The Official Publication of the Chicago Teachers Union

Chicago leads the nation in NBCTs; CPS pledges Union support

By Jenny Celander, Associate Editor

Chicago leads the nation this year with the most National Board Certified Teachers (NBCT) – 302 received certification for the 2008-2009 school year. This ranks the district the third highest overall since the program began with a total of 1,494 NBCTs in Chicago Public Schools.

At a press conference held in early January, Mayor Richard Daley, Chicago Teachers Union President Marilyn Stewart, Founding President and CEO of The Chicago Public Education Fund Janet Knupp, CPS CEO Ron Huberman and a number of other Chicago education stakeholders congratulated the most recent group of NBCTs.

“To take our schools to the next level of accomplishment, we must do what’s needed to improve learning in the classroom, starting with creating an even better pool of teachers across Chicago,” Mayor Daley said at the January 5 conference.

“The National Board Certification brings with it the most rigorous evaluation of teaching skills that exists.”

NBC status is the highest professional credential a classroom teacher can attain.

At the press conference, President Stewart explained just what that certification means.

“It means you have spent hundreds of hours in addition to your classroom work to hone in on the skills needed to achieve this title. It means you represent the finest teachers in your profession and that you have attained the highest qualified status of Illinois Master Teacher, ” she said.

At the press conference, the Mayor credited the collaborative effort of the CTU and CPS in improving teacher quality and said, NBC is the best way to measure that progress.

President Stewart added, “Research shows that it is the (Continued on page 4)
DON’T BE CONFUSED BY THE FACTS

by Melani Davis, Editor

It’s the political season again.

Both parties are busy spinning numbers — how will resignations, deaths, vulnerabilities or the latest gaffs pan out for their own party? In the end who will wield power in the house and senate?

For a voter, the facts can often get muddled in all the media hype. This week the buzz is all about Republicans predicting the end of the Democratic majority — possibly the demise of the party itself, as two Democrats resign their senate seats. Meanwhile, you have to look long and hard to find media coverage of the six Republican senators who have called it quits.

Political debate is a healthy aspect of democracy and is to be cherished and preserved. When facts are taken out of context, you no longer have open, informed debate. You have spin.

In late November, three items came before the Chicago Teachers Union membership for a referendum vote.

The first, involved posting election results on the Chicago Teachers Union website rather than in a printed publication.

The second, involved adding constitutional language to stipulate that any Union elected official who loses CTU membership must also relinquish his or her office.

The third item reduced the number of officers from five to four — eliminating the position of treasurer.

Our membership passed all three items and the outcome will result in tremendous savings for the Union. The changes, however, will not take effect until after the May 2010 election. This is an important fact that seemed to get lost in the storm of political criticism that ensued before the election was held.

Some individuals insisted that President Stewart was proposing a constitutional change merely to get rid of the current treasurer.

The fact is that referendum results would not have an affect on the current administration. They take effect only after the May election.

Some suggested that posting election results on the web, rather than printing them, amounted to a conspiracy.

It’s not.

It’s a fact that posting results of an election is much more immediate and is the standard these days.

It’s also a fact that both referendum items result in great savings for the Union.

Fortunately, our members sought out information, tuned in to the facts, and voted accordingly.

The referendum process serves as a pre-cursor to the election season ahead and facts taken out of context can confuse the issues.

In an effort to help correct misconceptions, look for a regular FactCheck email from your Union. It’s important that you have all the facts about the decisions being made by this administration.
When the ball drops at midnight marking a new year, for most it’s a fresh start. It’s a chance to begin again with the past year behind you. Unfortunately, for the Chicago Teachers Union, we begin 2010 battling the same decisions and policies from 2009. I hope your holiday break left you well-rested and ready for action, because as we head into this new year we must be poised and ready to fight!

As this publication goes to press, we are waiting for the release of the Chicago Board of Education’s 2010 list of schools for closing, consolidation, phase-out, and turnaround. This policy is not just a battle carried over from 2009, it is one we have been engaged in for years.

Last year, because of the efforts of this Union, parents, and community members, six schools were pulled from the list. If we band together again, stronger, I know we can save more.

We know that Renaissance 2010 is not good for our students, our communities and this city. And, even though this policy is Ren2010, Mayor Daley has promised to close more schools in the future. If you haven’t been affected yet, you will be unless we stand together as one to show our strength.

At the CTU office, staff members have been busy strategizing for the fight against reckless school closings. When the schools are announced, Union staff members and officers will be visiting schools, attending public hearings, gathering contact information to start calling city officials and decision makers. But, no amount of planning and organizing can change the outcome unless we all work together.

As we get back into our routines in the classroom we must also remember another issue haunting us from 2009 — the Board’s plan for our 403(b) contributions.

I have spoken to the Board numerous times over the last year about our opposition to the plan limiting the choice of providers for our 403(b) contributions. We have sent out information detailing the reasons why having Great West Life & Annuity Insurance Company, or any company, as the sole plan administrator would threaten our financial future. We launched an e-mail campaign to Board Chief of Staff David Pickens to tell him that we will not support a plan that does not allow members to decide where and how they want to invest their own money.

We have even had our delegates pass around petitions to members at their schools asking for support. But, somehow, this issue remains unresolved.

I will continue to do my part in negotiating with the Board. I have made it clear that we do not oppose the inclusion of Great West; we simply don’t want that to be our only choice. But, I am only one person and so this issue must stay on our radar. I will do my best to keep you informed and prepared for any possible action. Our voluntary retirement plans depend on it.

As we head into this new year our country continues to deal with a suffering economy. The workforce has been faced with dramatic job loss and those who are employed have been asked to take pay cuts and furlough days.

One thing we have to be thankful for is the fact that we are protected by a five-year contract. We are luckier than most.

But as Chicago Public Schools cries poor, even the security of our agreement is being threatened. We can’t sit back and relax — we must fight for the contract we worked so hard to achieve.

We must stay on top of the issues we know are taking shape in the coming weeks and at the same time be prepared for anything new in 2010.

If there is one thing we learn as teachers it’s how to think on our feet, and as teachers in Chicago we know that, in this district, anything can happen.

Staying involved, being ready, and working together will help protect the future of the Chicago Teachers Union which, in turn, will guarantee a safe teaching environment with protections we need and deserve.

When teachers have a positive place to work, it ensures that students have a healthy, successful, place to learn — and isn’t that what we’re all working for anyway?

On December 2, President Stewart attended the Chicago Teachers Union’s Annual Retiree Holiday Luncheon.

On December 7, President Stewart participated in an Illinois Federation of Teachers press conference announcing the endorsement of Dan Hynes for governor.

On December 16, the CTU President attended the Chicago Public Schools Board of Education meeting and spoke about the 403(b) issues and upcoming proposed school changes.

On December 18, President Stewart attended a meeting with Representative Cynthia Soto about school closings and attended a Chicago Federation of Labor luncheon.

On January 5, President Stewart participated in a press conference with Mayor Richard Daley and other Chicago education officials celebrating National Board Certified Teachers in CPS.

On January 9, President Stewart spoke at the 2008-2009 Nurturing Teacher Leadership pinning ceremony. She congratulated the latest cohort of NTL National Board Certified Teachers. CPS CEO Ron Huberman also spoke at the event.
Chicago leads the nation in NBCTs; CPS pledges Union support

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quality of the teacher that is the biggest in-school indicator of student success.

