CEA. 2007 will mark the 28th year that the Association has honored the memory of Dr. King through this event. The CEA Dr. King Humanitarian Award is the oldest of its kind in central Ohio. The list of past recipients is notable and includes, most recently, Mayor Michael Coleman, City Councilwoman Charleta B. Tavares and State Representative Joyce Beatty.

Nominations are now being accepted for 2007 Dr. King Humanitarian Award. Any individual is eligible, except current employees of the Columbus Public Schools. The King Award is given for distinguished service in the community, education, social justice or human and civil rights.

A second award will be presented for the first time at the 2007 dinner. The Helen Jenkins Davis Award is named in honor of the first black teacher hired by the Columbus Public Schools. The year was 1918. Mrs. Davis was also the first witness in the 1976 school desegregation trial in Columbus.

The Davis Award will be presented annually to a member of the CEA bargaining unit who has promoted social justice, diversity and human and civil rights.

The deadline for nominations for both awards is Monday, Dec. 4, 2006. Awards guidelines and nomination forms are available on the CEA website at www.ceaohio.org.

Please make plans to attend the 2007 King Award Dinner. Every year the banquet has been memorable. The evening promises to be very special with the introduction of the second award.

The rules are clear— *neglect must be reported*

In the course of working with our students, we inevitably encounter situations where we suspect abuse or neglect. Fortunately, we are in a position to help.

The law provides for—in fact, requires—reporting of suspected abuse or neglect. All school employees are legally bound to make that report to Franklin County Children's Services or to the Columbus Division of Police.

Here are the rules:

- ☎ If you have direct knowledge, or simply suspect that abuse or neglect is taking place, you must report it.

- ☎ The report can be made only to Children's Services at 229-7000 (24-hours a day) or to the Columbus Police Division, 645-4545 (or 911).

- ☎ Reporting the alleged abuse to an administrator, nurse or guidance counselor *does not* cover this requirement.

- ☎ Any employee who suspects a student is being abused or neglected and does not report it to the required authorities is subject to discipline and criminal prosecution.

Keep us informed

In order to work on solutions to reduce violence in our school buildings, we need to understand the challenges you face as teachers. Part of this task involves tracking incidents. CEA needs to be kept informed. When you witness, experience or know of violence that has occurred in one of our schools, please contact us. CEA wants to support you in the classroom. Keeping us informed helps us represent your best interests.

Let's call a recess...

The pressure to boost student achievement has meant more time in the classroom. That's not always good for students. Many schools have abolished recess, and many students across the country are being deprived of an essential component of the school day.

Research on brain development presented in a special report by the League of Women Voters in Meadville, Pennsylvania, shows that children need time to process information and that engaging in non-focused activities increases their ability to learn.



Here are some other findings:

- 👟 The chemical and biological changes that occur during exercise enhance a person's capacity to master new and remember old information.

- 👟 Inactive children weigh more and have higher blood pressure and cholesterol than active ones, and this can affect health and ultimately, learning.

- 👟 Children need time away from the classroom to let their brains review what's been taught and imprint the information into their long-term memory.

- 👟 A study in Canada showed that some children who spent more time engaged in physical activity increased their scholastic achievement.

The National PTA has created a campaign called *Rescuing Recess*. Visit www.rescuingrecess.com for more information, or simply talk to your physical education teacher.

Procedures for teacher evaluation

Periodic teacher observation is a fact of professional life and vital if we are to improve at our craft. But occasionally, the bad evaluation does get written.

And since we can challenge a negative review only on the basis of procedural errors, we must be vigilant about knowing the rules under which observations must be conducted, making sure they are followed. Sections 401.04–08 of the *CEA Master Agreement* spell it out:

- ☒ Classroom observations of the work performance of a teacher for the purpose of a formal written evaluation shall be conducted openly with the observer visible to the teacher.
- ☒ Between one and three such observations are permitted and must be arranged in advance with the teacher. But an administrator is permitted to conduct a maximum of three additional, unannounced observations at his or her convenience.
- ☒ The total number of unannounced observations cannot exceed the total number of observations arranged in advance.
- ☒ At least one such classroom observation shall be for a minimum of 15 minutes in duration.
- ☒ You may request, but are not required to request, pre-evaluation conferences. (*CEA recommends that you make the request.*)
- ☒ The primary purpose of a pre-evaluation conference shall be to discuss procedural matters related to the evaluation process, to allow both teacher and evaluator to discuss philosophies and goals.
- ☒ No written requirements may be attached to this conference, but either party may summarize the conference in writing for the other party to review.
- ☒ You are entitled to a copy of any written evaluation or report. None of these reports can be placed in your permanent file or otherwise acted upon without a prior conference.
- ☒ All evaluations or reports on an observation must be dated and signed by the teacher. This does not mean you agree with the evaluation.
- ☒ Teachers shall be permitted to add comments to any evaluation or observation report prior to its placement in teachers’ permanent files.

