



Inkwell

Eau Claire Association of Educators



www.ecteachers.org
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Affiliated with Wisconsin Education Association Council and National Education Association

Top Stories of 2009

Ron "Duff" Martin, ECAE President

Every major media source is gearing up to identify the top stories of 2009 and most are even putting together a list of the top stories of the decade, so I didn't want our own **ECAE Inkwell** to be left without. For my article I've decided to gather what I've considered the top ten news stories of ECAE.

10. Glaser Leave and Pay Deduct Request – DENIED!
9. ECAE and ECASD Contract Still Unsettled.
8. Kindergarten Study and Recommendations Still No Action.
7. District Fund Balance Grows Even Bigger in 2009.
6. ECAE Collaborates with District's Teaching and Learning.
5. Kindergarten Teachers Help Pass Key Wisconsin Legislation.
4. Lakeshore Singers Hits Low Note With No Pay.
3. ECAE Helps Duax Win School Board Seat.
2. ECAE Legislative Banquet Is A Huge Success.
1. ECASD Superintendent – 5th Highest Paid Administrator in the State!

10. Glaser Leave and Pay Deduct Request—DENIED!

The administration continues to be unfriendly when there are requests made from ECAE and the members to grant leaves or pay deducts that don't fit into our master contract, however if the district administration makes the same request your association has been willing to work out a letter of understanding. Seems odd it can't go both ways. ECAE will continue to be a team player, and when such requests come from the administration we will continue to sign-off. I hope they will do the same. We were able to get Michelle to Spain through a creative interpretation of the contract. She so enjoyed her experience, and what she brought back for her students was educationally invaluable.

9. ECAE and ECASD Contract Still Unsettled.

I have been told this isn't the first time we've worked without a contract for this long of a period. Your negotiations team is doing what it can to bargain a fair contract for the members of ECAE.

8. Kindergarten Study and Recommendations—Still No Action.

How long will our kindergarten teachers be treated as less than the other grade levels in elementary? How many more studies do we have to complete to show that ECASD is significantly behind in what we offer to our kindergarten students? We have an amazing group of kindergarten teachers who continue to provide an outstanding program for some of the youngest of our learners, but isn't it time to treat them fairly?

7. District Fund Balance Grows Even Bigger in 2009-10.

Even after hundreds of thousands of dollars were cut from the budget and fees increased for those wanting to participate in sports at the secondary level, and class sizes increasing—hmmm...and money is left over? I know I am simplifying that, however it is frustrating that we first

Continued on Page 4—See "Top Stories"



Important Dates:

- 01/01/2010 Happy New Year
- 01/04 BOE Meeting
- 01/06 Exec. Board Meeting
- 01/18 National Day of Service
- 01/18 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- 01/18 BOE Meeting
- 1/27 BR Meeting



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*Confetti,
Poems for Children
By Pat Mora
Illustrated by
Enrique O. Sanchez*

In this classroom favorite, author and poet Pat Mora celebrates the vivid landscape of the Southwest through a spirited collection of imaginative poems.

Lee & Low Books,
www.leeandlow.com



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

January is National Mentoring Month

Carole Galloy

Tip of the Month: Teen readers make perfect role models for young readers. Ask them to share their favorite picture book or encourage the two groups to write and illustrate their own books together. Hold a book party to celebrate the collaboration.

Link of the Month: More than 2.9 million children, approximately 5 percent of the nation's student population, have learning disabilities. If you're looking for resources to help these students, make LDonline.org your first stop. You'll find articles, multimedia resources, instructional strategies and much more.

Activity of the Month: If you've found great books to share with teens, don't keep them to yourself. Blog about your favorite books or share your find with teens on teenreads.com. Even recording artist Common loves to share his love of reading through "the corner," Common Ground Foundation's online book club for teens. Go to www.commongroundfoundation.org/thecorner.html.

January Literacy Dates:

January 1-31—National Mentoring Month www.mentoring.org
January 18—Martin Luther King, Jr. Day/National Day of Service www.mlkday.gov

Read Across America
www.nea.org/readacross

Calling All Artists! School Poster Contest!

- ◆ For the first time ever, ECAE is proud to sponsor a poster contest for students in grades Prek-12!
- ◆ Students are encouraged to draw, color, or paint a picture of their school.
- ◆ The school name must appear somewhere on the front of the poster, as well as the student's name.
- ◆ Poster size should be at least 12" x 18" and can be on paper, tag board or other suitable flat surface.
- ◆ Each school will select a winning entry to permanently hang at the Eau Claire Association of Educators/WEAC Office on 2004 Highland Avenue, Suite L, Eau Claire, WI..
- ◆ Winning posters will not be returned but will remain the property of ECASD.
- ◆ Contest deadline is February 12, 2010. Please submit all posters to your building representative!

