



Cleveland Teachers Union

News & Notes

Compiled by Tracy Radich, 1st Vice President
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News & Notes is intended to be a weekly publication. Please make sure that you are receiving N & N from your Chair or checking on the CTU website for the latest N & N.

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCE DAY

Michelle Rzucidlo wants everyone to be aware that Parent Teacher Conference Days are scheduled for Wednesday, October 19th for PreK-8 Schools and Thursday, October 20th for High Schools. PreK - 8 students are NOT in attendance on October 19th and High School students are NOT in attendance on October 20th. Staff hours and conferences are 12:30 - 7:00 unless the principal and UCC agree that alternate hours would better suit the needs of the families at that school. Staff members do receive their 40-minute lunch break on Conference Day. The next full days of Parent Conferences are scheduled for March 22-23, 2017.

OPEN ENROLLMENT

Michael Kulcsar wants to make sure that everyone is aware that November is Open Enrollment month for healthcare. This is the month that members can change health care providers (we have Medical Mutual of Ohio and Aetna to choose from). This is also the time when you re-establish or start a new Flexible Spending Account. Lots more information will be coming your way.

NEGOTIATIONS

David and Eric met with the Federal Mediator last week. Additional negotiations sessions have been added to the calendar. The first session will be on October 14.

THANK YOU

Kurt Richards wants to thank all of the CTU members that came out to walk for the School Levy – Issue 108 on Saturday. 114 members canvassed west side neighborhoods meeting and talking to voters. Many voters expressed how happy they were to talk to educators in the schools to know how the Levy directly impacts educators and students. We also want to thank the CTU members that met at Michael R. White and canvassed east side neighborhoods for the Levy. Thank you to everyone that took some of their time on Saturday to work on a cause that is important to the future of the schools

SECOND CHANCE TO WALK & EDUCATE

Come join us this Saturday, October 15 at 10 am at PJ McIntyres to walk local neighborhoods for Issue 108 OR Hillary Clinton. Members have the opportunity to choose to walk for the Levy or to choose a blended packet that will allow a member to go to pro-Hillary households and discuss the school levy. Issue 108 is critical for the future of Cleveland schools, Cleveland students, and Cleveland residents. Please join us on Saturday, October 15. Members of the community want to hear from people that are in schools with students each day. Please join us. Every vote counts.

NEW GRIEVANCE FORMS

The CTU Grievance Team has updated the grievance forms. The new forms have been emailed to all chapter chairs. The new forms are also available on the CTU website, www.ctu-279.org. There are no substantive changes to these new forms and the old forms will still be accepted while we transition. The new forms have an improved layout with instructions and include an email address that should be used to submit forms: grievances@ctu279.org. While we will still accept forms by fax, through school mail, regular mail or dropped off in person, the use of the email address is the most efficient way to submit all grievance forms.

RIMP CUT SCORES

The following are the cut scores for needing to write a RIMP in grades K-3. All of these are based on NWEA results, except for kindergarten in the Fall which is based on KRA. The following table outlines the reading cut scores used by our district to determine if a child is on-track or off-track for reading. The cut scores determine if a student must be placed on a mandatory RIMP for the remainder of the school year.

	Fall	Winter	Spring
K	25(KRA)	144	150
1st	150	162	168
2nd	168	174	180
3rd	180	185	190

In order for students in third grade to pass to the fourth grade (unless exempted per the statute) they must pass the state reading assessment (OST) or they must score 190 or higher on the Winter or Spring administration of NWEA.

All of this is a part of legislation called The Third Grade Reading Guarantee. This legislation was passed by the

state legislature during the lame duck session in December 2012.