Toot your horn, *then donate it*

Got an old clarinet in the closet? A tuba in your trunk? There’s an elementary school music student who would love to give it new life.

The elementary instrumental program would greatly appreciate your gently-used wind, brass and string instruments. You can bring them to your local Columbus elementary school or drop them off at Northgate Center. Make sure you leave a note along with them, to the attention of Linda Edgar.

These instruments will be cleaned, inspected and sent to students who are experiencing economic hardship. You will receive a receipt for your charitable donation.

Remember how much fun it was to be in the band or the orchestra? Help us give some of that musical joy to the next generation. Students who play an instrument get so much more out of their schooling. Studies have shown they even do better on standardized tests. For more information, call Aeneas Alldredge at 226-0293.

Thank you for your pledges

A number of faculty representatives have returned their pledges in to CEA for the 2006 United Way campaign.

Thank you, **A.G. Bell ES**; Thank you, **Alpine ES**; Thank you, **Arlington Park ES**; Thank you, **Arts Impact MS**; Thank you, **Avalon ES**; Thank you, **Avondale ES**; Thank you, **Beatty Park ES @ Eastgate**; Thank you, **Beechcroft HS**; Thank you, **Berry MS**; Thank you, **Berwick ES**; Thank you, **Binns ES @ Stockbridge**; Thank you, **Broadleigh ES**; Thank you, **Cassady ES**; Thank you, **Champion MS**; Thank you, **Clarfield ES**; Thank you, **Clinton ES**; Thank you, **Colerain ES**; Thank you, **Columbus Spanish Immersion Academy**; Thank you, **Dana ES**; Thank you, **Devonshire ES**; Thank you, **Dominion MS**; and Thank you, **Douglas ES**.

This is by no means a complete list of the building campaigns that have been conducted. We will continue to publish additional names in subsequent issues of *The Voice* as space is available and as envelopes are received. There is still time to add your unit to our list. If you missed your opportunity, you can call the CEA office. Together, we can make life better for many in our community.

Opening for CEA staff consultant

The Columbus Education Association is seeking a qualified staff consultant to assist in the delivery of the Association’s programs and services to members.

The person selected will provide appropriate professional assistance to members in bargaining, securing legal rights, local operations, political action, program development, general communications, public relations, workshops and training and technical support.

Interested members should submit a cover letter, a résumé and an article suitable for publication in *The CEA Voice* (600 words or less) on an issue that impacts Columbus teachers. Application materials should be sent to Sally Oldham at the CEA office. A job description can be found on the CEA website.

The application period closes Thursday, Nov. 30, 2006. Selective interviews will be held in early December.

Correction: The special note concerning the **open enrollment period** in the Nov. 13 issue of *The Voice* stated the next open enrollment period would not come until 2008. The open enrollment period comes yearly and **the next one will be in the fall of 2007.**

Special notes

- ☐ **MidState Educators Credit Union will award five \$2,000 scholarships to high school seniors graduating in 2007.** Applications have been sent to all high schools and career centers. **Applicants must be a primary member of the credit union and plan to attend an accredited two or four-year college in the fall of 2007.** Applications are also available at either MidState office, requested by phone at (614) 221-9376, or email at **marketing@educu.org**. **Applications must be post marked by Feb. 16, 2007**, and all applicants will be notified of their status in writing on or before Mar. 9, 2007.
- ☐ **The CPS/OSU Outreach Courses for WINTER Quarter** will be available for **pre-registration beginning Monday, November 13.** The pre-registration period **closes Sunday, November 26.** The available courses are listed in their entirety on the CEA website on the homepage at www.ceahio.org. For more information, and to register, go to www.columbus.k12.oh.us/osu.

Job Sharing Requests

CEA is compiling a list of teachers interested in job sharing next school year. If you are looking for a job sharing partner, fill out the form below and return it to the CEA office. A list will be printed and mailed to each person who submits the form to assist him/her in finding a partner for job sharing. Even if you submitted your name last year, please fill out a new form this year. Please return this form to Carol Wagner at CEA by Monday, Dec. 4, 2006.

Name: _____ School: _____

School Phone: (____) _____ Home Phone: (____) _____ Cell Phone: (____) _____

Email Address: _____

Present Assignment: _____ Certification Areas: _____

Teaching Preference for Next Year: _____