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. 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 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



It Takes a Village

Duff Martin

I remember several years ago arriving to school at 7:00 a.m., 15 below, and a Monday—the first day back from Christmas vacation to boot. I ran quickly from my car to the door to avoid the frigid air. “Good morning and Happy New Year!” Willie called out as he paused in his making sure the path to the doorway was clear of snow to open the door for me. That pleasant greeting and positive attitude was enough to start the new year at school off right. On my to my classroom, I noticed the shiny floors and clean windows.

I was in my classroom for only a few minutes when a colleague popped into my room with a smile. “They painted my room,” she said. “I didn’t know they were going to do that. They even put all my posters back up.” Later that morning, one of our custodians stopped by to see how our breaks were and how my colleague liked her room. We all complimented him on the excellent shape the school was in. It’s something more than that, though. Our custodians, cooks, and support staff add a critical piece to the whole picture of education.

When I think about districts that have privatized services, I know it is the personal approach and the investment that employees have in the workplace that is lacking the most in those districts. Not only does our support staff do an excellent job, they are a critical part of our school community as well. These folks interact with students on a regular basis serving as role models and guiding their development as people. It’s not only the quality of the work but also the quality of the individuals doing the work that is important. The old saying, “It takes a village to raise child” applies here. We all work together to make a difference in the lives of children and young people. We’re fortunate here in ECASD to have such dedicated and outstanding support staff. We hope the administration and the Board of Education recognize this as well.

Peggy Buckley, Age 60, of Eau Claire Passed Away Dec. 23rd

Margaret Ann (Peggy) Buckley was born May 13, 1949, in Frederic, Wis. to Lyman and Anna Mae Morrow. She graduated from Redwood Falls, High School and attended Augustana College in Sioux Falls, S.D. She graduated in 1971 with a Bachelor of Arts in elementary education. She completed her master’s degree in education from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. Peggy was a devoted teacher of elementary students in Eau Claire public schools until her retirement from Longfellow School in 2004. She enjoyed subbing for her teaching friends after her retirement.

Peggy was a loving mother, wife, sister and daughter. She married Lynn Buckley of Menomonie, Wis. at Our Savior’s Lutheran, Eau Claire, Wis., on June 19, 1976. Her sons, Brett and Todd, filled her life with joy and she cherished guiding and watching her boys grow up. Peggy was kind-hearted, compassionate, caring, thoughtful and always laughing.

Peggy and Lynn treasured their lives together. They enjoyed traveling to research family genealogy. She was actively involved in book club, exercise classes and used her creative talents in quilting and sewing. Peggy also loved photography and designing note cards for family and friends. She was a longtime member of First Lutheran Church where she taught Sunday School, and was a member of a Bible study group.

Peggy was a member of the teaching sorority Alpha Delta Kappa, serving in many offices including President of Nu Chapter. She most recently served at the state level as legislative chairman and recording secretary.

Peggy’s upbeat personality, support and enthusiasm in whatever was happening will be greatly missed. She was a person who made a difference and enriched the lives of those around her. Peggy was an unbelievably caring and loving person, always putting others first. She will be missed so much.

Peggy is survived by her husband, Lynn of Eau Claire, Wis.; sons, Brett Buckley of Minneapolis and Todd Buckley of Milwaukee, Wis.; mother, Anna Mae Morrow of Redwood Falls, Minn.; Brother Ron (Char) Morrow of Milwaukee, Wis.; sisters, Dar Morrow of Englewood, Colo., and Jan (Jeff) Lynass of St. Petersburg, Fla. She was preceded in death by her father, Lyman C. Morrow.

Peggy was instrumental on the committee to investigate and ultimately push for specialists at the elementary level as well as guaranteed prep time during the student day. We remember her advocacy for our members.

NOTICE: Please send your home emails to Carol Miller at: miller@weac.org



“Thought flows in terms of stories—stories about events, stories about people, and stories about intentions and achievements. The best teachers are the best story tellers. We learn in the form of stories.”

-Frank Smith

“The child must know that he is a miracle, that since the beginning of the world there hasn’t been, and until the end of the world there will not be, another child like him.”

-Pablo Casals

“If a teacher is indeed wise he does not bid you enter the house of his wisdom, but rather leads you to the threshold of your own mind.”

-Kahlil Gibran

“It is by teaching that we teach ourselves, by relating that we observe, by affirming that we examine, by showing that we look, by writing that we think, by pumping that we draw water into the well.”

