

**From:** Molly Erickson and the Bargaining Team  
**To:** All MEA Members  
**Re:** December Update

December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2011

**Bargaining:**

The MEA and MPS bargaining teams have now met three times. The bulk of our conversations have been about a transparent and equitable pay system, Voluntary Separation Program, Extra Duty Longevity and National Board Certification. There have been early talks in regards to wellness and where we would like to see this program moving based on the survey results.

As mentioned previously, there has been much discussion about our current pay system. Both sides have agreed not to meet again before Winter Break. This will give both teams time to explore options with current salary dollars before we begin meeting again in January.

Please look for more updates in January regarding negotiations.

**Upcoming MEA Outings:**

Look for details and order sheets when we get back from Winter Break.

**Friday, January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2012** – MEA Night Out with the Omaha Lancers

**Friday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2012** – MEA Night Out with UNO Mavericks Hockey

**Saturday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2012 (tentative)** – MEA Night Out with the Omaha Beef

**MPS Calendar Update:**

The calendar committee met every Tuesday in November and came out with new calendars for the 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 school years. Click to see the update calendars:

**2012-2013:**

<http://mps.schoolfusion.us/modules/groups/homepagefiles/cms/750516/File/Calendar%20at%20a%20Glance/2012-13.pdf>

**2013-2014:**

<http://mps.schoolfusion.us/modules/groups/homepagefiles/cms/750516/File/Calendar%20at%20a%20Glance/2013-14.pdf>

## Calendar Myths and Facts:

**Myth:** We lost our comp. days after conferences.

**Fact:** The comp. days have moved to the Wednesday before Thanksgiving and the Friday of Spring Break in March.

**Myth:** We lost the teacher work day in March.

**Fact:** The teacher workday is now Thursday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012, the first day of Spring Break for students.

**Myth:** We will be out before Memorial Day.

**Fact:** We will be out before Memorial Day if there are no snow days. If there are more than 2 snow days (we average 3 a year) then we will go beyond Memorial Day, but will be out in May as long as we stay under 5 snow days.

## **Crystal Apple Award Winners:**

We have two winners for First Semester:

**Shelly Smith** is the music teacher at Sandoz Elementary

**Kirsten Ehrke** is a Spanish teacher at West High

Both winners will receive an apple trophy and a \$30 gift card to Charleston's provided by Todd Adams with Horace Mann.

If you have a deserving teacher in your building please nominate them for this award during second semester! Click on the link below and then on "Crystal Apple Award Application" to complete the nomination process.

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

## **MEA Spring 2012 Scholarship Winners:**

**1-5 Years of Service:** Ryandean Birge and Nicole Wojtowicz

**6+ Years of Service:** Mary Ritzdorf and Rachel Meyers

Scholarships are for MEA Members pursuing a Master's Degree. Four \$500 scholarships are awarded every semester. If you are taking classes this summer, be sure to have your application in by Friday, April 27<sup>th</sup> for the MEA Summer 2012 Scholarship. Link to scholarship application:

<http://www.millardmea.org/media/MEATeacherScholarship1112.pdf>

## **ProCom Minutes:**

Please click on the link to see the minutes from our December 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.

<http://www.millardmea.org/media/ProCom/ProComMin12-8-11.pdf>