“Students gain seven to 15 points on year-end tests as a result of having an NBC teacher.” More than 75,000 students in CPS are benefiting from at least one NBCT in their classrooms or in a leadership position at their schools. Fifty-six CPS schools now have 15 percent or more of their staff certified.

The Chicago Public Education Fund is a strong supporter of NBCTs. Between 2000 and 2008, the Fund invested more than $6 million in programs that build NBC.

“Chicago is somewhat unique among school districts nationwide in that we use National Board Certification not just as an objective means to recognize and reward top talent but also as a district- and school-wide strategy to improve student achievement,” explained Janet Knupp.

“The data is starting to bear that out. In general, students of National Board Certified Teachers in Chicago perform higher and trend better on standardized exams than their peers. And schools with concentrations of National Board Certified Teachers (15 percent of faculty or more) show a similar trend. This is great evidence that this investment is paying off.”

NURTURING TEACHER LEADERSHIP

The Union has led the path for more NBCTs in the district and, through the CTU’s Quest Center, created its own NBC support program.

National Board Certification Initiatives Program Manager Lynn Cherkasky-Davis heads up the Union’s Nurturing Teacher Leadership (NTL) program. She also served as a member of the Board of Directors of NBC and first proposed the certification to then CTU President Jacqueline B. Vaughn in 1996. The first NTL cohort consisted of one teacher, Marcey Regan, who achieved her status in 1997 and has since become the first renewed NBCT.

NTL boasts a 94 percent success rate and much of that achievement comes from the small-group setting in which candidates are mentored by NBCTs.

NTL has been so successful that CEO Ron Huberman has agreed to help fund the program if some of the district’s retake candidates are enrolled.

At the NTL pinning ceremony — held on January 9 to recognize the 58 NBCTs who achieved through the Union’s program this year — President Stewart thanked Mr. Huberman for his pledged support.

“Thanks to a partnership with CPS, approved by Mr. Huberman, CTU will now be taking more new candidates and helping those who have not achieved through our National Board program,” Ms. Stewart announced.

“We are happy to have CPS’s support as well as the Fund and other donors who keep this program viable and help us towards our goal to increase the number of NBC teachers in our city.”

Under President Stewart’s term, her administration negotiated a $1,750 pensionable yearly raise for NBCTs per the CTU/CPS Bargaining Agreement.

At the ceremony, Ms. Cherkasky-Davis also thanked Mr. Huberman for his support.

“I think we can all concur that it is not always easy negotiating a pathway for labor and management to agree,” Lynn told the audience. “...I can say that the NTL program is thrilled that CPS has recognized the quality of our exemplary, highly successful support system.

“Because Mr. Huberman and his team believe in standards of excellence, he has pledged to financially support more than half the operating cost of CTU’s NTL program...as well as the total cost of supporting candidates who have not yet achieved and will be joining us to retake parts of the NBC process. This is huge, and we thank you for it.”
CTU members respond to October 2009 ‘abusive principals’ story

Since the article “Teachers and staff members suffer at the hand of abusive principals” was published in the October 2009 edition of the Chicago Teachers Union publication, the Chicago Teachers Union publication office has been inundated with responses — the majority of which have been in confirmation of the reported abuse.

Soon after the paper hit the schools, anonymous teachers, parents, and former staff-members contacted the editors with individual stories of the outrageous behavior on the part of some principals.

One parent wrote, “I wanted to thank you and CTU for the article about the abusive principals. I know that Maria Rodriguez has been working to protect and defend our teachers. As a parent, I know that there are excellent teachers at Gunsaulus working under unbearable conditions, and the CTU has been there for them.”

Unfortunately, since the October article, the CTU Grievance Department has also continued to receive complaints about these principals.

In the case of Gunsaulus, the Union has filed an unfair labor practice with the Illinois Educational Labor Relations Board against the Gunsaulus principal. The charges include interfering with Union business by having a building administrator hand-deliver copies of the October Union publication to members at the school.

The principal also defaced a meeting notice for nominations of teacher candidates for delegate by writing “canceled” on the poster. She has been accused of harassing one employee who volunteered to run for Union delegate.

Letters and e-mails were also received from members at other schools making allegations about their principals. The Union is looking into those accusations.

In some instances of abuse, principals are targeting veteran teachers.

“This is a strategic way to pit one Union member against another,” CTU President Marilyn Stewart explained. “In some cases, these principals are hiring their own people and treating them well and then harassing the veteran staff at the school. If they would treat everyone with the respect they deserve we wouldn’t have a problem.”

If you are having issues with your principal, or have questions or concerns, call the CTU office at 312-329-9100 and ask to speak with your field representative.

Please contact Jenny Celander, Associate Editor, Chicago Union Teacher, 312.329.6252 or email jennycelander@ctulocal1.com

If you’re having this kind of success in the classroom you need to Pass It On!

This year, Chicago Union Teacher would like to introduce a new feature — Pass It On!

If you have an innovative classroom project that inspires student learning, we want you to share it.

If you know of a colleague who has come up with something that just works, we’d love to hear about it. We believe that success breeds success, so pass it on and help other teachers excel.

Please contact Jenny Celander, Associate Editor, Chicago Union Teacher, 312.329.6252 or email jennycelander@ctulocal1.com

CLARIFICATION

Although much of the response from the Chicago Union Teacher article was positive, the publications office did receive one letter in opposition.

The delegates at Washington High School did not agree with what was written in the October article and sent a letter to that effect.

No teachers were interviewed for the abusive principal story because the Union did not want to put individuals at risk for retaliation. Instead, the field representatives involved at these schools spoke on behalf of the members who called.

At each of the schools cited in the article, members reached out to their field representatives to report abusive behaviors they had either encountered personally or had witnessed.

Union field representatives also said that in some instances, members were not comfortable talking with colleagues about a principal’s abuse for fear that those colleagues would report back to the principal.

“The Union has a problem with anyone polarizing their staff,” said President Stewart.

The delegates at Washington insist that they, and the school’s Professional Problems Committee, are on top of issues facing the school’s staff and are working for the greater good.

But, as Tanya Saunders-Wolffe, field representative for Washington, said, she is still fielding complaints and continues to work with staff members who report abuse.
FEBRUARY 2
Primary Election
Endorsements

Chicago Federation of Labor Endorsements

COOK COUNTY BOARD PRESIDENT
No Endorsement

COOK COUNTY COMMISSIONER
Endorsements on hold

COOK COUNTY CLERK
David D. Orr (D)

COOK COUNTY TREASURER
Maria Pappas (D)

Cook County Sheriff
Thomas J. Dart (D)

METROPOLITAN WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT COMMISSIONER
Michael A. Alvarez (D)
Mariyana T. Spyropoulos (D)
Barbara McGowan (D)

BOARD OF REVIEW 1ST DISTRICT
Brendan F. Houlihan (D)

COOK COUNTY ASSESSOR
Joseph Berrios (D)

1st Appellate/O’Malley Vacancy
Jim Ryan

1st Appellate/O’Malley Vacancy
Thomas L. Hogan

1st Appellate – South Vacancy
Mary Katherine Rochford

COOK CIRCUIT – Berland Vacancy
William H. Hooks

COOK CIRCUIT/Brustein Vacancy
Terry MacCarthy

COOK CIRCUIT/Dolan Vacancy
Linda J. Pauel

COOK CIRCUIT/Hayes Vacancy
Raymond W. Mitchell

COOK CIRCUIT/Kelly Vacancy
John Patrick Callahan, Jr.