-Henri Frederic Amiel



Continued from Page 1

have to experience major cuts before we decide to dig in to the fund balance. I also understand the need for a district to have a healthy fund balance. But come on folks....that much??

6. ECAE Collaborates with District's Teaching and Learning

One of the most positive experiences this past year has been the on-going partnership between your association and the district's teaching and learning department. We are excited about the opportunities we have created and for future experiences that will greatly impact our membership and our professional growth as educators. We hope all our members take advantage of what is available to them!

5. Kindergarten Teachers Help Pass Key Wisconsin Legislation

Last spring a group of kindergarten teachers and Duff participated in the legislative hearings to promote and pass key kindergarten legislation. The bill was co-authored in the assembly by our representative Jeff Smith. It was an exciting process to be a part of. Kudos to Jeanne Richie, LeAnn Richie, and Sue Smith who participated in the legislative hearings in Madison.

4. Lakeshore Singers Hit A Low Note With No Pay

It seems rather simple that when one performs a duty or job for the district and they are promised a certain pay they should get that pay. Not so, at least in this particular case. Even as I write this newsletter article there is still no resolve to this matter. I guess what really bothers me most about this issue is the fact that this is not a respectful way to treat your employees.

3. ECAE Helps Duax Win School Board Seat

As part of our legislative endorsement process we commit ourselves to helping candidates who are selected for endorsement by the membership. Kathryn gladly accepted our help and successfully earned a seat on the school board. Kathryn is an advocate for the students as well as those who work to make this district so outstanding.



2. ECAE Legislative Banquet A Huge Success

After years of not having a legislative banquet it was decided it is something we need to bring back, especially in light of the major budget cuts that have occurred locally as well as at the state level. In this time it is critically important that we continue a strong dialogue with our area legislators. It was exciting to have Senator Kreitlow and Representatives Smith and Dexter in attendance. Over 45 ECAE members were able to attend. We are planning to continue this great experience and hope to see even more members present.



1. ECASD Superintendent—5th Highest Paid Administrator in the State

A friend of mine called a month ago to let me know that the Eau Claire Area School District made the Appleton paper. Of course at this point nothing surprises me when it comes to our district making the papers statewide. She congratulated Eau Claire on having its school superintendent in the top 5 of the highest paid administrators in the state; this includes the benefit package as well. Wonder where our average teacher salary sits. Do you think we are at 5 or higher?

So there you have it—a recap of the top ECAE stories of 2009! Some good and some not so good—but all in all I have to say it was an exciting year. I am anxious to see what 2010 has to offer our association. Your executive board and office staff are committed to providing the best service possible to our membership. We value and appreciate your work as teachers, counselors, and specialists in our district. The job you do is so unlike any—it is time consuming, tiring, and very demanding, and yet we continue to show that our schools are great schools—Eau Claire is a great place to live and raise children. We know this is greatly attributed to the work you do. Keep up the great work and continue to fight the good fight!

Respectfully yours,

Ronald E. Martin

Ron "Duff" Martin



ECAE Elections

<u>Position</u>	<u>Current Office Holder</u>
ECAE President	Ron Duff Martin
Treasurer	Phil Hurlburt
Middle School Representative	Sue Fulkerson

NOTE: See Page 6 for Officer Responsibilities.

ECAE Representatives (17) to WEAC Representative Assembly: Green Bay, April 23-25, 2010

ECAE Representatives (3) to NEA Representative Assembly: New Orleans, LA, July 1-6, 2010

Please email ECAE if you are interested in running for these offices or if you would like more information: Carol Miller (millerc@weac.org)

Election Timeline

- Monday, February 15th**.....Nominations for WEAC and NEA Representatives are due
- Wednesday, February 17th**...Vote on NEA and WEAC Representatives at BR meeting
- Thursday, April 15th**.....Nominations for ECAE officer positions due to Carol Miller
- Wednesday, April 21st**Ballot for Spring 2010 Election set at BR meeting
- Monday, May 3rd**Ballots go to members for voting (paper ballot)
- Monday, May 17th**Election results announced

Retirement Seminar—December 16, 2009

Carole Galloy

The Retirement Seminar was informative and well-attended by ECAE members. Mike Burke, ECAE attorney, explained some initial steps teachers need to take when they are thinking about retirement and answered several questions. We also received a good deal of printed materials to use in calculating our finances. About one hundred ECAE members were present, and most went away with a sense of satisfaction and knowledge about the financial process for retirement. Sue Waldusky and Elaine Stelter also gave a little information about the emotional side of retirement and some of the activities they have been involved in since they retired.



