



*Standing out from the crowd, fully informed on the issues*

June 17, 2008

Dear Colleague,

As the summer approaches, many of us look forward to some time off to do all the things we don't have time for during the school year. Recently, I conducted an informal survey, asking teachers, "What do you plan on doing this summer?" The response I have received most frequently is, "Catch up on my reading." As such, CTEN has compiled a list of articles, books and blogs that we feel would greatly benefit every teacher. This list can be found on our website on the *Resources* page -- <http://www.ctenhome.org/resources.htm> . If you would like to let us know of other books having an educational theme, we would certainly consider sharing them with our colleagues.

While many educational journals are very dry and difficult to read, *Education Next* is a breath of fresh air. It is attractive, well written and usually filled with provocative articles. The summer 2008 issue certainly doesn't disappoint. There is a very stimulating article about the future use of computers in and out of the classroom and another piece concerns itself with some interesting school reform ideas in Chile. This issue can be accessed online at <http://www.hoover.org/publications/ednext/>

There was an interesting story in the Denver post several weeks ago. According to the president of Colorado's United Food and Commercial Workers, about half of its members would happily leave the union if they could. In fact, come this November they will have that opportunity when Amendment 47 will appear on the ballot. When we read a story like this we can't help but question unions in non-right-to-work states (CA and 27 others.) If unions are good for workers, why must they be forced to join? It seems to us that if one sees an organization as beneficial, one would join it willingly. In any event to read more about the Colorado story, please go to –

<http://m.denverpost.com/topic/376-Business/articles/105822984> . To read more about teachers and forced unionism, please visit the Concerned Educators Against Forced Unionism website -- <http://www.nrtw.org/ceafu/info>

Merit pay is certainly a hot button issue in educational circles. Typically education reformers are for it and the teachers' unions against it. This was the case in Washington state recently involving a \$13.2 million grant from Bill Gates and Michael Dell that had to be scrapped because it involved paying some teachers more than others, depending on how their students performed on AP tests. As the exclusive agent for negotiating teacher pay, the Washington Education Association refused to compromise on this issue.

Ironically, at the same time the union is suing the state for inadequate education funding. To read more, please go to [http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121184546652121307.html?mod=todays\\_us\\_opinion](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121184546652121307.html?mod=todays_us_opinion)

CTEN will be holding another conference call in July, (date and time to be announced) for teachers who would like to learn more about, and possibly become more involved with our organization. If you would like to be a part of that call, please let us know and we will send you details.

And finally, we have signed up with *Cars 4 Causes*. If you would like to make a tax deductible donation to CTEN by donating a car, boat, motorcycle, etc., please visit their website <http://www.cars4causes.net/> to find out how to do so. For cash donations, please send those to our snail mail address --

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Thank you.

Larry Sand, President