

The CEA Voice

Tracey D. Johnson, President

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Well done! You've earned it.

Tuesday, May 5, is National Teacher Day. Thousands of communities will take time to honor their local educators and acknowledge the contributions they make to our lives.

This special day began more than six decades ago when Arkansas teacher Mattye Whyte Woodridge wrote to political and education leaders about the need for a national day to honor teachers. Woodridge wrote to Eleanor Roosevelt, who in 1953 persuaded the 81st Congress to proclaim a National Teacher Day. NEA, along with its Kansas and Indiana state affiliates and the Dodge City (Kan.) Local, lobbied Congress to create a national day celebrating teachers. Congress declared Mar. 7, 1980, as National Teacher Day for that year only.

CEA recognizes the crucial role teachers play in making sure every child receives a quality public education and hopes administrators will take the time to convey to parents and the community the hard work educators do each day to make public schools great for every child.

CEA President Tracey D. Johnson recalls why she became a teacher. "I started out as a Chemical Engineering major and was interning at Dow Chemical in Granville, Ohio. But, for some reason, I just wasn't happy. While I knew I had the potential to make lots of money, I didn't see myself really making a significant impact in my community. I wanted to make a difference," she states.

"I started thinking about the influential people in my life and after, of course, identifying my parents, I thought of teachers. Mrs. Betty Francis, my first grade teacher, taught me the importance of being quiet and listening. My high school math teacher, Mr. Harold Stier, instilled in me a love for math and made learning fun. Ms. Deborah Berry, my choir teacher, was not only an amazing teacher but would also become my confidant."

"The one who influenced me the most was my fifth grade teacher, Mrs. Helen Chisholm. Mrs. Chisholm was firm, yet fair. She dressed impeccably and had a great sense of humor. She believed in us. It didn't matter that we were from one of the ghettos in Cincinnati. It was Mrs. Chisholm who told me I was more than what society said I should be. She told me I wasn't average; I had great potential and she believed in me." Johnson recalls.

So one fateful spring day in 1990, Tracey changed her major to Elementary Education. She wanted to do what her teachers had done for her. After 23 years in education, she has no regrets.

The National PTA established Teacher Appreciation Week as the first full week of May. This year, from May 4–8, let's show our appreciation towards our teachers in a variety of different ways. It could be anything from a simple card to a formal presentation in front of the entire school. Let us know how you and your colleagues acknowledge Teacher Appreciation Week at your school by sending an email to tellcea@ceaohio.org.

Thank a nurse

Wednesday, May 6, is National School Nurse Day. School nurses are public health specialists. They focus on students and families through health education, modeling healthy lifestyle choices and school-based management of chronic diseases. School nurses connect providers, parents and communities, working to bolster student attendance and wellness. A typical school nurse's schedule can encompass immunizations, health care screenings, hearing and vision testing; dealing with diseases, such as diabetes and asthma; student obesity; tending to special needs like tube-feeding; preventing the spread of disease through blood exposure; and handling the fallout from mental, emotional and social problems.



The school nurse is the only health care professional some students ever see. This is important because research confirms that early access to care and prevention strategies are vital to normal growth and development. School nurses are protecting and promoting student health beginning in the early years and continuing all the way through high school. They also advocate for child health and welfare nationally and in their individual states on issues such as vaccines, use of inhalers, and child abuse and neglect. So take some time to appreciate these healthcare professionals. Their work is essential to what we do.

They give students a voice

Being able to hear in the classroom is essential. Students spend at least 45 percent of the school day in listening activities. May is Better Hearing and Speech Month, the time when we say "thanks" to the district's speech-language pathologists and audiologists who evaluate and treat communication disorders in children ages 3 to 21. These specialists help them with spoken speech sounds, understanding and using words and improving fluency and voice use in regular and special education settings.



More than three thousand students are in the district's speech-language program. Many of them are dealing with complex syndromes such as autism, or learning or cognitive disabilities. Audiologists evaluate and monitor the hearing of all CCS students. They screen students and refer them for additional professional attention, when appropriate.

Speech Pathologists and Audiologists help children improve their ability to interact face-to-face, something easy to take for granted. Talking, reading, listening and interacting are crucial to children's overall development, academic and social success and future vocational choices. This is all the more true in this age of technology, in which "smart" devices occupy an ever-increasing amount of time, attention and prominence in the lives of toddlers to teens. When you see your building's speech-pathologist or audiologist working with students, take a few minutes to say you appreciate this important work.

Evaluations: Know Your Responsibilities

As we approach the end of the evaluation process for this school year, there are a few things you must complete to ensure everything is in order.

ODE has a required electronic teacher and principal evaluation system (eTPES) that is used for reporting the evaluation results for classroom teachers. All classroom teachers need to activate their own eTPES account (*ohiotpes.com*). SLO ratings have already been uploaded to eTPES. The Holistic Performance Ratings (for individuals on the full evaluation cycle only) for the year was uploaded on Friday, May 1.

Teachers can then log into eTPES to view and acknowledge their Final Summative Rating. If this is not completed by the teacher by May 6, the principal will go into the eTPES system and confirm the rating. By May 8, all classroom teachers should receive a printout of their Final Summative Rating Report from their building principal from eTPES. By May 15, all classroom teachers and Licensed Support Professionals (LSPs) should receive a printout of the Final Summative Rating Report from ILEAD.