COOK CIRCUIT/O’Malley Vacancy
Thomas V. Lyons

COOK CIRCUIT/Riley Vacancy
James Michael Bailey

COOK CIRCUIT
1st Subcircuit/Coleman Vacancy
Thaddeus L. Wilson

COOK CIRCUIT
1st Subcircuit/Steile Vacancy
Michelle Huggins Flagg

COOK CIRCUIT
1st Subcircuit/A Vacancy
No Endorsement

COOK CIRCUIT
3rd Subcircuit/Carmody, Jr. Vacancy
Allen F. Murphy

COOK CIRCUIT
3rd Subcircuit/Darcy Vacancy
Edward Harmening

COOK CIRCUIT
3rd Subcircuit/A Vacancy
Daniel Malone

COOK CIRCUIT
9th Subcircuit/Otaka Vacancy
Abbey Fishman Romanek

COOK CIRCUIT
9th Subcircuit/A Vacancy
Michael Ian Bender

Cook Circuit
11th Subcircuit/Riley Vacancy
Steven J. Fruth

COOK CIRCUIT
14th Subcircuit/A Vacancy
Daniel James Pierce

COOK CIRCUIT
15th Subcircuit/Lipinski Vacancy
Linsey D. Jones

COOK CIRCUIT
15th Subcircuit/Panichi Vacancy
George F. Scully

COOK CIRCUIT
15th Subcircuit/Flagg Vacancy
Michelle Huggins Flagg

COOK CIRCUIT
15th Subcircuit/Phelan Vacancy
John C. Griffin

Illinois Federation of Teachers Endorsements

U.S. SENATE
Alexi Giannousis

GOVERNOR
Dan Hynes

LT. GOVERNOR
Terry Link
Art Turner

ATTORNEY GENERAL
Lisa Madigan

SECRETARY OF STATE
Jesse White

Comptroller
David Miller

Treasurer
Robin Kelly

UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

1 Bobby Rush (D)
2 Jesse Jackson, Jr. (D)
3 Dan Lipinski (D)
4 Luis Gutierrez (D)
5 Mike Quigley (D)
6 Danny Davis (D)
7 Melissa Bean (D)
8 Jan Schakowsky (D)
10 Dan Seals (D)
11 Debbie Halvorson (D)
12 Jerry Costello (D)
14 Bill Foster (D)
17 Phil Hare (D)
18 Deirdre Hirner (D)

JUDICIAL – APPELLATE COURT

1st (Otaka) Jim Ryan
1st (O’Malley) Thomas Hogan
1st (South) Sebastian Putti

ILLINOIS SENATE
1 Antonio Munoz (D)
7 Heather Steans (D)
10 John Mulroe (D)
13 Kwame Raoul (D)
19 M. Maggie Cratty (D)
40 Toi Hutchinson (D)
43 Arthur Wilhelmi (D)
46 David Koehler (D)
49 Deanna Demuzio (D)
51 Tim Dudley (D)

ILLINOIS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

4 Cynthia Soto (D)
6 Esther Golar (D)
7 Karen Yarbrough (D)
9 Arthur Turner (D)
10 Annazette Collins (D)
11 Ann Williams (D)
13 Gregory Harris (D)
16 Lou Lang (D)
17 Daniel Biss (D)
18 Eamon Kelly (D)
20 Michael McAuliffe (R)
23 Daniel Burke (D)
25 Barbara Flynn Currie (D)
26 Will Burns (D)
27 Monique Davis (D)
29 Thaddeus Jones (D)
32 Andre Thapedi (D)
36 Michael Madaleno (D)
38 Al Riley (D)
40 Deborah Mell (D)
41 Elliott Harty (D)
46 Eddie Washington (D)
62 Sandy Cull (R)
68 Paul Williams (D)
70 Robert Pritchard (R)
71 Jerry Lack (D)
98 Chris Sherr (D)
100 Rich Brauer (R)
103 Naomi Jakobson (D)
107 John Cavatutto (R)
109 Roger Eddy (R)
111 Daniel Beiser (D)
112 Jay Hoffman (D)
114 Eddie Jackson (D)
118 Brandon Phelps (D)
Chicago Teachers Union
Quest Center
In collaboration with Chicago Public Schools
Department of Human Resources
presents its
2010 SUMMER
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

All Quest courses are suitable to meet the ISBE 20% requirement for regular education teachers of students with specialized needs.

Three Hours Graduate Level Lane Placement Credits and/or 45 IL Recertification CPDUs/PTPs
$180 and book fee/materials fee, if required (see individual course descriptions) 45 contact hours

Two Hours Graduate Level Lane Placement Credit and/or 30 IL Recertification CPDUs/PTPs
$130 and book fee/materials fee, if required (see individual course descriptions) 30 contact hours

Note: All courses will be held during the time period of June 21 - August 20, 2010.

REGISTRATION BEGINS IN FEBRUARY 2010

Registration deadline for the 2010 Summer Professional Development Institute is May 28, 2010.

AFT/ER&D Managing Anti-Social Behavior (3 hrs.)
Manual fee required

AFT/ER&D School-Home Connections - New Definition of Parent Involvement - (3 hrs.)
Izetta Washington/Corliss Bell, Instructors - manual fee required

AFT/ER&D Thinking Mathematics I (3 hrs.)
Manual fee is required

Basic Conversational Spanish I (2 hrs.)
Michelle Brumfield, Instructor - book fee required

Creating With Polymer Clay: Discovering the Endless Possibilities (2 hrs.)
Sylvia Cook, Instructor - Please note materials fee - $35 required

Illinois Basic Skills Test Preparation Course
Eulene Carter, Instructor The Chicago Teachers Union Quest Center is offering a test preparation course for the July 17, 2010 Illinois Basic Skills Test. Registration fee is $115 for this course only.

Infusing Technology in the Classroom II (2 hrs.)
Book fee required

Looking Through New Eyes: Exploring the Educational Resources of Chicago’s Cultural Institution Part I (2 hrs)
(Museums in the Park) Judith Gidden, Instructor

Looking Through New Eyes: Exploring the Educational Resources of Chicago’s Cultural Institutions Part II (2 hrs.)
Janis Thomas, Instructor

Making a Difference with Differentiated Instruction (3 hrs.)
Brenda Humphrey, Instructor - book fee required

Middle School Reading and Assessment (2 hrs.)
Lauren Norwood, Instructor - book fee required

NTL 13/Session 1 (3 hrs.) - Lynn Cherkasky-Davis, Instructor
The course is open by application only for National Board Certification candidates.

Please note: As of September 1, 2009, request for replacement copies of course completion forms (CPS Lane placement, ISBE CPDU/PTP, etc.) will require a $25 fee.
This item passed with 8,528 voting “yes” and 6,997 voting “no.”

The third item — removing the constitutional provision requiring election returns to be published in the Chicago Union Teacher — passed with 9,573 voting “yes” and 5,774 voting “no.” In the future, election results will be posted on the CTU website.

