



## A lot about very little

On Monday, Ohio's governor took the opportunity to highlight his recent initiatives to grow Ohio's economy, to invest in education and to cut the state income tax again. As he delivered his annual State of the State address, he said very little of substance to reassure that our children are completely protected from failing and mismanaged charter schools. The state auditor is just beginning an investigation of these independent, publicly-funded schools.

Speaking from Medina, the governor mostly outlined new proposals to further strengthen Ohio's economic recovery. He talked about proposed income tax cuts to put the state's rate back below 5 percent. He talked about dropouts and new strategies to help prevent students from leaving high school by identifying at-risk students earlier and developing individualized plans with alternative paths toward a diploma. He highlighted the need for stronger early childhood education standards, but gave no specifics.

This was the governor's third state address delivered away from Columbus. He previously spoke in Lima and Steubenville. Here were some of his key points:

- Developing "Online Career Roadmaps" for students that point them toward in-demand jobs, funded with casino licensing fees
- Expansion of vocational program beginning in grade 7
- Alternative diploma options for students who have dropped out
- Finding new ways to help high schools give students more college credit

The governor also announced that Ohio has a surplus of \$1.5 billion and pledged to maintain the rainy-day fund.

We will be watching to see what proposals our legislators consider. We join OEA in asking these questions:

- How do you plan to adequately fund Ohio's public schools?
- Why does the state continue to direct millions of dollars to failing, for-profit charter schools?

The economic security of our state and all of its citizens begins with our success in educating every child. We are all accountable for this success. But only our governor and state lawmakers can provide the funding and programs needed for our students to thrive.

## Staff survey prize winners

CEA thanks the 2,046 members who completed the 2013–2014 online staff survey. The results of the staff survey will be useful to you as you consider applying for positions during the 211 process. The final results of the survey will be posted on [www.ceaohio.org](http://www.ceaohio.org) by Tuesday, Mar. 18.

Patricia McSchooler (Medina MS) was the grand prize winner of the Apple iPad Air.

The following members won \$25 gas cards (will be mailed to home addresses):

Ashley Beasley (Brookhaven HS), Karen Beck (Watkins ES), Susan Bowman (Hamilton STEM Academy PreK–6), Kristina Douglas (Arts Impact MS), Judy Francisco (Ohio Ave. ES), Kassie Hurley (Elem. Art), Lindsey Laux (Oakland Park ES), Benjamin Miller (OT/PT), Heather Monroe (Ridgeview MS), Anette Neff (Alpine ES), Jennifer O'Farrell (Valleyview ES), Angela Robinson (Maybury ES), Wesley Russell (Beechcroft HS), Melissa Shutler (Gables ES), David Smith (Columbus Downtown HS), Rita Stattmiller (Mifflin HS), Leigh Taylor (North Linden ES), Beth Thompson (Columbus Spanish Imm. K–6), Shanelle Warfield (Fifth Ave. K–6) and Patricia Wilson (East Columbus ES).

## OGT: Big Brother is watching

The Ohio Graduation Test will be administered Mar. 10–21. Make sure you follow CCS board policy and all required state testing procedures. If you don't, you could lose your teaching license. The main rule violations are:

- + Possessing or distributing unauthorized copies or original test materials
- + Releasing or reproducing any test materials
- + Providing or receiving answers, clues or hints from students before or during the testing period
- + Assisting a student with the test or altering a student's response
- + Permitting the use of unauthorized reference materials or devices
- + Leaving testing materials unsecured
- + Failing to account for all the materials
- + Allowing unsupervised students to leave the testing room
- + Failing to report any of these violations

Irregularities resulting in an investigation include:

- + Plagiarism
- + Excessive wrong-to-right erasures
- + Improbable test-score gains
- + Observed or reported inappropriate collaboration
- + Discovery of missing test materials

If you have any questions, contact the CCS Testing Department at 365-5785.

## Creativity goes a long way

Sign up to participate in the Columbus Museum of Art's immersive Teaching for Creativity Institute. Educators who apply and are selected for this competitive institute will become part of a community of learners who are developing creative, thoughtful, intentional learning experiences for their students. Past facilitators have included education and creativity experts, designers and artists from organizations such as Harvard's Project Zero, The Ohio State University, Ashland University, Art21 and the PAST Foundation.

You will:

- \* Receive free classroom materials and learn about 21st century assessment frameworks
- \* Develop innovative teaching strategies and learn how to be a better creativity advocate
- \* Enjoy time to plan, think and reflect
- \* Opt into creativity coaching in your classroom
- \* Choose to participate in visits to other classrooms
- \* Obtain graduate credit from Ashland University

The Institute is June 24–27, 2014, from 9 a.m.–5 p.m. and three Saturdays (TBD) during the school year. The cost is \$425 per individual or \$325 per individual if applying with a team. The early acceptance deadline is Apr. 4, with a final deadline of May 11.

## Dancing is fundamental

We know about the math and reading standards, but what about dance? Join the Dancing Wheels Company and School for a training session Thursday, Mar. 13, from 4:10–6:10 p.m. and learn about the application and methodology of physically integrated dance.

Participants will meet at Starling PreK–8, 145 South Central Ave., to work with Mary Verdi-Letcher, President/Founding Artistic Director for the Dancing Wheels Company & School and America's first professional wheelchair dancer. Mary and her school coordinator, Emma Parker, will lead teachers through the history and evolution of this dance form. They will use the tools offered in their newly published dance manual, which offers guidance in evaluating students, translating dance movements to achieve maximum potential in students of all abilities in an inclusive and accessible setting.

Registration is required. Space is limited to 35. CEUs are available. Visit [www.vsao.org/dancePDMarch](http://www.vsao.org/dancePDMarch) or call 241-5325.