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

Officer Responsibilities

Following are the job descriptions and responsibilities for the President and Treasurer of ECAE.

PRESIDENT: The President is the chief executive officer of the Association. This entails presiding over meetings, representing the Association at social and professional functions, guiding business of the Association and Executive Committee under its established Constitution and Bylaws, and serving as the ECAE representative in matters regarding contract maintenance, grievances, and all insurance matters. Position relationships and responsibilities shall be assigned as established in the *ECAE Policies and Procedures Handbook*.

Responsibilities:

1. Oversee and organize the governance affairs.
2. Arrange and conduct monthly Executive Committee meetings
3. Arrange and conduct BR and General Assembly meetings.
4. Serve as ex-officio member on all ECAE committees.
5. Receive and transmit correspondence relating to ECAE business
6. Represent the ECAE at civic and social functions; Represent ECAE on civic committees.
7. Arrange to meet and confer with district admin. on a regular basis.
8. Maintain accurate files of association business.
9. Prepare and disseminate the monthly *Update* to the Building Reps.
10. Attend conferences and/or workshops deemed appropriate.
11. Attend Board of Education meetings on a rotating schedule.
12. Assist in the preparation and distribution of the *Inkwell*.
13. Attend the WEAC Summer Leadership Conference at least once every two years.
14. Orient the incoming officer to this position.
15. Serve as the ECAE liaison to WEAC Uniserv Presidents Committee
16. Adhere to procedures set forth in the ECAE Constitution and Bylaws and the ECAE/Board of Education contract.

TREASURER: The Treasurer shall hold the funds of the Association and dispense them upon authorization from the Executive Committee. This person shall maintain the membership list and collect all membership dues. Position relationships and responsibilities shall be assigned as established in the *ECAE Policies and Procedures Handbook*.

Responsibilities:

1. Attend and report to all schedules Executive Committee, BR, and General Assembly meetings.
2. Adhere to procedures set forth in the ECAE Constitution and Bylaws and ECAE/Board of Education contract.
3. Attend conferences and/or workshops deemed appropriate.
4. Attend the WEAC Leadership Conf. at least once every two years.
5. Attend Board of Education meetings on a rotating schedule.
6. Coordinate activities with the ECAE office secretary.
7. Disburse appropriate funds to creditors.
8. Remit monies to WEAC-NEA.
9. Chair Budget Committee to prepare annual budget document for the May general meeting.
10. Submit quarterly and yearly state and federal reports.
11. Compare WEAC/ECAE membership lists in September for accuracy.
12. Prepare list of members paying dues yearly, contact individuals and collect dues. Submit a list of members who pay dues by yearly check to the Business Office..
13. Keep a current ledger of income, expenses, and savings.
14. Reconcile monthly bank statement.
15. Disburse monthly stipends to ECAE officers.
16. Reimburse PAC monies to Fair Share members and ECAE members who request reimbursement.
17. Orient the incoming officer to this position.

Vendor Fair—December 16, 2009

Thank you to the following vendors who participated in our Vendor Fair. If you were unable to attend, but are interested in their services, contact them directly.

Domonic Bauer, Regional Leader, Primerica Financial Services, dbauer@primerica.com

Keith L. Caucutt, Financial Advisor, Ameriprise Financial, keith.l.caucutt@ampf.com

Krista L. Caucutt, Financial Advisor, Ameriprise Financial, Krista.x.caucutt@ampf.com

Dorsey Christian III, Registered Representative, ING Financial Advisers, dchristian@milagt.com

William B. Eaton, Agent, The Prudential Insurance Company of America, William.eaton@prudential.com

James P. Egan, PhD, Registered Representative, Lincoln Financial Advisors, James.Egan@LFG.com

Susan W. Gloe, Financial Advisor, Valic Financial Advisors, Inc., susan.gloe@valic.com

David E. Hopkins, Financial Services Rep., Principal Financial Group, hopkins.david@princor.com

Andrew Reitzner, Financial Advisor, Edward Jones, andrew.reitzner@edwardjones.com

Janel Seaholm, Primerica Financial Svcs., 715-832-4538.

ECAE members visited the Vendor Fair at America's Best Value Inn. Several Financial Advisors and Insurance Agents were on hand to answer questions, give out information and set up individual personal appointments.



2010 WEAC Regional Winter Conference

March 5-6, 2010

The Plaza Hotel & Suites
Wausau, Wisconsin

Contact Duff for more information

martind@weac.org

Calling All Photographers!
Take photos of teachers
in classrooms for the *Inkwell* and our website.

Send to:
cgalloy@ecasd.k12.wi.us