The referendum vote went before the membership after approval by the Executive Board. None of the items will take effect until after the CTU election is held in May.

February and March combined for next CUT publication

After some consideration, the Editorial Board of the Chicago Union Teacher has decided to combine the February and March issues of the paper. The original publication schedule combined the May and June issues as was the case last year. After accounting for the publication of Chicago Teachers Union candidate biographies, and the annual audit report, the schedule will be altered.

“This was the easiest way to ensure that we included all the necessary information for this publication year,” explained Editor Emeritus John Ostenburg.

The CUT publication schedule was reduced from ten issues to eight last year to help save the Union money.

CTU gains important grievance wins

The Chicago Teachers Union Grievance Department finished out 2009 with two important wins for CTU members.

The first involved a tenured teacher at a year-round school who, on October 2, 2009, was wrongfully denied the opportunity to perform substitute duties during her regular scheduled intersession.

This situation was in violation of article 14-1 in the CTU contract that states, “Year-round teachers off-track and available to substitute shall be listed by their date of original appointment on a regular certificate and shall be assigned to substitute during their intersessions in the following order:

A. teachers available to teach five days per week in seniority order;
B. teachers available to teach four days per week in seniority order;
C. teachers available to teach three days per week in seniority order;
D. teachers available to teach two days per week in seniority order;
E. teachers available to teach one day per week in seniority order.”

In order to resolve the grievance the Union requested that the teacher be given the opportunity to perform substitute services during her intersession and be given her regular hourly rate of pay. The CTU also requested that the teacher be paid for all the days she was scheduled to perform substitute duties prior. The grievance also stated that the same should apply to any other similar situation involving a teacher wrongfully denied substitute opportunities.

Field Representative James Riley filed the grievance with the Department of Human Resources Office of Employee Relations. On November 20, Director Cheryl Colston sent a response.

According to Angela Simpson, team leader at Substitute Services, the grievant was “in-correctly denied the opportunity to perform substitute services.”

Ms. Simpson said the teacher is entitled to her regular hourly rate of pay should she perform substitute services at her assigned school. Mr. Riley explained that because this teacher was scheduled to substitute on October 2, 2009, she received 6.25 hours of pay and is entitled to substitute during her intersession breaks.

“The contract says teachers...
The principal at the school involved said that no PSRPs would be required to act as crossing guards. Anyone acting in that role would be on a voluntary basis. On July 1, 2008, after no resolution was achieved, the case moved to arbitration.

A letter filed by the CTU read, “We request that the Board cease and desist from directing PSRPs to act as crossing guards. We also request that the principals of the affected schools refrain from asking for volunteers to perform the above mentioned duties. Finally, we ask that the affected PSRPs suffer no retaliatory action for filing this legitimate complaint.”

The matter was heard in arbitration on April 21, 2009. Some who testified at the hearing said that those who were still acting as crossing guards were too intimidated by the administration to come forward. At the hearing, evidence was presented to support the fact that there is nothing in the assistants’ job descriptions that requires them to cross students.

The school assistants, “assist in the instruction of pupils and perform related duties as required by the school principal.” School assistants and teacher assistants “assist in supervising the loading and unloading of students on school buses.” And, “essential functions” for a school, teacher and instructor assistant include assisting “in the supervision of students during lunchroom and playground activities, provide[ing] security functions within the school such as monitoring corridors and reviewing student identification cards.”

In this particular case, the arbitrator ruled that anything inside road block barricades is still considered school grounds. She decided that the Board and school are not prohibited from requiring PSRPs to escort children within those barricades. But, she did rule that the Board and school “are prohibited from placing PSRPs outside the school zone, or from requiring traffic control activities by them, or that they set up barricades.”

The decision came on December 2, 2009.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT NEARBY FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT MUSEUMS

The Frank Lloyd Wright Preservation Trust is looking for volunteers for Wright’s Robie House in Hyde Park and his Home and Studio in Oak Park.

Those interested must respond by February 15 to receive training materials. The two week volunteer training begins February 23 at the Robie House and March 9 at the Home and Studio.

Volunteers will receive membership benefits, a monthly newsletter, discounts at the museum shops, and invitations to exclusive events such as trips to art and architectural attractions. They will also have access to exclusive educational opportunities like architectural-based lectures.

The Wright Preservation Trust said, “Volunteers help keep the legacy of Frank Lloyd Wright alive by leading tours of two world-class museums and their historic neighborhoods, assisting with preservation efforts, educational endeavors and by working in the museum shops. Docents at the Robie House and Home and Studio serve the public by fostering an appreciation of architecture and Frank Lloyd Wright.”

Mr. Wright’s Robie House is considered one of the most important buildings in American architecture and has inspired an architectural revolution. The organization said the structure’s “sweeping horizontal lines, dramatic overhangs, stretches of art glass windows and open floor plan” make it a quintessential Prairie style house.

Frank Lloyd Wright lived and worked at his Home and Studio from 1889-1909 during the first 20 years of his career.

The Preservation explained that this space, where Mr. Wright experimented with architectural design concepts, served as the basis for his architectural philosophy. It is also where he raised six children with his first wife, Catherine Tobin. In 1898 he added a studio which was described by a fellow architect as a place with “inspiration everywhere.”

Both structures, although created long ago, remain masterpieces of modern architecture. Those interested are encouraged to contact the Frank Lloyd Wright Preservation Trust to receive pre-course materials. More information about the museum sites, the Trust and this volunteer opportunity can be found by visiting www.gowright.org or by calling 708-725-3818.
Union members arrested at demonstration

More than 100 union members, including AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka and UNITEHERE! President John Wilhelm were arrested at a demonstration demanding justice and a fair contract for San Francisco hotel workers. The workers have been without a contract since August.

The sit-in demonstration outside of the Hilton San Francisco, followed a march of nearly 1,000 UNITEHERE! Local 2 members and community and political supporters.

“We’re determined as ever to win a good contract,” said Ingrid Carp, a 29-year cook at the hotel. “It’s wrong for corporations to position themselves to make billions with the coming economic recovery, and expect us to go backward.”

The demonstration is part of a campaign to win fair contracts at several national hotel chains. More than 16,000 hotel workers in dozens of hotels in San Francisco, Chicago and other cities across the country are fighting the chains who are cutting health care benefits. At the Congress Hotel in Chicago, workers have been on strike since June 2003.

“A job is a good job because working people fight to make it one,” President Trumka told the crowd at the rally. “It doesn’t matter if the job is in a coal mine or a hotel, a classroom or a car wash.

“Thats why the struggle of hotel workers here in San Francisco and across our country is so important. If we don’t protect the wages and benefits and health care of hotel workers no job is safe, no worker is safe, no family is safe.”

The Congress Hotel strike in Chicago continues to be the longest hotel strike in history.

First ‘app’ organizing victory

In December 2009, the writers of iLariums were organized as part of the Writers Guild of America, East (WGAE) — marking the first-ever app-iPhone organizing victory.

“And why not,” an article on the AFL-CIO blog asked?!

According to the union, “Comedy writers working in digital media deserve the same rights and protections as other workers.”

