

Gainsharing for next year

In 1997, CEA negotiated an alternative approach to compensation, known as gainsharing. Gainsharing is a method of distributing funds for improved education and student achievement in Columbus Public Schools. Last year, the Board awarded more than \$1,126,220 to teachers for increasing academic achievement for the 2005–06 school year.

A Joint Gainsharing Committee of CEA and administration representatives develops the criteria for allocating funds. Teachers assigned to buildings for at least 120 days are eligible to receive gainsharing if the school makes Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP).

Teachers not assigned to school buildings full time who wish to attach themselves to a building for gainsharing purposes must have a *Service Plan* on file in the Labor Relations office by Apr. 30. Call the Labor Relations office 365-5636 to obtain a form.

The Director of Labor Relations recently sent to principals *Staff Control Reports* to verify individuals who may be eligible to receive gainsharing payments for next school year. Please make sure your name is on the roster your principal received from Labor Relations.

Gainsharing for the 2006–07 school year will be paid in the 2007–08 school year.

Tell your NCLB story

The Ohio Education Association wants to hear your stories about how the *No Child Left Behind Act* affects you, your classroom, your school and your community.

Your personal stories will go to Ohio congressional representatives as evidence during the ongoing reauthorization debate.

Be part of the NCLB stories project: With your words, demonstrate the facts instead of the fiction.

Across the country, NCLB's unfunded mandates and bureaucratic policies are placing burdens on educators and the students you serve. Make sure that politicians in Washington hear your voice by sharing your first-hand experiences about the impacts of NCLB with OEA and congressional leaders.

Here's the Web site to participate: <https://www.ohea.org>. Click on the "everyone needs to hear your stories" link.

Grants available for the arts

The Franklin County Neighborhood Arts program is a small grants program designed to assist neighborhood and community groups with arts projects in all disciplines.

Awards range from \$200–\$2,000. Entries for the next round of applications must be received by May 31, 2007.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to attend one of two free grant workshops being offered. Workshops will be held Tuesday, May 1, at the King Arts Complex from 2–3 p.m.

and Thursday, May 3, at the Greater Columbus Arts Council from 6:30–7:30 p.m. Call GCAC at 221-8625 to register.

Download Franklin County Neighborhood Arts program guidelines and application materials from the Grants and Services for Organizations section of the Greater Columbus Arts Council's Web site at www.gcac.org, or contact GCAC for more information.

Special notes

- Application forms for **summer quarter fee waivers are in all buildings.** The completed fee waiver application is due back to Northgate by **Friday, May 4, at 5 p.m.** If you have **Priority I** or **Priority II** status, please be sure to **include the proper documentation** with your completed application. Without this important documentation, your priority status will change.
- On **Saturday, May 5, at 9 a.m.** volunteers are needed to clean up the **Workers' Memorial Park** and to plant flowers. Be at the park at Front and Long Streets. On **Saturday, May 12**, the **Central Ohio Labor Council, AFL-CIO** will observe **Workers' Memorial Day** to remember those who have been killed or injured on the job. This day should be more than a remembrance; it should be a time to renew our fight for a strong safety and health protection law. We encourage everyone to attend both days.
- There will be a **retirement party for Carol Losinske** from **Duxberry Park ES** on **May 19 at 3 p.m.** For details and to *RSVP*, call Marsha Weinbaum at 338-5192.
- A course at Northgate Saturday, May 5 and 12, will **prepare non-Somali-speaking staff to work with students, parents and visitors.** The course, *SOS-Education Edition*, will be held **9 a.m.–3:30 p.m.** on both days. **Space is limited** to 25 teachers. The **course is free** to teachers, and eligible participants will **earn 1.2 CEUs.** Upon completion, school staff members will be able to use Somali to monitor and control non-classroom school settings; greet and give basic instructions to parents or visitors; and identify student needs. For information, call Greg Mild at 365-5039.
- Robot-building team wins praise**—Congratulations to the student members of the **Whetstone HS Robotics Team** and their advisors, **William Kautz** and **Carolyn Lake.** The students, named **Team Lugnut**, won a number of awards at the **first Robotics Buckeye Regional Competition** held Mar. 9–11 in Cleveland. The team **finished fourth among 42 teams** competing. It also won several special awards given to them by other teams in the true spirit of sportsmanship. The object of the competition was to build a robot that could pick up and shoot balls into a 10-foot-high basket.
- Medina MS staff** has just completed *The Biggest Loser.* As a whole, the group of 14 who completed the program **lost 158.5 pounds!** The average weight loss was 11.32 pounds. The team (everyone had a partner) with the biggest loss was 32.5 pounds. The winning team lost 8.63 percent of the beginning total body weight. Congratulations!
- Alabama Civil Rights Tour, June 14–17**, gives an inside view of the Civil Rights Movement in Birmingham and Montgomery. Ashland graduate credit is available. The package covers bus transportation, two nights lodging, all tours, breakfast daily, one lunch and tickets to the Blues-Music Fest. The cost is \$349 (based on double occupancy). For information contact Glo Kenley at 898-9505 or gloriabk@msn.com. For information, about graduate credit, contact JoAnnette Byas-Marston at jbmars@gmail.com.

Issues with the 211 process

If you have any concerns, suggestions or other issues that have arisen as a result of the Article 211 process, including postings, the interview process, communication issues or anything that you would like to convey to CEA concerning Article 211, please use this tear-off form and return it to CEA; or email us at jnelson@ceaohio.org.

Name _____

Email or phone _____

in case we need clarification

Nature of the concern and interview site _____