

The CEA Voice

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Columbus Education Association

April 16, 2018

Celebrate School Library Month



April is School Library Month. It is the American Association of School Librarians' celebration of school librarians and their programs. CEA salutes our Library Media Specialists who work tirelessly to make connections with our students, our classrooms and our communities.

Every April, school librarians are encouraged to host activities to help their school and local community celebrate the essential role that strong school library programs play in transforming learning. The 2018 theme is Making Connections at Your School Library and the official hashtag is #AASLsm.

Your Association was pleased to present Library Media Specialist Chiquita Toure (Eastmoor Academy) with the 2018 Helen Jenkins Davis Award at our annual CEA Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Awards Dinner. Ms. Toure demonstrates the kind of work our library media specialists do to add value to schools.

Take a moment to reach out to your library media specialists and say thank you.

If you accept the offer, be sure to sign the Selection Agreement Form. Once you sign the form you have agreed to commit to the school or site for three years.

If you have any questions about the Article 211 process contact CEA President Tracey D. Johnson.

We Honor Our Own

Every year, CEA takes time to honor our own. If you are retiring this year, we hope you will join us at this year's CEA Awards and Retirement Banquet. The banquet will take place on Saturday, May 19 at the Hyatt Regency Columbus. Social hour will begin at 6:00 p.m. with the dinner starting at 7:00 p.m. Your Association wants to honor you for the countless hours you have dedicated to Columbus City Schools, our students and our Association. As a retiree you can attend at no cost to you.

CEA will also honor members that work hard for the Association. Special awards such as the CEA Friend of Education, Outstanding Faculty Representative for each CEA District and Outstanding CEA Member will be awarded. The CEA scholarship recipients will also be announced. Senior Faculty Representatives are invited to attend this wonderful event for free.

We hope all schools will be represented at this year's banquet, especially if someone in your building is retiring. Tickets are \$35 per person or a table of eight for \$280.

More information will be mailed directly to the retiree's home and we will continue to put information in The CEA Voice. Join us as we celebrate with our retirees who are so deserving of a celebration. For more information or to purchase tickets call the CEA office at (614) 253-4731 and ask for Kathy Wilkes. You can also email her at: kwilkes@ceaohio.org.

Article 211: Interviews

Interviews for Round 1 of the Article 211 process begin Monday, April 23, and close on Friday, April 27. Here are some tips as you prepare for your interview:

- Dress professionally. You might consider bringing your interview clothes to school and changing prior to your interview.
- Research the schools you are interviewing with. Have an understanding of the schools' focus and programming that is unique to them.
- Be sure you are clear as to the day, time and location of your interview. Interviews for District-wide positions take place at various locations throughout the District so make sure you know exactly when and where your interview will take place.
- Sell yourself. Interviews are one of the few times when you get to tell someone how great you are. Do not be afraid to share all the great things you have accomplished throughout your career.
- If you have questions about the position be sure to ask them before you leave the interview.

Offers for positions can be made starting at 5 p.m. on Friday, April 27, and not before. Please note that a school does not have to give you time to consider their offer. We understand you may have interviewed at several schools and could be waiting to see if you have other offers. However, the schools are also trying to get the best candidates and may choose to move on to the next candidate.

OEA Special Education Work Group – Apply Now!

During the December 2017 OEA Representative Assembly, members passed the following New Business Item (NBI): Create an OEA Special Education Work Group to develop recommendations for professional development programs, sample contract language, OEA Resolutions, and OEA Legislative Policies that would address the needs of OEA members involved in or supporting education programs for students with special needs.

OEA needs our members working in special education to share their expertise, experiences, knowledge and insight. Applications for this Special Education Work Group are being accepted through April 27, 2018. Your completed application will include:

- Two (2) letters of recommendation supporting your position on the Special Education Work Group submitted to specialworkgroup@ohea.org.

- Your current resume submitted to: specialedworkgroup@ohea.org.
 - A completed, online application found at the following link: <https://form.jotform.com/80774914600154>
- Please note that participation on the OEA Special Education Work Group will require face-to-face meetings in Columbus that will occur during school hours, and virtual meetings that will occur after school hours. Please consider your availability to participate in those meetings prior to applying.
- Please contact Daria DeNoia at: denoiad@ohea.org with questions.

- Find yourself denying that a problem exists or hoping it will go away
 - Feel that you don't have the resources to solve it
 - Feel unhappy most of the time
 - Experience problems with family or friends because of it or get tired or sick from it.
- ComPsych's website, www.guidanceresources.com, features articles, assessments, webinars, financial calculators, searchable databases, skill builders and more. When you go to the website, use CCS as the company ID to register.

