

# VC ECHOES

Volume 15, Issue 7

Valley Central Teachers' Association

June 2013

## ONE VOICE UNITED RALLY JUNE 8TH



*There are no greater advocates for children and education than teachers and teacher unions.*

**In this issue:**

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| Tot Spot             | 2 |
| Beginning of the End | 3 |
| Rally Photos         | 4 |

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*The VC Echoes is the official publication of the Valley Central Teachers' Association—Local 3076—and is published regularly during the school year. Any articles submitted to the VC Echoes will also be posted on the VCTA web site.*

**TOT SPOT**

*"Your child's home away from home"*

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## The Beginning of the End

**S**pring has always been one of my favorite times of the year. It is the beginning of new life. Birds come back to the area and animals come out of hibernation. The grass and leaves turn green again and flowers add vibrant colors to the landscape. Most of all, the sun is warmer and brighter. As most people who know me can affirm that the biggest reason spring is my favorite time of year is because it is the end of winter, which I despise. The winter is the worst time of year to me. I have no love for the cold and let's just say that cold rain elicits a boiling rage that only a couple of hours in the gym can simmer. So I guess you can say that to me spring is *the beginning of the end* of my least favorite time of the year.

As we enter this spring, I am asking myself, "Is this *the beginning of the end* of the worst season in the history of education?" I think back a few years ago when we had a really harsh and brutal winter. That spring after the grey/black snow had finally melted what was left was a complete mess. Lawns were ravaged by snow plows searching for a place to pile the unending snow, trees and shrubs were broken and uprooted from the weight of the snow and the strong winds that came with the numerous storms, flowers and plants were crushed from the heavy snow and ice or consumed by the animals trying to avoid starvation.

What did we do that spring when the extent of the devastation was apparent? We didn't just shrug our shoulders and say, "Oh well!" We DID NOT decide to move! What we did was come together as a community and as neighbors. We helped each other clean up trees and debris. We helped each other fix houses that were damaged. We spent days and in some situations the summer repairing and replanting lawns, flowers and shrubs. We gave them the care they needed to become thriving, vibrant pieces of our landscape. We then learned to protect them by trimming trees, wrapping them in



burlap or building wooden shelters to strengthen them against the strong storms that may come the next winter. We came together as neighbors and community and we learned from our mistakes.

Fourteen years ago, I moved my children to Valley Central because this was a community that cared for its children. I had worked in many school districts and lived in many communities and I knew that this is the place I wanted to raise my children. This past year has been the harshest winter season for education that I hope will never repeat. Our children are the flowers. They need us to come together as neighbors and community to clean up the mess that has been created, like devastating winter storms, by powers outside of our control. Our children are the vibrant colors of our landscape. Let's make sure their future is just as vibrant. NOW is *the Beginning of the End!*

—Rich Steger, EC

# Faces of the Rally!