The Writers Guild of America, who held a strike in 2007 for TV writers over new media jurisdiction and residuals, is working to ensure that writers are represented and compensated fairly as the media and employment landscape shifts.

The AFL-CIO reported that under their new agreement, writers for apps such as “This Just In” — a program that delivers ten to 15 jokes to the iPhone a day — will be able to count what they write for the app toward WGAE health insurance and benefits.

Comedy writers protected by the new agreement include those who work at “The Daily Show,” “The Onion,” “Human Giant,” and “Saturday Night Live.”

iLarious staff voted to join the union with the encouragement of the company’s founder and comedy writer Fred Graver. Mr. Graver is a member of the WGAE and understands the importance of union representation.

“It’s important to the founders of iLariums that we bring the best talent to the table, and that we put a stake in the ground in this newly developing territory,” he said.

“The new means of producing content allows us to be owners and creators at the same time — and in the future, we look forward to being able to picket ourselves every few years.”

WGAE Executive Director Lowell Peterson, who worked to organize the writers, said he thinks the writers will benefit from a “creative community that is organized to advance their interests.”

“Signing on with the WGAE is a very important step for creators of digital media to gain the standing and strength they deserve,” he continued.

Labor history added to Wisconsin public education

Unionists in Wisconsin have successfully implemented labor history as part of the state’s public education standards. Dick Meister, a San Francisco-based columnist, recently wrote of the importance of the victory and the need for similar laws elsewhere.

Despite the role of unions in this country, the schools in most cases pay only slight attention to their history, if at all.

“Little is done in the classroom to overcome the negative view of organized labor held by many Americans; little is done to explain the true nature of organized labor,” the AFL-CIO wrote on its blog.

“There have been many attempts to remedy that situation, none more promising than the steps taken recently in Wisconsin, with enactment of a law that makes the teaching of labor history and collective bargaining part of the state’s model standards for social studies classes in the state’s public schools.”

The law does not mandate the teaching of labor history and collective bargaining, but amounts to pretty much the same thing by requiring the state superintendent of public instruction to make the subjects part of the state’s educational standards. It also provides teachers with the educational support to do so.

IFT endorses Dan Hynes for governor

The Illinois Federation of Teachers unanimously endorsed Dan Hynes for governor in the Feb. 2, 2010 primary election.

“After a thorough review of the positions of the candidates and their records, we believe that Dan Hynes has earned our support,” said IFT President Ed Geppert, Jr.

“Dan is an expert on state finance at a time when that skill is uniquely demanded in our state’s history. He skillfully managed the finances in the comptroller’s office, making serious budget cuts while avoiding layoffs to front line workers. He has shown integrity in his dealings with the IFT and he has a track record of being consistent in his policies,” he continued.

Mr. Hynes has proposed a progressive tax system that would lead Illinois out of its current fiscal crisis that threatens public education and vital public services. Mr. Hynes also has made proposals to address the economic crisis in the short term. The IFT has supported a number of revenue proposals over the years, including the ones Hynes has suggested. The IFT also supports an income tax increase to provide revenue in the short term until a progressive tax could be approved by voters. With the exception of a progressive tax, all of these proposals are subject to approval by the General Assembly and governor.

The IFT executive board completed a thorough study of the records of both Democrat and Republican candidates. Lengthy candidate questionnaires were reviewed and candidate interviews were conducted by the board.

“Now is the time for the IFT to stand behind Dan Hynes — the candidate who we believe will best support public education and public services and protect the hard-won livelihoods of working families,” said President Geppert.
Women’s Rights Committee outraged at Stupak Amendment

The Women’s Rights Committee is a strong advocate of health care reform that provides health care for all and ends discrimination based on gender, age, race and pre-existing conditions. The committee, and women’s groups across the country, were outraged at the Stupak Amendment to the Affordable Health Care for America Act which was passed by the U.S. House of Representatives. The amendment bans abortion coverage from federally subsidized insurance policies and would have the effect of eliminating abortion coverage by any insurance company that becomes a part of the new health reform system.

Committee members wrote to Senator Durbin and Senator Burris to urge that the Senate not approve any cuts to women’s health services in their version of the health care reform act. Senator Durbin responded, “I do not believe that health care reform is the proper place to try to change our nation’s abortion policies.”

The Senate defeated the Nelson amendment which was its version of the Stupak amendment. However, the bill they passed requires women to purchase what amounts to a rider policy to cover abortion services. The two bills have yet to be merged into one.

The Women’s Rights Committee contacted Karen Aronowitz, AFT Women’s Rights Chair, to urge AFT action to fight any cuts to women’s health care. Health care reform must not come at the cost of women’s reproductive health.

President Stewart also weighed in on the matter. “As our national organization, the AFT is clear in its stand with regard to pro-choice and women’s health issues, and both the state and local organizations will follow the National’s lead,” she said.

AFT adopted a pro-choice position in the 80s and has affirmed this position in recent years. The Women’s Rights Committee at both the local and state level has been a strong advocate for reproductive choice and women’s health care.

According to CTU Women’s Rights Chair Helen Ramirez-Odell, “We want AFT to be visible and vocal in support of women’s reproductive rights in health care reform.”

• IMPORTANT •

Scholarship Information

CTU members who wish to obtain an application for the Union’s annual scholarships available to sons and daughters of members should write to

Connie Thorps
222 Merchandise Mart Plaza, Chicago, IL 60654
or e-mail conniethorps@ctulocal1.com

Requests MUST be made in writing.
Deadline for applications is 5 p.m., April 30.
All winners will be notified by letter of the committee’s decision by May 15.
PASS IT ON

Papermaking project teaches students important life lessons

By Jenny Celander, Associate Editor

It’s not often that a school project can provide students with invaluable lessons and keep them excited about learning, but in Amie Greer’s classroom at Vaughn Occupational High School her papermaking project does just that.

Two things make Vaughn Occupational so unique. The school is the only high school in the city for students with mild to moderate cognitive disabilities. The curriculum encourages student independence and helps teach important social, life, and work skills.

Vaughn is also unique in that, through a grant, the school has become a “zero-waste” facility. Many classrooms at the school have compost bins where students feed scraps of food to the worms inside. Students carry scraps back from lunch to put in the bin and the culinary arts classroom’s waste is reduced through composting.

The school also uses eco-friendly cleaning supplies and environmentally friendly hand soap. They use both sides of paper in the office and make art projects and murals out of non-traditional materials like plastic bottle caps.

Last year, the school received a grant to build a green house. The students have helped build, shovel, and plant and have learned about caring for flowers and growing vegetables.

One of the biggest projects, though, is the recycling of the school’s used paper which is transformed into hand-made cards, plantable cutout flowers filled with seeds, and bulletin board letters. After the students make hand crafted paper, they create the items and sell them at school events and to other schools in the area. And, Ms. Greer’s students see the project through start to finish.

Amie explained that the project was started by the science teacher that proceeded her but she has continued it and has expanded it to include the handmade cards and flowers.

The paper is made through a series of steps. First, paper is collected and separated by color. Then, students cut the paper into tiny bits. Ms. Greer said she tried using shredders but they burned out so quickly that it just became easier for her students to cut the paper up themselves.

The cut up pieces are then combined with water and blended together in blenders to make paper pulp. The students then dump the liquid into a bin and flatten the substance on screens to form the paper. The wet paper is transferred onto wax paper to dry.