ISSUE 108

The Cleveland Schools Levy is on the ballot as Issue 108. It does not raise taxes. This Levy is critical for the school district to continue moving forward. If the Levy fails, the district will be forced to cut \$65 million from their budget. This will be too high of a cost for our students, our schools, our community. In 2012, before the Levy was passed the students in K-8 were dismissed 50 minutes early – eliminating their elective. Additionally – over 1,000 members were laid off; classes were staffed at 42:1; pre-school paraprofessionals were eliminated; no textbooks, no technology had been updated in years; etc. This was a mere 4 years ago. The citizens of Cleveland supported our schools and our students when they voted Yes in 2012. If the levy does not pass this year, \$65 million will be cut from the district's budget. We will be forced back to the level of funding that existed in 2012 when there were lay-offs, a shortened school day for kids, enormous class sizes, minimal amount of pre-school, etc. We hope that the residents of Cleveland will continue to support the efforts that are ongoing in our schools. We also want our teachers, paraprofessionals, and related service providers to help talk to voters in Cleveland about the progress made and the good things that have happened first hand since the passage of the levy in 2012. We cannot afford to go back.

PARAPROFESSIONAL PD

The Paraprofessional Chapter of the CTU is presenting TDES Domains 1 & 4 on October 21 at the East Professional Development Center (1346 East 79th Street) from 3:30 -5:30. Terence Wooten will facilitate this session. Two VPD Hours are available upon building UCC approval. Register online today.

EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD WINNERS

The Gund Foundation and the Cleveland Foundation in coordination with the Cleveland Teachers Union and the CMSD announced the 10 winners of the inaugural Excellence in Teaching Award. These winners were surprised at their school (or PD) on Friday. Congratulations to: Dora Bechtel (Campus International), Stephanie Chiariello (John Marshall Civic & Business), Molly Gus (Scranton), Laura Masloski (Nathan Hale), Holly Morell (Joseph Gallagher), Christine Richard (New Tech East), Christine Sims (Cleveland School of Science & Medicine), Spencer Small (John Marshall Information & Technology), Bonnie Whitmer (R. G. Jones), and Stephanie Wojtowicz (Mary. B. Martin). These CMSD teachers are instructional experts who are creative and innovative. They ensure that learning is engaging, vibrant, and relevant for students. Thank you and congratulations!

The Gund Foundation and the Cleveland Foundation in coordination with the CMSD and Cleveland Teachers Union also named 18 Excellence in Teaching honorees. This group of teachers' nomination, application, and endorsements demonstrated a high degree of excellence. These teachers' leadership, professionalism, and accomplishments are to be commended. Congratulations to: Jonathan Bubbett, Sarah Darymple, Jaqueline Glenn, Lori Hlosek, Rhonda Hurst, Kathy Kisel, Hallie McEntire, Rita Mikita, Maryanne Nesbett, Leslie Perry-Hanley, Lesley Petrie, Rebecca Pickens, Eleanor Salzbrenner, Christine Scarcella, Anthony Simeone, Anna Singleton, Cristina Stratton. Thank you and congratulations!

CHANGING MINDS EXHIBIT

A fabulous exhibit of black and white photographs taken at 11 Cleveland Schools is on display at the Main Branch of the Cleveland Public Library in the Carl Stokes wing. This incredible photography features students and educators. To quote the Changing Minds book of photographs, "These are just some of the public schools in Cleveland that inspire their students through high expectations, collaborative relationships and creative instruction. They provide evidence that public schools in Cleveland are changing minds." If you have a chance, go and see the exhibit which is on display until October 28.

LEAD POISONING

Stephanie Henderson and the CDHR Committee invites you to attend their next workshop – What Lead Poisoning Does to Our Students. Wednesday, October 12 from 3:30-5:30 at the East High Professional Development Center (1349 East 79th Street). To reserve your seat, please email Stephanie Henderson shenderson@ctu279.org with your name, school, and phone number. A confirmation email will be sent.

PROFESSIONAL DAY/COLUMBUS DAY

Monday, October 10 was a professional day in CMSD and it was also Columbus Day. This year all schools will be closed on Friday, November 11 for Veterans Day. Just a reminder of how it is determined whether or not school is in session on Columbus Day or Veterans Day. If Veterans' Day (in November) is observed on a Friday, Saturday, Sunday, or Monday then we as a school district are off on Veterans' Day in November. In years when Veterans' Day is observed on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday then the school district is closed on Columbus Day.



Cleveland Teachers Union 279



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