- May 1: Activate eTPES account (check CCS email for activation message sent by no-reply@ohiotpes.com) or go to <https://ohiotpes.com> and click on the "Forgot Your Password?" link to reset your password from last school year; deadline for completion of observations and walkthroughs.
- May 5–6: Teachers log into eTPES and acknowledge Final Summative Rating (If not completed by May 6, principal will confirm rating in eTPES.)
- May 8: Teachers receive printout of Final Summative Rating Report from eTPES from building principal
- May 11–15: Teachers and LSPs receive printout of Final Summative Ratings Report from ILEAD

Evaluation Appeals

The Joint Evaluation Panel has approved an Appeals Process for the following:

- Educators that have an overall Final Summative Rating of "Ineffective"
- Educators that have an "Ineffective" performance rating
- Two evaluators and the overall rating is questionable
- The evaluation contains a procedural error

The Evaluation Appeal Form is available on the ILEAD website at <http://www.ccsob.us/Evaluation.aspx>. To file an appeal, submit the completed form along with appropriate documentation to Teri Mullins at CEA by May 22, 2015. The appeal process will be completed by June 5.

Honoring Asian and Pacific Islanders

Japanese immigrants began their journey to the United States in search of peace

and prosperity, leaving an unstable homeland for a life of hard work and the chance to provide a better future for their children. But, before they

could enjoy the fruits of their labor, they had to overcome hostile neighbors, harsh working conditions and repeated legislative attacks on their very presence in the country. Chinese people came to America with dreams of gold, as legends of instant wealth in California lured hopeful adventurers across the Pacific Ocean. Those dreams soon lost their luster as these sojourners found mostly hard times and persecution and scrambled to survive in a strange country.

May, Asian-Pacific Islanders American Heritage Month, is a great time to talk about that history. During May we celebrate the contributions of Asians and Pacific Islanders to the progress of our country. Many cultures are involved, including those of the Asian Continent and the Pacific Islands of New Guinea, New Caledonia, Vanuatu, Fiji and the Solomon Islands, Marianas, Guam, Wake Island, Palau, Marshall Islands, Kiribati, Nauru and the Federated States of Micronesia and New Zealand, Hawaiian Islands, Rotuma,



Midway Islands, Samoa, American Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, Cook Islands, French Polynesia and Easter Island.

The commemoration marks the immigration of the first Japanese to the United States on May 7, 1843, and the anniversary of the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869. The majority of the workers who laid the tracks were Chinese immigrants. 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. Draw upon your Asian-American students' and their families' experiences. For some ideas, visit <http://asianpacificheritage.gov/teachers.html>.

Capital District RA update

CEA Delegates to OEA's Capital District met Apr. 22 at their annual Representative Assembly, held to prepare for the OEA Spring Representative Assembly scheduled for May 7 and 8. The Capital District is one of ten geographical districts that make up the Ohio Education Association. It is the only district in OEA that is comprised exclusively of one local Association.

The Capital District delegates hosted OEA President Becky Higgins, Vice President Scott DiMauro and Secretary-Treasurer Tim Myers and other special guests. Higgins compared OEA to a long-standing tree, noting that the oldest trees in the forest are able to weather a series of storms because of their strong and deep root system. DiMauro praised delegates for their attention to their community and the recent founding of the CEA Social and Economic Justice Committee. CEA President Tracey D. Johnson gave a rousing speech regarding the importance of supporting the OEA Fund for Children and Public Education. As a result, the delegates donated over \$2,100 to the fund.

Delegates voted to support OEA's positions on four amendments to the OEA Constitution:

- To allow the OEA Board of Governors flexibility in determining whether or not to have two Representative Assemblies per year. This change does not eliminate the Fall Representative Assembly but would allow the Board to determine if it is necessary for that particular year
- To allow the Ohio Student Education Association members a voting seat on the OEA Board of Directors
- To allow OEA to prorate dues for new members who join the union during organizing campaigns
- To allow OEA to modify the beginning and ending dates for OEA President, Vice-President and Secretary-Treasurer

Special notes

- ❑ **Fee waiver applications for Autumn 2015** are in buildings now. The completed applications are due back to Northgate by **Friday, May 8, at 5 p.m.** If you have **Priority I** or **Priority II** status, include the proper documentation. Documentation is required with each fee waiver process. **Your priority status will change to Priority III without proper documentation.** Call Norma Oldham, Sixth Street Annex, 365-5039, if you have any questions.
- ❑ **Campaigning for the runoff election for District 3 is underway through Monday, May 4.** Voting will take place from **April 21–May 4.** Votes will be **tabulated Tuesday, May 5.**
- ❑ This year's **CEA Awards & Retirement Banquet** will be **Saturday, May 16,** in the ballroom of the **Hilton Columbus Downtown, 401 N. High Street.** If you are retiring this year and did not receive your invitation to attend the Awards & Retirement Banquet, contact Jeff Corbin at CEA at 253-4731 immediately.
- ❑ Come celebrate **Michelle Stasa-Coleman's retirement** with an open house at **Planks Cafe and Pizzeria, 743 Parsons Ave** on **Friday, May 15, 2015,** from 3–5 p.m. Pizza and pop provided.
- ❑ Join Avalon ES in offering **Marjorie Davis, Lina Himes, Robert Johnson** and **Mark Wilson** best wishes in their retirement. Attend the picnic potluck at Heritage Park/Antrim Shelter, 60 N. Cleveland Ave., Westerville, OH 43081, May 7, from 4:30–7:30 p.m. Bring a dish to share and a \$20 donation. Contact Nancy Shoemaker or Tabatha Fisher at 365-5361.