“They all know their jobs and they really enjoy doing this,” said Ms. Greer.

Teaching wasn’t Amie’s original career path. She went to school for advertising and worked at an advertising agency until she was laid off five years ago. After losing her job, she decided to be a teacher assistant at Montefiore Special Elementary School and loved it so much she went back to school and did an alternative certification program through Chicago Public Schools.

She then received a master’s from Roosevelt University in special education. Three years ago, Amie went through the Chicago Teachers Union’s Nurturing Teacher Leadership program to get her National Board Certification. She has been working as a mentor for the program ever since.

In her third year at Vaughn, Amie said she fell into teaching but, “I just loved it and I said, you know what? This is what I’m going to do...I would never do anything else.”

In a way, Amie’s advertising background influences her papermaking project. Ms. Greer’s students not only make the paper and cards, they advertise for their goods and sell them during the holidays at school events.

The students have also partnered with a reading classroom who has taken over the responsibility of making the paper letters which are sold to neighboring schools for bulletin boards.

“Each letter is kept in a bin and then when an order comes in, the kids have to pull the letters to complete the order. They see this from start to finish, so they really own it.”

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"They love it, they love this school," Amie said. "And, I love it. It's just a happy place."

Explained. "They see this from start to finish, so they really own it."

Ms. Greer's students also see the rewards of their work. The cards and flowers they sell, for 50 cents a piece, go back to funding the project. Amie said the project is generally very low cost, but the supplies they do need come from the money they make. And, sometimes, the cards even help fund a school event.

"We make enough to keep it going and tomorrow's pizza party we're funding through the money we made from cards," Amie said. "I haven't had to buy anything but wax paper. We don't use any dyes or anything because we use the colored paper."

The project not only teaches students about the importance of recycling, it conveys skills useful for these students later on.

Ms. Greer explained that most of her students will go on from high school to get a job.

"This process teaches them how to work with each other, work in a job situation with each other, how to count on each other...that's a huge one," she said. "Social emotional learning, getting along with others, cleaning up, organizational skills, too."

Amie said she often runs into her students in the neighborhood. Many of them do hold jobs.

"A lot of them work at the movie theater. I'll see them at Jewel. I run into them all the time."

Ms. Greer credits Vaughn Occupational for preparing students for the workforce. The school not only teaches job skills within the building, it partners with outside organizations to set students up with jobs. Senior seminar teachers have worked out an agreement with sports teams around the city to have students wrap hot dogs for games in the spring. The school also has travel trainers who help students learn how to ride the CTA.

"Travel trainers show the students how to get from home to work — when to pull the string on the bus, what to listen for, what to watch for," Amie explained.

One thing that makes her job easy is that her kids want to learn. "They really are eager to learn," she said. "Some of them wanted a homework packet to take home with them over the break."

There are challenges too. "Their social skills. 'He called me a name.' They don't always understand their feelings so much. The littlest, tiny thing sticks with them."

One last thing stands out at Vaughn — how much the students and teachers enjoy their school.

"They love it, they love this school," Amie said. "And, I love it. It's just a happy place."
ACE offers tuition savings to CTU

The American College of Education (ACE) is offering a discount on courses to Chicago Teachers Union members. ACE is giving $250,000 in tuition grants to the first 500 CTU members who apply.

Each $500 tuition grant will be applied to graduate courses at ACE — $100 for five courses.

To be eligible, applicants must be a member of the CTU, a new applicant to ACE, and they must meet the institution’s admission requirements. The grants are on a first come, first serve basis. They will be offered for a limited time only.

More information about the offer and a form to sign up can be found by visiting the ACE link posted on the CTU website at www.ctunet.com/grantsandoffers.

CFL offers annual labor scholarship opportunity

The Chicago Federation of Labor (CFL) will once again offer the William A. Lee Memorial Scholarship Awards to ten graduating high school students in the Chicago area.

The awards are a memorial to William Lee who served as CFL president for 38 years.

The scholarships are offered to members, or to students whose parents are members of a local union affiliated with the CFL. Mr. Lee devoted over 60 years to labor and civic and community service.

The CFL will choose five academic based scholarship recipients and five random-drawing recipients. Awards with be for $2,000 and will be available for use at any accredited college or university in the United States.

Students must only submit for one of the two categories. All applications must be received before March 1. More information and a copy of the application forms can be found by visiting www.chicagolabor.org.

Union Plus offers scholarship awards

For over 15 years Union Plus has provided scholarships to help union members and their children attend college — more than 2.4 million scholarship dollars have been distributed to working families. The Union Plus Scholarship Program is offered through the Union Plus Education Foundation.

A wide selection of students have been chosen for university, college, trade school or technical scholarships. The selection process is very competitive as more than 5,000 applications are accepted each year.

The scholarships are open to students attending or planning to attend a college, university, community college, technical college or trade school. Applicants are evaluated on academic record, social awareness, financial need and labor appreciation.

Scholarship applications are first reviewed by a panel of independent career professionals and are then judged by a committee of impartial post-secondary educators. Semi-finalists are chosen and then move to further review and selection by judges.

The scholarship amounts range from $500 to $4,000. The award is a one time payment to individual winners for study beginning in the fall of that same year.

The deadline for this scholarship is January 30. More information and an application form can be found by visiting www.unionplus.org.

Summer grant deadline approaching

The deadline for educators to apply for individual and team grants from The Fund for Teachers is fast approaching. The Fund is offering $5,000 individual grants and $10,000 team grants for this summer. Applications must be received by January 29.

Fund for Teachers encourages teachers to submit proposals for their own learning odysseys. Destinations and disciplines are limitless as shown by the variety of projects from the 3,500 teachers over the past nine years. The Fund has awarded grants for tours, conferences, and independent studies on every continent. Previous participants have:

- explored Hawaii’s active volcanoes;
- studied Islam through Morocco’s political, social and economic development;
- conducted research on the chemical impact of Puerto Rico’s environment;
- participated in a hands-on study of Beluga whales;
- and sharpened their Spanish skills in Guatemala.

The Fund for Teachers allows teachers the freedom to design their experience in a way that will most benefit their lives, profession, and community. Applicants must outline their vision in a proposal that will explain how their summer fellowship will make them a better teacher and how it will impact their curriculum. The proposals are evaluated by a selection committee made up of community members, donors, local educators and past recipients.

For more information visit www.fundforteachers.org.
Kevin Rutter was recognized at a recent Chicago Teachers Union Executive Board meeting for being awarded the 2009-2010 Illinois Teacher of the Year. Mr. Rutter has been a teacher for 11 years and is currently teaching economics at Carl Schurz High School. He also coaches the debate team at the school.

Mr. Rutter was chosen from ten finalists for the award by a panel of educators, according to the Illinois State Board of Education.

President Stewart congratulated Mr. Rutter.

“We always say Chicago has the best teachers,” she said. “This proves it!”

Schurz Principal Mary Ann C. Folino praised Mr. Rutter as a leader and a teacher who goes “well beyond the usual expectations for a teacher.”

She said Kevin challenges his students by teaching lessons that are relevant to the current culture and uses best selling books, such as Freakonomics and The Flat World, to illustrate his points.

