

WEATHERVANE

May 2015

Important Dates

- Students' Last Day
May 21
- Teacher Work Day
May 22
- Memorial Day
May 25
- Aug. Teacher Work Days
Aug. 10 & 11
- Professional Development Day
Aug. 12
- Labor Day
Sept. 7

President's Corner

Another year in the books. We are losing a great deal of experience with our retiring teachers. We wish them well. And we will welcome in the new faces we meet in August.

Take the time this summer to renew, rejuvenate and relax. We all need the personal time to get ourselves recharged.

Know that your bargaining team will be working hard for a fair and equitable Master contract. We have your home/summer emails and we will send out a FLASH (the bargaining newsletter) when there are updates to share.

Enjoy your summer and see you in August.

Rhonda



WEA Officers:

President

Rhonda Gilpin

Vice President

Tom Cook

Treasurer

David Johnston

Secretary

Kelly Modlich

Fac Rep At Large

Cathy Montiero

Jordi Vilanova

Kimberly Rostorfer

Tami Martine

Karen Lee

Todd Ebbrecht

CrowdFunding Websites

There are lots of websites for raising money, like GoFundMe.org; Kickstarter.com; and DonorsChoose.org, but we as public employees need to be VERY careful when getting donations, even for things that would benefit our classroom. We cannot legally use our positions as educators to generate revenue. The consequences could be a letter from ODE saying don't do it again, all the way up to losing your license.

The district has worked with the Westerville Education Foundation to set up a way to get projects and activities funded. Please go to their website www.westervilleeducationfoundation.com and use the "Fund a Project" module to generate revenue for classroom projects, materials and innovative ideas.

Because We Care...

Births

Blendon/Heritage— Carol McClain— Baby Boy

Blendon/St. Paul— Angie McPeak—Baby Girl

South HS— Alicia Devlin— Baby Boy

Janet Pritchard— Grandson

St. Paul— Mary Evrard— Baby Boy

Alcott-Stephanie Parnacott—Baby Boy

North— Brooke Cochran— Baby Boy

- David Johnston—Baby Girl

Condolences

McVay— Gerriann Patterson—Mother

House Passes Testing Overhaul

The House on Wednesday (5/13) passed all three items on its agenda, which included a bill revising the state's K-12 testing procedures .

Rep. Andrew Brenner (R-Powell), sponsor of HB74, noted the bill will eliminate Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) tests, reduce the number of exams taken, and decrease the amount of time students spend on tests.

He said many provisions in the bill are similar to recommendations recently made by the Senate Advisory Committee on Testing. He said these include changes to the testing window; the continuation of online testing as long as a paper and pencil option is still available; and that the Ohio Department of Education should find a new test vendor instead of PARCC.

"We fixed that problem by eliminating the PARCC exams, and we prevent any multi-state consortium from being able to apply ... so it's going to be somebody other than Smarter Balanced [Assessments] or the PARCC consortium that will be able to bid on this," Brenner said.

Rep. Teresa Fedor (D-Toledo) said she is hopeful that a resolution can be achieved on the testing issue, noting her support for the bill.

"We need to back off," Fedor said. "I think we can become over-burdened with our own need to have data that we really don't need. Teachers know when students are learning. At some point we need to trust the teacher, principal, school district -- and relieve the school districts of the millions of dollars they have spent about every four years because we keep changing it."

Congratulations

The following teachers have been selected to receive the WEA CIPD grant for this spring.

Miriam Herrick

Linda Amici

Debra Dunlap

Erin Berg

Dawn Ramsey

Todd Ebbrecht

Ericka Boesch

Amanda McQuown

Natalie Bentz

Catherine Reinker

KK Hunter

Amanda Koenig

Carrie Wareham

Kimberly Perrone

Ann Engelhart

If you are taking courses or workshops over the summer you can apply for a WEA CIPD grant in the fall.



REMINDER:

If you have a qualifying event over the summer, like a new baby, get married or divorced be sure and let Linda Bertelen know within 31 days so the changes can be made to your district insurance.

Also, if you move buildings over the summer then when you return email Rhonda Gilpin and Zachary Wilkerson with your name, the name of your previous building and the name of your new building.