



MEA UPDATE

Millard Education Association

4204 South 57th St. Omaha, Nebraska 68117 • (402) 731-0400

MEA Website: millardmea.org

Email: mberickson@mpsomaha.org (groupwise: mberickson)

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Hello to everyone!! I hope that everyone is having a great school year so far. It is absolutely flying by for me. I am learning so much this year in my first year as president. It was wonderful being in many of the buildings first quarter. The tour of the rest of the buildings will be starting up again soon. If I have not been to your building yet be looking for an announcement in the next few months!!

I was blessed on September 30th with a beautiful baby boy, Benjamin Thomas. My 2-year-old Ellie is having a fun time "playing" with her new brother. She cannot wait until he is old enough to run around and play in the snow with her. Being back into the swing of things and getting kids to daycare has kept me busy, as I am sure many of you can understand. I hope that your 2009 is off to a great start and please let me know if I can help in any way.

Molly Erickson
MEA President

TAX INFORMATION

As many of you I am sure remember, you can claim your dues for tax purposes. The total amount for dues that you paid for 2008 is \$619.80 for local/state/national dues if you were a member all year. If this is your first year as a member you can claim \$127.00 for 2008. You can also claim \$250 for classroom supplies without receipts if you are filing a 1040 form. As long as you have receipts, you can claim more than this amount. For more information on this please click on the following link. You can also feel free to contact me with any questions via email or phone.

<http://www.millardmea.org/members/dues.htm>

NEW ACCESS CARD

You should have received a letter from the NSEA over break with a new Access Card. You do have to call or go online to activate the card. Once it is activated, you can go online to see all the great deals that are offered to you for being a member!! If you did not receive a new card please let me know via email at

mberickson@mpsomaha.org.

CRYSTAL APPLE AWARD

Congratulations to Matt Dykstra, our second quarter winner!! Mr. D is a gym teacher at Ezra Elementary School and is loved by his students and staff. Look for pictures soon on the MEA website (www.millardmea.org). Nominations for 3rd quarter are being taken now through February 13th. Go to the website for the nomination form and send them to me via email.

COVENTRY BENEFITS

Thanks to one of our members it was brought to my attention that we have benefits and discounts available to us because we have Coventry as our healthcare provider. These include discounts to gyms and other healthy perks. Please click on the link below for more information.

<http://www.coventrycompliments.com/>

NEGOTIATIONS SURVEY

As you should know, the negotiations survey was sent out this week. If you could please respond by next Tuesday (it closes at 8:00am on Tuesday, 1/20) it would be greatly appreciated. We will begin negotiating with the district in February so keep looking for further updates!! If you did not receive the survey, please contact me at mberickson@mpsomaha.org.

CLIMATE SURVEY

I have heard from many of you that the climate survey is being done through Infinite Campus this year and you are unsure if it is confidential. Last year, Jon Lopez presented this to the ProCom committee to show that it is indeed anonymous. I feel confident in telling you that this is a confidential survey even though it is through Infinite Campus. If you have any further questions or concerns about this please feel free to email or call me. You can email me through groupwise or my person email is mollyerickson@ymail.com or call at 731-0400.