“In the classroom, Kevin ensures that his students are constantly challenged,” Ms. Folino wrote in her nomination letter. “His lectures are dynamic and always include current events and popular culture to underline the relevance of the work to the lives and times of his students.”

Mr. Rutter credits his high school history teacher and his grandfather for his career path.

He said his grandfather taught him the importance of giving to others. “Kevin’s enthusiasm for teaching really shines through and sets him apart,” said State Superintendent of Education Christopher A. Koch. “Kevin demonstrates a true understanding of the needs of his students which is evident in his dedication to help them succeed both academically and in their extra curricular pursuits. He holds his students and himself to high standards and will be an excellent representative of our teachers across the state.”

Mr. Rutter has made many connections in the business community and has provided his students with internship and job shadowing opportunities. He also spends many hours and weekends working with his students on the debate team.

Nearly 175 nominations were accepted for review by the selection committee of administrators, teachers, school board members, representatives from education service personnel, student support personnel and former Teacher of the Year winners.

As this year’s winner, Kevin will share his knowledge and expertise at teacher workshops, educational conferences, and civic and community meetings. He will receive a lifetime tuition waiver to state universities and will represent the Illinois at a number of national events and conferences.

Oppenheimer Family Foundation awards Teacher Incentive Grants

In early December, the Oppenheimer Family Foundation awarded nearly $160,000 to 291 teachers for innovative classroom projects. Some of the projects include a butterfly sanctuary, a multimedia sound-mixing lab, and an Italian herb garden.

One hundred and twenty-five projects will be funded through the Oppenheimer Family Foundation’s Teacher Incentive Grants, which were presented at an awards ceremony on December 3 at Robert Clemente High School.

This year, the Foundation will also award Mary Bonnett, the founder and director of the theater program at Franklin Arts Center, with the OPPY Award for Excellence in Teaching.

“We want to support these teachers who are each working to accomplish something extraordinary inside and outside their classrooms,” said Ted Oppenheimer, President of the Foundation.

“They took the initiative to apply for this grant because they are striving to break out of the traditional curricular molds and introduce their students to project-based learning. We are proud to help them accomplish that goal.”

The Foundation was founded in 1933 to support the work of Chicago non-profit groups in the areas of education, the environment and crime prevention. The Oppenheimer Foundation’s Teacher Incentive Grant program is in its 34th year.
Veteran science teacher a true lifelong learner

by Melani Davis, Editor

CHRISTINE ETAPA: CLISSOLD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Chris Etapa is exactly the kind of teacher you hope your kids will encounter in their formative years — she’s the teacher you grew up with yourself — down-to-earth, tough but fair, and cares a lot — the teacher you never want to disappoint so you just do better and stay out of trouble.

Ms. Etapa’s success as a teacher may have something to do with the high standards she sets for herself and the determination she brings to her own life. She has faced a lot of challenges to get where she is today, working her way up methodically through the ranks from PTO parent, to PTO president, PSRP, and finally, teacher. All the while, she continued to pursue her own education, earning an associates degree, a B.A. in education and a masters in science. (She is currently pursuing a second masters degree in math.) In her spare time, she managed to become a National Board Certified Teacher and continues to mentor other teachers. Chris is also the mother of twins and a cancer survivor.

Her journey began at Gunsaulus School where she spent 27 years, first, teaching fifth graders then moving to teach 7th and 8th grade science, her true passion. “I started out as a PTO mom and went all the way up the ranks,” Chris laughs. “I knew the parents, had six or seven siblings from the same family, was even getting children of the kids that I taught…it was really comfortable.”

She knows she has a reputation for being tough, Chris says, but “tough love, not tough mean.” And she claims, sometimes being from the neighborhood can be pretty helpful.

“I could say to the kids, don’t give me a hard time because I’m going to see your mom over the fence tonight and I will let her know. I have high standards for the kids. I’m flexible, but only to a point. At the same time I give a lot. We had pizza parties, I would get out in the hall and dance with them — they knew they could talk to me. So, yes, I was very comfortable there.”

When the Gunsaulus principal decided last year to switch her to a kindergarten classroom though, Chris felt it might be time to make a change.

“I love the kids, but kindergarten? Had this been offered to me early in my career I would have made it my own, but at my age and physical condition? I have arthritis in my back and I was getting on the floor with the kids and getting up...They needed someone agile, not someone who gallops around the room and then goes home to use a tube of Ben Gay. I didn’t feel comfortable and I was doing them a disservice. Because all of my educational experience was for upper grades and I knew I wasn’t going to be happy.”

When she learned of a position open teaching science at Clissold Elementary just after the start of this school year, she took advantage of it.

“I love 7th and 8th graders, even though they can be a challenge. It’s nice to see them grow into young adults. So far, the parents and staff have been very supportive here and the principal seems very knowledgeable from the staff developments we’ve had. She’s open to ideas and very complimentary — says she feels like the school could run itself, which is nice to hear.”

Ms. Etapa also appreciates the diversity of staff and students at Clissold and the mix of new and veteran teachers. “Everybody gets along,” she says. “I don’t see anybody with attitudes in the hall.”

Was it difficult for her to begin again at a new school after 27 years in the same community? “I’m a survivor, she laughs. “My dad used to tell me — and I live by this — anything that doesn’t kill you just makes you stronger.”

If she were to offer advice for new teachers it would be this: “If you’re in it for the money, leave the career now.” She says the money will never be compensation enough for the things you will have to get through.

“Teaching is a calling, I think. Like being a nurse or a nun. You’ve got to like children. You’ve got to like the job to get up every morning to do the things that you have to do. The best thing about teaching is when the light bulb comes on, on a kid’s face — and you can see it. You get the warm fuzzies and it’s better than the paycheck sometimes.” She laughs, “I do like to pay my rent though.”

But also be prepared for some heartbreak, Ms. Etapa warns. “I’ve lost students to gangs, I’ve lost a twelve year-old to cancer…I don’t think you ever get used to that.”

“Gain support of parents, too,” she continues. “Listen and always treat them with respect and most of the time you’ll get respect back.”

Besides earning a second masters degree and getting comfortable teaching in a new school environment, what else is Chris working on?

“I had always wanted to play piano before I died and when I was diagnosed with cancer I started taking piano lessons. I am not a virtuoso by any means but I’m happy that I can sit down and plunk out a tune here and there.”
Snapshots from the annual Retiree holiday luncheon

photos by Jenny Celander
CHICAGO STATE UNIVERSITY
Graduate & Undergraduate Programs Spring 2010

All Classes will be held at the
Chicago Teachers Union
222 Merchandise Mart Plaza, Suite 400, Chicago, IL

ELCF 5440
PHILOSOPHY, CURRICULUM, AND INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS FOR THE MIDDLE SCHOOL (3)
Examination of the origin and development of concept, responsibilities of the middle school classroom teacher, and developmentally appropriate instructional practices for middle school teaching, including content area reading.
(Middle Grade Endorsement Class)
Saturdays, Jan. 23 - March 27, 2010 • 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. • Instructor: TBD

PSYC 4210UG/5210G
ADOLESCENT PSYCHOLOGY FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHERS (3)
Explores the development issues of early adolescence as they pertain to middle school education. Explores the advisory role of middle school teachers in assessing and referring student to health and social service agencies (Middle School Endorsement Class)
Saturdays, Jan. 23 - March 27, 2010 • 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. • Instructor: TBD

READING 5310
BEST PRACTICES IN MIDDLE SCHOOL READING (3)
(Prerequisite: Valid State of Illinois Teaching Certificate)
Middle School philosophy and specific reading practices geared to the middle school learner. Emphasis is on best practices in instructional planning and preparation, interactive learning strategies and assessment.
Fridays, Jan. 22 - March 26, 2010 • 5 p.m. - 9 p.m. • Instructor: TBD

To register, download and complete the Chicago State University class registration form online at ctunet.com and mail along with your check payable to CTU Graduate Program to:
CTU Graduate Program
222 Merchandise Mart Plaza, Suite 400
Chicago 60654-1016

Direct questions to Verna Gray-Jones 312-329-6276

Is Your Class Size Too Large to Teach Effectively?

