



# Inkwell

Eau Claire Association of Educators



www.ecteachers.org

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Affiliated with Wisconsin Education Association Council and National Education Association

## Money Matters!

Ron "Duff" Martin, ECAE President

If you are like me, I'm finding that my hard earned money doesn't go as far as it once did so I started to think about how and where I spend my money. After doing some research, I found some very interesting information and I'd like to share this with you in this *Inkwell* message from the President.

First I am starting to be more conscious about where I do my shopping. On a large scale, I'm concerned about companies are being green, are the products made in America and the little things, like paper or plastic. I'm also concerned about where my dollar goes after I've spent it. We have a lot of choices in Eau Claire, and, while some of them give us competitive prices and a wide selection of products, we may be supporting a business that doesn't support **public education, basic worker rights or labor organization**. Saving 50% on a pizza may cost us a lot more in the long run.

Here are a few businesses that you should be aware of and their lack of support for worker's rights and public education:

- **Domino's**—The CEO of Domino's, David Brandon, is a firm supporter of privatization of public schools jobs, merit pay and supports vouchers. The company also opposes unions. Consider this the next time you have a pizza party for your class and are planning to order 10 large pepperoni pizzas.
- **Wal-Mart**—Only 50% of the employees receive health care; its leaders are anti-public education and have made large donations to pro voucher efforts.
- **Starbucks Coffee**—The Seattle based company has opposed organized labor for years and has been the subject of several National Labor Relations Board investigations.
- **Overstock.com**—The CEO, Patrick Byrne, is a strong supporter of school vouchers.

On the other hand, there are a lot of good choices as well. The following companies/products are either labor friendly or union made. I'm sure you can find a few on this list that fit your shopping needs. Consider them the next time you are shopping. Gerber baby food, Nestle baby food, Radio Flyer wagons, Ball Park hot dogs, Captain Crunch, Vlasic Pickles, Heinz, Dannon yogurt, Coke, Pepsi, Minute Maid, Hershey, Sara Lee baked goods, Tide detergent, Snuggle's dryer sheets, Palmolive, Ajax, Clorox, Electrolux, Frigidaire, Kenmore, Chapstick, Old Spice, Colgate, Irish Spring, Dove, Advil and Pepto-Bismol.

I would also remind you of the many companies, stores, and businesses that parents in our community own and operate in the Eau Claire area that support the Eau Claire Public school system. I'd like to add them to this list so please email me with any you know of.

In addition to where I spend my money, I am also trying to be conscious about where I invest my money. This prompted me to investigate my retirement portfolio. As I researched different service charges, annual fees (many of which were not easy to find) and expense ratios with my provider, I was shocked to see how much I was paying (or some may say losing) for these costs. Add them up over the years and it amounts to a lot of money. Sometimes it is difficult to compare different vendors because of the way they set up their fee structure. **If you have not invested in a TSA or set up a 403(b) you might consider attending the ECAE Vendor Fair on December 16, this will give you an opportunity to meet with various vendors and ask questions about setting up a TSA.**

I know I've shared a lot of information with you, and, just as we teach our students, the more information we have, the better decisions we can make.

Sincerely, *Ronald G. Martin*

Ron "Duff" Martin, ECAE President



### Important Dates:

- 12/16 Vendor Fair
- 12/16 Retirement Workshop
- 12/16 ECAE Social
- 12/23-1/4/10 Winter Break



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*Science Verse*  
By Jon Scieszka  
Illustrated by  
Lane Smith

How did author Jon Scieszka earn the title National Ambassador for Young People's Literature? By writing books like *Science Verse* in which a student finds himself caught up in poetic parodies after a teacher's comment about the poetry of science.



## NEA's Read Across America—Building a Nation of Readers

### December is NEA's Books Across America Month

Carole Galloy

**T**ip of the Month: Laughter is the best medicine for struggling readers. Use books to tickle their funny bone, and you'll have them hooked on reading. Check out authors like Jon Scieszka, Mo Willems, Jack Prelutsky, and Jaime Lee Curtis.

