

Spring Hill Education Association Newsletter

April/May 2007
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SHEA Supports Capitol Outlay Levy Vote

Editorial

The old adage “April Showers Bring May Flowers,” may be true; but also true is April showers may bring leaky roofs!

I attended a meeting at the Spring Hill Community Center on May 1, regarding the need for Spring Hill voters to vote ‘yes’ on the Capitol Outlay Levy.

Part way into the meeting, a strong storm rolled over us. The rain was beating down on the roof with such force we could barely hear the speaker. Just then it happened...***water started leaking from the roof—right in front of me!*** Someone put a trash can under the leak until the rain had subsided.

I thought to myself, “How perfect was this?” ***A thunderous example of exactly why Spring Hill Schools need to have the Capitol Outlay Levy approved.*** I didn’t think twice about the likelihood that the Community Center has some type of budget to fix such problems.

One would automatically think our School District would also have such a

budget (like most home owners do) for these types of unexpected and/or necessary ‘home repairs’.

Alas, but sadly it is not true. Our school district **does not have** such a ‘home repair’ budget.

So as the money in the current capitol outlay fund dwindles with each necessary repair to any one of our district’s buildings, the pot just becomes smaller and smaller with no way to replenishment it.

What does this mean to us as teachers? It means that when the current capitol outlay monies are depleted, the district must begin taking money from the General Fund.

Do you know where you salaries come from? That’s right: The General Fund. ***I encourage every USD 230 employee who votes in Spring Hill to vote ‘yes’ on the upcoming Capitol Outlay Levy.***

Please join me in voting ‘yes’ for this necessary levy.

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“Please join me in voting ‘yes’ for this necessary levy.”

The facts, ma’am, just the facts

By Georann Whitman, SHEA President

A ballot will be mailed to every **registered** Spring Hill School District **voter** on May 30th. If you are not registered, do so by May 20. Forms are available in your school’s office, they will forwarded completed forms to the board office for mailing.

The capitol outlay is a tax used for facility upkeep, maintenance, remodeling, and the purchase of necessary equipment--just to name a few things. It cannot be used for any sort of administrator or teacher salary.

The mill levy is nothing new. Some districts have a lot more than the 4.0 mill levy being

asked for in the upcoming vote. Currently, we are the only school district in our area without a capitol outlay levy, and none of them have less than the 4.0 mill levy being asked for by YOUR schools.

I have often heard the question, “Why don’t we pay for these expenses out of the bond issue?” Because, bond issues are for the purpose of building a specific school. That money cannot be used for facility upkeep, maintenance, and the necessary repairs experienced by all district facilities.

I encourage your ‘yes’ vote on this important issue.



KNEA News

There were a couple of things discussed at the commission meeting Saturday that I wanted to share before our next TTU board meeting. Cyndi Menzel wanted us to remind our members about the Educator's Resource Library located on the KNEA website in the "Members Only" section. Also, we voted to continue the

"Our Amazing Members" page, but no one has nominated anyone in some time. Cyndi wanted us to remind our members about it. You can find the information at: http://ks.nea.org/aboutknea/amazing_members

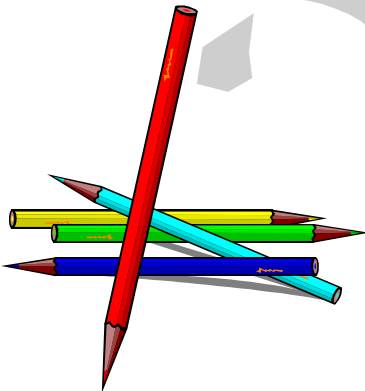
Connect with Kids Aird Saturday May 5 at 8:30 a.m.

What Happens

Hello Educators: KMBC-TV 9 (ABC), in partnership with CWK Network and the "Connect with Kids" community initiative, will air "After the Bell" on Saturday, May 5th at 8:30 a.m. This television special focuses on the dangers kids face when they are alone after

school. For future half-hour specials airing on KMBC-TV 9 (ABC), please visit: www.connectwithkids.com/kmbc and click on "TV Programs."

Draw Along



"There are many great activities students can do as you read aloud. One that is popular with my students is 'Draw-Along', where students draw small representations of what is happening in the plot as I read. They connect the plot pictures with arrows showing the appropriate sequencing. It's important to model this activity for students before letting them go solo.

I use a fairy tale or other common story to model, showing students that I am not looking for great artwork, but rather a clear sequence. The idea is that students should be able to retell a chapter based on their drawings."

From Heather Sparks, a fourth/fifth grade teacher at Wheeler Community Learning Center in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Down Time Statues

"They also know if they purposely try to get some of their classmates out, they will not be able to play the next round."

"Something my kids have always enjoyed during any downtime/waiting part of the day is playing Statue. The rules are simple. They are allowed to blink and breathe. Anything else is an automatic out. At first they enjoy striking silly poses, but then they quickly realizes it's hard to maintain a frozen position, and they will soon settle down into a quiet sitting position for longer and longer periods of time. They also know if they purposely try to get some of their classmates out, they will not be able to

From Erin, a second grade teacher

play the next round. If you have a hard time keeping track of who is still in the game, have them stand as still as a statue and sit as you see them move. Soon it will be down to a handful, with the rest keeping a watchful eye for wiggles. The winner is applauded (or given a sticker) and next round begins. They always want to play just one more time, and soon their effort to remain quiet and frozen make for an enjoyable wait."

