

Watch along the *Kanawha*

May/June 2010

EDUCATION IS UNDER FIRE AND TEACHERS ARE ON THE FRONT LINES!

Almost everyone, including the governor, some legislators, and the State Board, is ready to criticize teachers for all the ills of society!

It's time to stand up! Contact legislators and speak out. This is just the first step in trying to stop the unjustified criticisms being thrown at educators, and make real improvements in education.

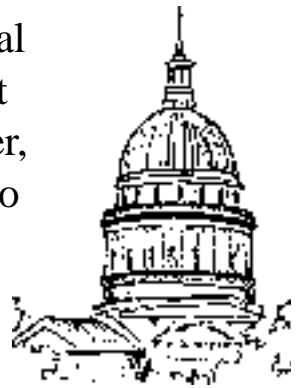
The last people who are asked about how to solve the problems in education... are the first to take the heat. For years teachers have suggested lower teacher/pupil ratios in all classes, fewer new programs each year, putting meat into the attendance laws, meaningful staff development, parent involvement, technologists in each school, less time spent testing, alternative settings for disruptive

students, more vocational opportunities, consistent discipline, etc. However, there was never money to implement most of the ideas suggested by teachers.

Now it's a Race to the Top—not for our students, but for the money. What will the money be used for ... more new programs ... more staff development, but not necessarily the programs teachers think would improve our schools????

Someone at “the top” needs to admit—it's not about the kids, it is about the money.

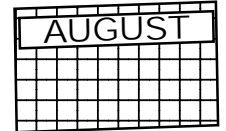
Dinah Adkins
Grandmother-to-be.



Don't just vent...

CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATORS!
(contact information at www.WVEA.org)

School Calendar is a Priority Issue



During the past year, KCEA President, Dinah Adkins, has spoken at several board meetings requesting the administration and board members support sending a survey to employees concerning the adoption of the school calendar. She then asked that the information be given to the calendar committee as a basis for their calendar proposals for the 2010-11 school year. The board members were supportive of these ideas.

As the meetings progressed and the calendar proposals were finalized, most board members were very supportive of honoring the outcome of the survey, and the employee vote, in order to have a calendar which satisfied employees. Most supported tying Spring Break to the Easter Holiday. They were also

supportive of a traditional start to the school year, instead of starting the year early, especially since employees and parents would have little time to prepare for an early start in 2010.

Working with board members on this issue has allowed the KSC calendar for 2010-11 to be determined with less frustration for employees. Hopefully, another survey will be provided before the next calendar committee meets.

In the fall, the calendar committee will meet to work on the school calendar for 2011-12. Let the board members know what you think would best serve the students and employees of Kanawha County.

THERE WILL BE A STRONG PUSH TO START THE SCHOOL YEAR IN EARLY AUGUST, 2012 AND POSSIBLY SCHEDULE SPRING BREAK EARLY. Keep in touch with KCEA and all of the board members — SPEAK OUT!!

Robin Rector 304-965-5971

Bill Raglin 304-768-8930

Jim Crawford..... 304-727-4997

Pete Thaw 304-346-1644

Becky Jordan..... 304-546-0042

THE KANAWHA COUNTY EDUCATION ASSOCIATION is the only teacher association supporting Spring Break tied to the Easter holidays, and the traditional starting time in mid-August. We listen to our members.

AWARD WINNING

Watch Along the Kanawha

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Member Comments and Suggestions For Future Articles
 are Invited by Writing to the Editor at the above address or
 you can e-mail the editor at dhadkins@gmail.com

WEB SITES YOU CAN USE!

AWARD WINNING

KCEA: <http://pages.suddenlink.net/kcea/>

<http://boe.kana.k12.wv.us/>

www.wvea.org

www.nea.org

KCEA Meeting

The May 17th KCEA meeting was held at the Shoney's in the Quincy Mall. Our Executive Committee voted to move the meeting location in order to provide an opportunity for building representatives and members in the eastern end of Kanawha County to attend.

As these communities continue to recover from the recent mine tragedy, we offered our support by providing a convenient location to meet with members and show our concern. Thanks to those who attended.

CONGRATULATIONS

Deb Odell, Herbert Hoover High School teacher and KCEA/WVEA member, was selected as the Teacher of the Year by the national group American Lawyers Auxiliary. Deb will receive her award in San Francisco in August.

A Special Thank You to the KCEA PAC Committee—

The KCEA Political Action Committee (PAC) had a challenging and time-consuming job. Thanks to all those who participated in the interview process this year.

GOT QUESTIONS??

WVEA
Help
 CENTER
 1.866.568.WVEA

Summer Savings \$\$\$\$

Don't forget to use your WVEA ACCESS Card this summer. Save money on motels, car rental, restaurants, household items, clothing, electronics, tickets to amusement parks, etc.

Go online to www.WVEA.org and click Member Benefits. Then click on the membership card, find the discount your want, print your coupon, and SAVE! Remember, this is a nationwide program, so type in the name of your vacation spot and pull up discounts in that area.

Student Teachers, New Employees,
 Veteran Teachers

Join KCEA/WVEA

Be a member of your professional
 education organization

"No dues 'til fall"--

membership form on the back

SPECIAL SESSION OF THE LEGISLATURE

The first Special Session of the Legislature has ended, Task Force members are meeting, and another Special Session will begin June 7. Check WVEA.org daily for updates and contact information.

**CONTACT LEGISLATORS—
 SPEAK UP FOR EDUCATION!**