**Link of the Month:** The School Library Journal is a terrific resource for reviews on books, multimedia, and technology for children and teens. You'll also find webcasts covering best practices and innovative techniques and booklists for readers of all ages. Go to [www.schoollibraryjournal.com](http://www.schoollibraryjournal.com).

**Activity of the Month:** What is the best way to help school libraries in needs? Donate to NEA's Books Across America through The NEA Foundation. NEA's Books Across America provides much needed funds to disadvantaged public school libraries. Organize a fundraiser or go to [www.nea.org/booksacross](http://www.nea.org/booksacross) and click on "donate." Your contribution will help children and schools around the country.

#### December Literacy Dates:

December 15—Bill of Rights Day  
December 20—American Poet Laureate established

Read Across America  
[www.nea.org/readacross](http://www.nea.org/readacross)



## Time Saving Tips

**W**ith the Holidays coming up and adding more to our already busy daily schedules, how do we keep up with everything that needs to be done? Here are some helpful time saving tips:

- Use a daily planner. Keep all your "to do" lists there. Or, keep one calendar handy and write everything on it that you need to accomplish.
- Do not try to accomplish difficult tasks when you are tired. Save those for peak periods.
- Remember: Every single paper-and-pencil task a student completes, does not have to be graded.
- Allow students to self-grade or peer-grade when appropriate.
- Make a PowerPoint slide for directions to tasks. This way you won't have to repeat yourself several times.
- Keep a log of phone calls made to parents. You can make a form which includes the name of the student, phone number, reason called, results.

## Gripe or Grievance?

**O**ccasionally issues arise that may cause a member to question whether an administrative decision or practice is fair or allowable. All grievances are gripes; however not all gripes are grievances. A grievance is designed to address a specific violation of contract language or contract practice. The grievance process is outlined in Article VIII of your contract (pages 34-37).

Obviously a grievance is a last resort. Many issues can be resolved through communication with the parties involved. However, if you believe the contract has been violated, misinterpreted, or misapplied, and have not been able to resolve the issue on your own, contact your building representative for help.



**NOTE:** The *Contract Between the Eau Claire Board of Education and the Eau Claire Association of Educators* can be located on line at [www.ecteachers.org](http://www.ecteachers.org). Click on "Members Only" and then click on "Contract" at the top of the page.



## Sign Up For Web Site E-Mail Alerts

[WEACDirect@weac.org](mailto:WEACDirect@weac.org)

**H**ere's a great way to keep up to date on the latest news, Educators' Bulletin Board postings, and blog entries: sign up for e-mail alerts. Whenever a new item is posted in the News, Educators' Bulletin Board, or At the Capitol sections—or when a new entry is made in the Tech College, ESP, New and Future Educators, or Editor's blogs—you'll get an e-mail letting you know. The e-mail will also have a link to the content. This is the most direct way of keeping on top of what your union is doing, and doing for you. [http://www.weac.org/Multimedia/RSS\\_Feeds.aspx#alert](http://www.weac.org/Multimedia/RSS_Feeds.aspx#alert) Here is a sampling of some of the news you will get:

**WEAC News Feed** This is a compilation of postings to weac.org's major news areas, including Education News, At the Capitol, Collective Bargaining, as well as WEAC News Releases.

**Educators' Bulletin Board** This feed includes notices of upcoming events, workshops, conferences, professional development opportunities, and classroom resources.

**At the Capitol** This feed only includes news from the Capitol, for those people who may not want to receive items from other news areas included in the WEAC News Feed above.