Early Voting Has Begun

The primary election is May 8. But you can vote early in-person at your county Board of Elections. In Franklin County, you may vote at the Franklin County Board of Elections, 1700 Morse Rd.

Advance hours are:

- Monday through Friday, from Apr. 16-27: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- Monday, Apr. 30, through Friday, May 4: 8 a.m. – 7 p.m.
- Saturday, May 5: 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- Sunday, May 6: 1 p.m. – 5 p.m.
- Monday, May 7: 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.

If you plan to vote on election day, polls are open on May 2 from 6:30 a.m.–7:30 p.m. If you are unsure of your polling place, you can find it by visiting: <http://bit.ly/2GgFDMS>.

Capital Representative Assembly

The Capital Representative Assembly will be held Wednesday, April 18, 2018, at the STRS Building, 7th floor, 275 East Broad Street. Registration begins at 4:30 p.m., and the RA starts at 5:00 p.m. Parking is available at the building. Alternates are welcome to attend the Capital RA. Please note that CEA members elected as Capital delegates to the Representative Assembly in last month's Spring Election will attend next year's RA.

Healthy Kids Day

Join the YMCA at the Scioto Audubon Metro Park on Saturday, April 21, to promote the great outdoors with their Healthy Kids Day event. It is happening at all YMCAs across the city but this year they have a location at the Grange Insurance Audubon Center located at 505 W. Whittier St., Columbus, Ohio 43215. The event is free and open to the public. The day includes:

- Family Fun and Fitness
- Summer Camp Activities
- Climbing Wall
- Playground
- Community Partner Connections

For more information, go to www.ymcacolumbus.org/bkd.

Know Your Contract: Direct Verbal Criticism

Your Association knows that direct verbal criticism of a teacher by an administrator in front of students or parents tends to reduce a teacher's effectiveness in maintaining an orderly teaching environment. Article 404.06 of the *Master Agreement* specifies that this practice should be avoided and provides a remedy for bargaining unit members, should this criticism occur.

If you believe your administrator has subjected you to direct verbal criticism in front of students or parents, it is your right to request a conference with an administrator to discuss the incident. You have the right to be accompanied and represented by a representative of the Association.

Following the initial conference, if your administrator has subjected you to direct verbal criticism a second time, it is your right to request a second meeting with the administrator and a representative of the Superintendent and to be accompanied and represented by a representative of the Association. If you have questions, please call the CEA Office at: (614) 253-4731.

Ohio State Fair Spelling Bee

The Ohio State Fair 4-H Spelling Bee is set for July 28 at the fairgrounds in Columbus. Schools are invited to send two students from each grade level currently in grades 3-6 to represent their school. Students do not need to be a 4-H member to participate. This is a fun, educational event and not sanctioned by Scripps; winners do not advance to any other bee or competition. Details are at: <http://ohiostatetfair.com/spelling-bee/>.

You Are Not Alone: EAP is Here

From time to time we all feel stressed out. We have a tough job and personal problems on top of everyday challenges can make even the strongest among us feel alone sometimes. Luckily, one of your negotiated benefits is the Employee Assistance Program, also known as EAP. It is a way for you to obtain help with no cost to you for confidential and private counseling services. The program is run by ComPsych, which provides supportive resources via phone and website.

When you call 800-774-6420, you can get a referral for matters related to work, family, health and other areas of your life. Referrals include free, short-term counseling for stress, depression, grief, substance abuse, family and caregiving consultation, legal and financial issues, household matters and personal and family safety. It is a good idea to consider counseling if you:

- Feel overly preoccupied with a problem
- Fail repeatedly to solve it by yourself

Mentor a Future Teacher

CCS is looking for bargaining unit members with three years of employment with the district who are interested in mentoring a pre-service teacher during the 2018-2019 school year. If you want to mentor a pre-service teacher and have not already applied, please go to <http://www.columbus.k12.oh.us/studentrequest> to apply online. To log on, utilize your iLEAD username and password.

Mentoring pre-service teachers will help you earn CEU credits towards licensure renewal. Depending on the length and type of placement, between .5 and 3.0 CEUs can be earned. For more information about Cooperating Teacher & LSP Approved Credit Bearing Activities, go to <https://goo.gl/4MPBJ7>. Additionally, mentoring pre-service teachers results in the district receiving fee waivers for college credit.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact Karmen McCaslin in Professional Learning and Licensure at (614)365-5039 or email her at kmccasli@columbus.k12.oh.us. Your consideration in mentoring a future teacher is greatly appreciated.