



# MEA UPDATE

Millard Education Association

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Volume 2 Number 4

December 2009

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Hello everyone!! I hope that everyone was able to enjoy the long weekend over the Thanksgiving holiday. As you are all trying to cram the entire month of teaching into three short weeks I hope this finds you well.

I would like to say that the Binky Fairy has recently visited our house. We now have a non-pacified toddler. You know this if you have driven by our house lately because you are either hearing the screaming of Ellie or myself. The kind fairy did leave the Wizard of Oz in place of the binky, which has helped a bit however our DVD player is about to "break."

Continuing on with the saga that is my life Ben has begun developing a curiosity for, "What will happen if I take the toy Ellie is playing with?" The angrier she gets the more he wants what she has. And who can blame him? Anything that gets one person that upset must be worth having!!

I hope that all of you are able to take some time for yourself over the upcoming break. If you have any concerns over an evaluation that you had before break or if there is anything you have a question about please do not hesitate to contact me at any time. I am always happy to help!

## CRYSTAL APPLE AWARD

The Communications Committee selected the second quarter winner on Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup>. Debbie Carlson, Kindergarten teacher from Cody Elementary is the recipient. Debbie brings fun and energy to her classroom every day. Cody is a Title 1 school with a 55% free/reduced lunch rate. Debbie takes on this challenge and works hard with all of her children to try to bring them up to grade level before moving into 1<sup>st</sup> grade. Congratulations Debbie and thank you for your dedication to the students at Cody Elementary!

If you would like to nominate a teacher for the award for third quarter please visit the link below and email your nomination by February 12<sup>th</sup>.

<http://www.millardmea.org/>

## RETIREMENT NEWS

For those of you retiring, congratulations! As you begin the next phase of your life there is a resourceful place for you to check out in your spare time!

<http://www.nsea.org/members/retired/index.htm>

## **PASSPORT CARD**

The passport card is available to MEA Members for a discounted rate. The Passport Card offers discounts (mainly buy one meal receive the second meal free) at many restaurants in Omaha. Please click on the link below for more details.

<http://millardmea.org/media/Passport0910.pdf>

## **LEARNING COMMUNITY UPDATE**

The LCCC approved all of the poverty and LEP plans a few weeks ago. Millard is working to be sure that all of our policies are up-to-date as far as option and open enrollment go. At the December 7<sup>th</sup> meeting many policies were updated so that language would fit in with the new law. Elementary Learning Centers will be up in District 2 and 5 for next fall. Both of these will be in Omaha as these are the areas that have the highest concentration of poverty.

## **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

Membership committee will be meeting after the New Year. We will be planning the lunch for new teachers, a party for existing teachers, and gifts to get for teacher appreciation week. If you are interested please send an email to me at [mberickson@mpsomaha.org](mailto:mberickson@mpsomaha.org)

## **INSURANCE UPDATE**

A reminder that Millard's insurance carrier for prescriptions will be changing as of January 1, 2010. Chad Meisgeier sent out an email on September 30 regarding the change. If you

would like to see the email please click on the link below.

Also, the insurance law has changed. If you have a child between the ages of 18-24 you may be receiving a phone call from a Coventry representative about this change.

If you have any questions after the phone call please do not hesitate to call Chad Meisgeier or Molly Erickson.

[http://millardmea.org/media/Insurance\\_2010.pdf](http://millardmea.org/media/Insurance_2010.pdf)

## **NSEA ACCESS CARD**

You should be receiving your Access card in the mail, if you have not already. This will be your new card to use for 2010. If you do not receive this please let me know. For discounts available to you with this card please click on the link below to login and start saving!

<http://www.memberweb.com/groups/8589/newLogin8589.asp?groupid=8589>

## **MEA TEACHER SCHOLARSHIP**

The scholarship winners for the Spring 2010 Semester are:

Andrea Comisar and Greg Schwanke for 1-5 years of service.

Darren Myers and Kristen McKinney for 6+ years of service.

Congratulations to our winners. Information on deadlines for Summer and Fall 2010 scholarships will be coming soon.

## MEA WEBSITE

For those of you who have not been there in a while check out our website for updated minutes, crystal apple awards, scholarship information and pictures of what we do as an association!

[www.millardmea.org](http://www.millardmea.org)

## NSEA CHILDREN'S FUND

Every NSEA member is aware of children who face struggles. They know children who are underdressed in cold weather; children who eat well only when school is in session; and children who can't see the front of the room clearly because they receive no eye care.

Teachers frequently spend their own cash to help these children. But teachers can't help every child. That's why NSEA created the Children's Fund in 1994. Donations to the Children's Fund have provided hundreds of thousands of dollars to help children in need. In just the past two years, the Children's Fund has provided nearly \$120,000 in relief.

Contributions are tax deductible — and it's important to note that every penny contributed goes to help children. NSEA picks up all administrative expenses.

For teachers to receive funding to help a child there is no red tape, no form to fill out. Simply contact the NSEA at 800-742-0047 and ask for Sally Bodtke. Or email her at:

[sally.bodke@nsea.org](mailto:sally.bodke@nsea.org)