**New & Future Educators Blog** This blog is designed specifically for new teachers and Student WEA members.

## Martha Stewart's Christmas Calendar <http://321greetings.com/category/christmas/>

- I**f you think you are busy at this time of year, take a look at what Martha Stewart is up to.
- 12/1 Blanch carcass from Thanksgiving turkey. Spray paint gold, turn upside down and use as a sleigh to hold Christmas cards.
  - 12/2 Have Mormon Tabernacle Choir record outgoing Christmas message for answering machine.
  - 12/3 Using candlewick & hand gilded miniature pinecones, fashion cat-o-nine tails. Flog gardener.
  - 12/4 Repaint Sistine Chapel ceiling in ecru, with mocha trim.
  - 12/5 Get new eyeglasses. Grind lenses myself.
  - 12/6 Fax family Christmas newsletter to Pulitzer committee for consideration.
  - 12/7 Debug Windows XP.
  - 12/8 Create snow sculpture replica of Bethlehem at the birth of Christ.
  - 12/9 Align carpets to adjust for curvature of Earth.
  - 12/10 Lay Faberge egg.
  - 12/11 Erect ice skating rink in front yard using spring water I bottled myself. Open for neighborhood children's use. Create festive mood by handmaking snow and playing my Christmas album.
  - 12/12 Collect dentures. They make excellent pastry cutters, particularly for decorative pie crusts.
  - 12/13 Install plumbing in gingerbread house.
  - 12/14 Replace air in mini-van tires with Glade 'holiday scents' in case tires are shot out at mall.
  - 12/15 Take dog apart. Disinfect. Reassemble.
  - 12/16 Child proof the Christmas tree with garland of razor wire.
  - 12/17 Outfit neighborhood rats with tiny antlers.
  - 12/18 Adjust legs of chairs so each Christmas dinner guests will be same height when sitting at their assigned seats.
  - 12/19 Dip sheep and cows in egg whites and roll in confectioner's sugar to add a festive touch to the pasture.
  - 12/20 Drain city reservoir; refill with mulled cider, orange slices, and cinnamon sticks.
  - 12/ 21 Float votive candles in toilet.
  - 12/22 Seed clouds for white Christmas.
  - 12/23 Do my annual good deed. Go to several stores. Be seen engaged in last minute Christmas shopping, thus making many people feel less inadequate than they really are.
  - 12/24 Bear son. Swaddle. Lay in color coordinated manger scented with homemade potpourri.
  - 12/25 Alphabetize all the Christmas gifts for family and friends & cross-reference by color & size.



# NOTICE:

Please send your home emails to Carol Miller at: [miller@weac.org](mailto:miller@weac.org)



**“Love is what's in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents and listen.”**

**~Author unknown, attributed to a 7-year-old named Bobby**

**“Perhaps the best Yuletide decoration is being wreathed in smiles.”**

**~Author Unknown**

**“I wish we could put up some of the Christmas spirit in jars and open a jar of it every month.”**

**~Harlan Miller**

**“I stopped believing in Santa Claus when I was six. Mother took me to see him in a department store and he asked for my autograph.”**

**Shirley Temple**

**“The message of Christmas is that the visible material world is bound to the invisible spiritual world.”**

**~Author Unknown**

**“Open your presents at Christmastime but be thankful year round for the gifts you receive.”**

**~Lorinda Ruth Lowen**



## Lakeshore Staff Enjoys Breakfast to Begin Work Day

Pat Telisak

**W**hy is Breakfast so important? After a good night's rest, your blood sugar, or glucose levels, are very low since you've been asleep without a meal for 6-10 hours. Your body is basically running on empty in the morning.

Eating a big meal at breakfast time will 'break the fast' and replenish those glucose levels. Glucose is your body's source of energy.

**Energy for the Brain.** Your brain feeds on glucose, but does not store glucose. You'll be sharper and have better concentration when you've had a big breakfast. If you've got important work to do in the morning, be sure to eat big so your brain isn't running on fumes.

Here you see Lakeshore staff enjoying breakfast on our staff workday to start the day off. There are 12 staff members on our Lakeshore Sunshine Committee who plan a luncheon or breakfast at least once a month, to bring staff together in a relaxed setting.



Send articles and photos of your staff to [cgalloy@ecasd.k12.wi](mailto:cgalloy@ecasd.k12.wi)

## Congratulations to DeAnna Slaggie

**D**eAnna Slaggie is the winner of two tickets to see *Rudy's Holiday Reunion* at Fanny Hill Dinner Theatre on January 7th. Her name was drawn from the list of our Building Reps who have attended meetings on a regular basis.