Repeating Directions From Stephanie Gronholz, an English teacher at Iver C. Ranum High School in Denver, Colorado

"I've struggled with students being confused after I give directions for independent work. Many of the students get right to work on an assignment, but some sit in their seats and do nothing. I race around the room giving individualized help and am often repeating myself. Now, after giving directions, I ask students to rate themselves 1-5, 1 meaning they don't understand most of what I said and 5

meaning that they could get started on the assignment as soon as I say 'go.' (To avoid embarrassment, students discreetly hold the appropriate number of fingers right in front of themselves.) I take a quick survey of the room and say that 4's and 5's can get started. I ask that anyone who rated themselves 3 or lower circle up their chairs with me so I can answer questions.

I answer questions or repeat directions, and students leave the circle once they can rate themselves a 5. The students who are ready to work aren't bored by me repeating directions, and the more needy students are truly grateful for my help. Plus, I'm not running around the room sounding like a broken record!"

Sundae Celebrations — From Nancy Claggett, a second grade teacher

"I have monthly celebrations that parents are invited to attend. These celebrations are tied to a study learning or research activity. For example, September is National Ice Cream month. My students work with a partner in the library 'fact finding' information on ice cream. At first, they need lots of assistance but get fairly independent as the year progresses. The partners then give a videotaped oral presentation, averaging three minutes. On the day of

our celebration, parents are invited for lunch in the classroom. While we eat sandwiches and veggies (often donated by a local grocery store), the parents watch their children's presentations. Then we have dessert, ice cream sundaes for which the children and parents bring the ingredients! My husband will make copies of the presentations for parents who want them. We make a CD with all the presentations at the end of the school year. Parents love these celebrations! We hold the presentations at lunch time, which allows many parents to attend and helps them connect with their child, the school, and the teacher. These presentations are a big win in my book."



Easing Combination Lock Anxiety

"Many upper elementary students have a lot of anxiety about moving on to middle school. Dealing with lockers is a big part of that anxiety. I take a combination lock and hang it on a closet door with the combination taped nearby. Students who finish their class work practice on my lock. By the end of the year, all of my students are comfortable using a combination lock." send parents and families?

"Many upper elementary students have a lot of anxiety about moving on to middle school."

Dan Saborio, assistant principal at Justice Elementary School in West Hills, California

The FTC's Identity Theft Website

This website is a one-stop national resource to learn about the crime of identity theft. It provides detailed information to help you deter, detect, and defend against identity theft.

On this site, consumers can learn how to avoid identity theft - and learn what to do if their identity is stolen. Businesses can learn how to help their customers deal with identity theft, as well as how to prevent problems in the first place. Law enforcement can get resources and learn how to help victims of identity theft.



Click on: <http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/microsites/idtheft>

YOUR SHEA OFFICER TEAM

**SHEA PRESIDENT -
GEORANN WHITMAN**

**SHEA VICE PRESIDENT -
CHARLENE NOVAKOVICH**

**SHEA TREASURER -
MARSHA LYTLE**

**SHEA SECRETARY -
JANEL CARBAJO**

Four Square Comprehension

From Heather Sparks, a fourth/fifth grade teacher at Wheeler Community Learning Center in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

"I use an activity called 'Four Square' to target students' comprehension skills. Students keep a spiral notebook with each page divided into four equal parts. The top left box is labeled 'Questions I Have'. In this section, students write questions that pop into their heads as I read aloud. The top right box is labeled 'Answers I Found'. Students write any answers they hear to the questions they listed. The bottom left square is labeled 'Mental Picture'. Students draw a picture

of what they are visualizing after I read a specific passage which could be a paragraph or an entire chapter. If there is a vivid description in a chapter, I will reread a section and ask students to draw a picture representing that section. The bottom right square is reserved for 'Written Response'. Here students respond to a question I pose. The questions can be predictions, comprehension, sequencing or whatever skill the students need to practice. This activity keeps kids connected to my reading and serves as a great alternative to assessments as well!"

Note Exchange *From Heather, a middle school special education teacher*

"I offer a 'note exchange' because many students have difficulties with fine motor skills and auditory processing. Students need to practice note taking skills in preparation for high school, but they need to do it in safe circumstances. They worry about keeping up and getting all of the main points down correctly. I ask students to take notes and write down the key ideas during a lecture. Afterwards, I collect

their notes and make sure that they made a concerted effort throughout the entirety of the lecture (rather than just the first few minutes). I also reward students with a typed copy of my lecture notes, which I prepared beforehand. This process allows me to model note taking (which is not done often for students) and to take away their anxiety about the process and allow them to truly practice."

WELCOME TO THE KNEA'S ACCESS TO SAVINGS PLAN



KNEA OFFERS THIS PROGRAM TO HELP MEMBERS SAVE MONEY AND ENJOY A WIDE VARIETY OF DISCOUNTS AND SAVINGS OPPORTUNITIES.

Domino's Pizza 50% NEW

\$6 for large 1-topping pizza. **Coupon required.**

Casey's General Store

\$2 off a large pizza. **Coupon required.**



Blake West, KNEA President

WHAT BETTER WAY TO HONOR MOTHER THAN TO SAVE MONEY JUST LIKE SHE TAUGHT YOU? USE YOUR ACCESS CARD TO SAVE BIG ON FLOWERS, CHOCOLATES, JEWELRY AND MORE. WITH ACCESS, YOU CAN GET THE BEST FOR THE ONE WHO TRULY KNOWS BEST. SHOP NOW! MOTHER'S DAY IS SUNDAY, MAY 13.