If your class size is above the limit as defined in article 28-1 of the Chicago Teachers Union — Chicago Board of Education contract, please file a class size referral. Article 28 and the Class Size Referral Form can be found on www.ctunet.com

A class size monitoring panel, comprised of two retired teachers and one retired principal, will visit your school to assess the situation and develop a resolution.

If you have any questions, please contact Erin Doubleday 312.329.6231 or erindoubleday@ctulocal1.com.

THE CHICAGO TEACHERS UNION NORTH SIDE BOWLING LEAGUE NEEDS NEW BOWLERS...

The league was decimated this year by the deep recession. The league bowls every Friday after school at Diversey River Bowl, 2211 W. Diversey in Chicago. If you fee you can afford the $15 fee to bowl, you are cordially invited to join us for the second half of the season.

Bowling begins at 4 p.m. Just show up or bring a team from your school (4 people, no more than two men) for some great exercise.

Call John Jasionowsky at 847-297-7633 or Reggie Simon 847-956-8371 for additional details.
In Memoriam

September 2009
02 Kelly, Donna Disney Magnet
07 Kirsh, Mildred Fulton

October 2009
02 Montgomery, Bessie Coonley
05 Donelson, Annie R Westcott
15 Jones, Charles S Wadsworth
24 Roy, David Jefferson
24 Davis, Sylvia E Waller HS
27 Diviningracia, Pedrito Farragut
28 Penland, Dorothy E White
29 Hood, Nivia J Ablige
29 O’Connor, Patricia T Central Office
30 Williams, Alton John Dunbar Voc HS
31 Gillie, Marcella C Bass

November 2009
01 Duncan, Winifred E Central Office
03 Pitts, Louis F Williams
04 Kakacek, June R Whitney
04 Stacker, Myrtle Y Goudy
04 Yablonog, Inez V Kilmer
06 Peischl, Michael A Tilden HS
07 Martin Robinson, Lois E Central Office
08 Ross, Donald M Williams
09 Stezek, Patricia B Howe
10 Cee, Helen M Dewes
10 Rovner, Elizabeth Lane Tech HS
10 Ward, Alvin Bureau Of Spec. Needs
11 Bailey, Doris J Fairfield Academy
11 Morris, Vera A Sherman
11 Smith, Richard C Central Office
12 Baughan, Pauline S McPherson
12 Kelly, Raymond T Calumet HS
12 Nortman, Arthur Taft HS
12 Goudschaal, Claudia Ebinger
14 Kelly, Betty Hamilton
15 Alt, Anne U Phillips HS
16 Shapira, David V Van Vlissingen
16 Tucker-Smith, Sandra Douglass Comm Acad
18 Cartwright, Rose M Garvey
18 Jonathan, Laura F Collins HS
18 Tademan, Joseph J Kelvyn Park HS
20 Apke, Nancy Joan Hancock H S
20 Gouland, Rozia Spaulding HS
21 Hammerrman, Lenore Taylor
21 Roehl, Emil L Roosevelt HS
21 Williams, Alvin Marshall HS
21 Chestang, Ernest Volta
21 Quintilliano, Patrick V Dever
22 Kelly, Dorthie G Bond
22 Seltzer, Phyllis Z Sayre Academy
23 Bryant, William J Westcott
23 Ellis-Hawkins, Annette Inter-American
25 Hagen, Robert E Westinghouse HS
25 Rich, Ethel M Brennemann
25 Kane, Dermott P Central Office
25 Levin, Arthur J Dist. 10
26 Riley, Phyllis J Robeson HS
26 White, Phillip E Penn
28 Uland, Marion L Sutherland
29 Silverman, Arline Foreman HS
29 Molstein, Harriet Sheridan
29 Thomas, Odelle Bhaugen
30 Vesecky, Marie E Joplin
30 Watson, Edith D einstein
30 White, Phillip E Penn
30 Yablonog, Inez V Kilmer
30 Nagy, Violet M Lawrence

December 2009
01 Schwartz, Bettina Jackson
02 Redwood, Harold S Luella
04 Wiertelak, Carolyn Stevenson
05 Struzik, Helen Bureau of Child Study
05 McIntyre, Mary Ann Byne
06 Riley, Phyllis J Robeson HS
08 UILand, Marion L Sutherland
09 Silverman, Arline Foreman HS
11 Malstein, Harriet Sheridan
11 Thomas, Odelle Bhaugen
11 Vesecky, Marie E Joplin
12 Watson, Edith D einstein
12 Thomas, Odelle Bhaugen
12 White, Phillip E Penn
12 O’Brien, Harriet Lane Tech HS
13 Thomas, Clarence H Ray
14 Boucher, Edward J Lindblom HS
16 Schott, Helen A Gladstone
16 Taylor, Fay Coco Mann
16 Wok, Goldie Sub
17 O’Brien, Harriet Lane Tech HS
20 Dolan, Mary Ellen Bell
21 Duffle, William B Orr HS
21 Khantis, Sharren A Morse
21 Simon, Eleanor L Volta
24 Nieder, Ann M Barry
26 Johnson, Leon L Williams Multiplex
26 Steinberg, Rubin Curie HS
28 Roseenthal, Erika H Coonley
28 Gzesh, Lorraine K Bowen HS
29 Miller, Susan E Ogden
30 Miller, Susan E Ogden
30 Nagy, Violet M Lawrence

Editor’s Note:
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Snow Days Chicago is a three-day winter festival held on Michigan Ave. in Grant Park, featuring a national snow sculpting competition, dog sled demonstrations, a snowboard rail jam and activities for children.

Each year the event transforms the city into a winter wonderland showcasing over 27 beautiful and unique sculptures made entirely out of snow.

The event will be held on January 29 through the 31 and admission is free.

Specific activities include:
- snow sculpting teams;
- high school snow sculpting exhibition;
- activities igloo;
- dogsled racing and weight pulling demonstrations;
- and a snowboard rail jam.

Hours for the festival are Friday, January 29 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.; Saturday, January 30 and Sunday, January 31 from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Snow sculpting will take place on Wednesday, January 27 through Saturday, January 30 at 3 p.m. Cast your vote for the “People’s Choice Award” on Saturday from 11 a.m. to a 4 p.m. and see who wins at the Awards Ceremony on Saturday at 6 p.m. at the Chicago Hilton and Towers, 3rd Floor Waldorf Room (open to the public).

For more information about this event visit www.explorecicago.org.

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