Fanny Hill donated the tickets to ECAE in appreciation for teachers. A big thanks to Fanny Hill Dinner Theatre for this delightful prize.

*Rudy's Holiday Reunion* runs through January 24th, and tickets are available by calling the box office at 715-836-8184 or 1-800-292-8026. Box office hours are 9-5 daily plus Thursday through Saturday evenings. Or go to Fanny Hill's website for more information: <http://fannyhill.com/nowplaying.htm>

## ECAE Fundraiser For Student Scholarships

ECAE is raising scholarship money through the publication of our own cookbook.

Before the cookbooks can be published, we need at least 200 recipes from our members. Recipe Categories include: Appetizers & Beverages, Soups & Salads, Vegetables & Side Dishes, Main Dishes, Breads & Rolls, Desserts, Cookies & Candy, This & That.

Please type your recipe in a Word Document and send it as an attachment to Carole Galloy [cgalloy@ecasd.k12.wi.us](mailto:cgalloy@ecasd.k12.wi.us). Please include your name, your school, title of the recipe, the ingredients, and directions.

Or you can access a recipe form on our website [www.ecteachers.org](http://www.ecteachers.org) Print it, fill it out, and send to Carole Galloy at South M.S. through district mail.

**The schools with the most percentage of recipes submitted will receive a treat for your staff!**

Anyone willing to serve on the Cookbook Fundraising Committee please contact Carole Galloy [cgalloy@ecasd.k12.wi.us](mailto:cgalloy@ecasd.k12.wi.us)





**Chris Redman**  
Realtor  
Cell: (715) 828-2341  
*All the Listings... All the Time!*



**KLEVEN**  
REAL ESTATE, INC.  
1603 Harding Avenue, Eau Claire WI 54701  
E-mail: [ChrisJRedman@hotmail.com](mailto:ChrisJRedman@hotmail.com)  
Office Fax: (715) 834-9500  
Office Phone: (715) 834-1501  
[www.KlevenRealtors.com](http://www.KlevenRealtors.com)

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## Vendor Fair and Retirement Workshop

On Wednesday, December 16th Eau Claire Association of Educators is offering two exciting and important seminars. One seminar is “403(b) Vendor Fair.” The second seminar is “Are You Considering Retiring Within the Next Five Years?” Both seminars will take place at America’s Best Value Inn (formerly Quality Inn) at 802 West Clairemont from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Please contact Carol Miller (miller@weac.org) if you are planning on attending either session. Following the seminars, there will be a Holiday Social at O’Leary’s Pub.

## Focus Groups

All Building Representative are encouraged to find a date when their building can host a Focus Group session about our association. We are looking for feedback to help our association move forward and address the needs and concerns of our membership. Please schedule a date after the Winter Break with Duff (martin@weac.org)

## Beyond Diversity Training

**Carole Galloy**

If you haven’t had the opportunity to sign up for the Beyond Diversity Training Seminar, get your name on the list as soon as you can. These were two of the most enlightening and satisfying days of training I have received in a long time. Marlecia Autrey, Associate Director of the Pacific Educational Group, facilitated the sessions and challenged us to have courageous conversations with our colleagues and students and to consider the implications of racism, exclusion and prejudice on student learning. I highly recommend this seminar. Come with an open mind and a willing heart.



Cleaning closets or garages?  
Looking for a bargain?

# BARGAIN BLITZ

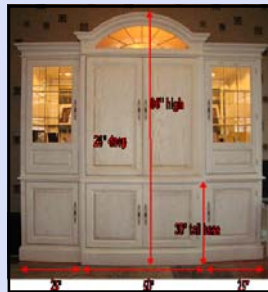
List your items in the  
Inkwell Bargain Blitz!

Deadline for submitting materials is the 20th of each month. Sorry, no personal ads.  
Send items to Carole Galloy at: [cgalloy@ecasd.k12.wi.us](mailto:cgalloy@ecasd.k12.wi.us)

**SELL:** "Tuscany-Galaxy" by Ashley furniture. Taupe Leather Match upholstery features Top Grain leather with matched vinyl on the back. Right and Left pieces each have two recliners. Each section measures 58"Wx40"Dx41"H. The connecting Wedge does not recline and measures 68"Wx40"Dx41"H. This sectional is five years old and is in very good condition. Cost new, \$1800. Asking, \$750. Call Dan at 715-878-4514.



**SELL:** Gorgeous Four Piece Entertainment/Wall Unit. Hooker brand furniture in slightly distressed, white-washed oak. Made up of 2 side display/media storage units (each 77"h x 24"w x 23"d), a base unit (30"h x 46"w x 26"d) and hutch unit (57"h x 51"w x 26"d). Overall width is about 8 feet. Very well built and sturdy. Tons of storage for components and media. Each side unit has a roll out tray with adjustable shelves below. Two upper front pocket doors open and slide away to reveal TV area, 33"h x 37"w, that accommodates 42" flat screen. Upper cabinets contain lights and glass shelves. Bottom two outer door fronts can be removed and replaced with fabric panels (included) to hold speakers. Asking \$1000—only 1/3 of original price. Email: [ncoubal@ecasd.k12.wi.us](mailto:ncoubal@ecasd.k12.wi.us)



**SELL:** Make the most of a small bedroom with this great like new Trendwood Montana bunk bed! Both top and bottom are Double/Full size beds. Can be used as a loft bed only to make room for a desk underneath. Includes ladder and shelf and slats. Does not include the drawers underneath or mattresses. Paid \$500 new, asking \$275. Contact: [ncoubal@ecasd.k12.wi.us](mailto:ncoubal@ecasd.k12.wi.us)



**WANTED:** A set of weights with bench press bar. Will take the bar alone if weights are unavailable. Contact Ken Montanye at: [kmonty51@charter.net](mailto:kmonty51@charter.net)

**SELL:** 2006 Saturn Ion 2 Sedan 4D, 35,000 miles, 4 Cyl., 2.2 liter, 5 speed manual transmission, Power steering, power locks, power windows, remote keyless entry, tilt wheel, Air, AM/FM/CD, Cruise, Dual Front Air Bags. \$7,500 call Karla at 833-1371 or email [kanibas@ecasd.k12.wi.us](mailto:kanibas@ecasd.k12.wi.us)



**SELL:** Six very nice comfy swivel barstools. Well made and sturdy. Honey oak colored wood. Off white padded seats and backs. Seats have a few stains, but should clean up as good as new! Seats are 30" high and back of stools are 48". Only \$250 for the set of six. Contact: [ncoubal@ecasd.k12.wi.us](mailto:ncoubal@ecasd.k12.wi.us)



**SELL:** Red, 1999, 4 Door Ford Escort Sport with 99,348 miles, \$2,500. Great first car for new drivers! Features: Remote Keyless Entry, Cassette Player, Cruise Control, AM/FM Radio, A/C, Tilt Wheel, Cup Holders, Reading Lights, Automatic, Usually between 25-30mpg If interested, contact Brent at 920-737-5138 or email [bergstbr@uwec.edu](mailto:bergstbr@uwec.edu)



## ZUMBA

Zumba is a Latin inspired dance-fitness class that incorporates Latin and International music and dance movements. ECASD Employees First Class Free and \$5.00 off 10 class punch cards. Present your district badge or current district pay stub. Only good with Jean Dreger, level 2 Certified Zumba Instructor. Email Jean at [jtweety@centurytel.net](mailto:jtweety@centurytel.net), call 715-835-6550, or Facebook Zumba/ Jean Dreger.

Jean is teaching a Zumba class on Wednesdays at Sam Davey in the gym at 4:45. Once hooked, you'll want to consider joining classes at Christ Church Cathedral at 510 S. Farwell on Monday at 6:30 P.M. or on Saturday at 8:30 A.M. Classes are only \$5 or get a punch card for \$40/10 classes. Punch card can be used at either place.

**Calling All Photographers! Take photos of teachers  
in classrooms for the Inkwell and our website. Send to:  
[cgalloy@ecasd.k12.wi.us](mailto:cgalloy@ecasd.k12.wi.us)**