



# Inkwell

Eau Claire Association of Educators

Affiliated with Wisconsin Education Association Council and National Education Association

## INFLUENCE

**Ron "Duff" Martin, ECAE President**

Weddings and June seem to go hand in hand. Just recently I attended two weddings of two different individuals who have touched my life and have influenced me as an educator.

The first of the two weddings was of a former intern who had worked with me five years ago. He probably doesn't realize it but he has and continues to influence me with his continued devotion to both me and teaching. In most cases you lose touch with former student teachers after a few years (unless they stay in the area), but not Pete. We've kept in touch, and recently, he and his now wife asked me to be part of their wedding. His desire to be back in Eau Claire is amazing, even with all the negative things that have happened in our school system. He loved working at South (the staff) and he enjoyed the Eau Claire community. His influence on me is deeply profound, in that through him I can remind myself of how lucky I am to work with such great people and live in an awesome community. I, too, often take that fact for granted. And even though at times it is frustrating and I wish things were different, I need to remind myself of Pete and how he wishes he was back in Eau Claire.



Years ago I had the privilege of serving as Perris Cooley's assistant volleyball coach at North High School and the next wedding involved one of our former players, Chandra! When I think of all the athletes I have coached, Chandra will remain one of the more memorable as well as influential. As I watched her walk down the aisle I was reminded of her upbeat personality, positive attitude, and her very sensitive side. As a teacher and a coach, we are often times influenced by the young people we work with, and Chandra is one of those young people who had a great influence over me. She taught me a lot about life.

We all hope as educators we can be influential in the lives of the young people we work with; however, sometimes it is the other way around, our students influence us!

Part of the reason we have summers off is to rejuvenate for the coming school year, so as you enjoy some relaxing time off, reflect on a past student you've worked with who has influenced you and remember why they have influenced you.

So as I gear up for more weddings in the coming years, I may encounter other influential students. And to all those who have influenced me—thank you, you often times are the added inspiration that keeps me going—even in tough times.

Educationally yours,

Ron "Duff" Martin, President

**FIRST BUILDING  
REPRESENTATIVE MEETING:  
September 15, 4:00-6:00  
American Legion, 434 Water Street**



### Important Dates:

- July 19 BOE Mtg.
- August 2 BOE Mtg.
- August 16 BOE Mtg.
- August 23-25 New Teacher Training/Orientation
- August 26 BR/ABC Committee Training
- August 30-31 Teacher Workshop Days



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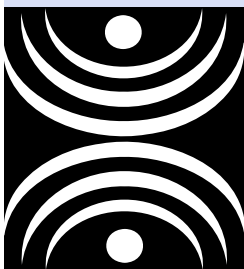


*Clam -I-Am! All About the Beach* by Tish Rabe

*The Cat in the Hat's back, and this time he's hit the beach to serve up choice tidbits of seaside science. Stay tuned for The Cat in the Hat Knows a Lot About That!, a new PBS KIDS series designed to help kids explore the wonders of science this fall.*

The Cat in the Hat's Learning Library  
www.seussville.com .

*How Many Seeds in a Pumpkin* by Margaret McNamara and G. Brian Karas



Looks can be deceiving. That's the valuable lesson learned by the students of Mr. Tiffin when he challenges them to guess the number of seeds in each of his pumpkins.

Illustrated by G. Brian Kara, Schartz and Wade, Random House Inc. 2007



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

### July is Get a Kick Out of Reading Month

**Shirl Ruesch**

**T**ip of the Month: If you're trying to keep students on track—even during the summer—check out the tips and resources from the National Center for Summer Learning, [www.summerlearning.org](http://www.summerlearning.org). The center also showcases the latest research, news, and professional development opportunities.

**Link of the Month:** Looking for books for your literacy project? If you serve underprivileged children, First Book and its companion site—[FirstBookMarketplace.org](http://FirstBookMarketplace.org)—should be your first stop. First Book provides new books to children in need. You can register with their national book bank, purchase books at significant discounts, and join local advisory boards. Go to [www.firstbook.org](http://www.firstbook.org).

**Activity of the Month:** Prepare for the launch of the new PBS KIDS series, *The Cat in the Hat Knows a Lot About That!*, by visiting [pbskids.org](http://pbskids.org) and explore the science themed activities coming to teachers and parents this fall.

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

### August is Back To School Month

**Shirl Ruesch**

**T**ip of the Month: When it comes to inviting guest readers, don't forget to include NEA-Retired, education support professionals, students, and higher ed members. They're terrific organizers, fundraisers, and promotional partners.

**Link of the Month:** Book Adventure is a free, Web-based reading motivation program from Sylvan Learning for K-8 students and teachers. The site offers booklists and reading logs, plus tools to help teachers generate specialized reports for parents. Go to [www.bookadventure.com](http://www.bookadventure.com).

**Activity of the Month:** Reach out to Read Across America partners as you plan your Read Across America activities throughout the year. They're your best allies in building a nation of readers and a source of books, volunteer readers, ideas, and energy. Go to [www.nea.org/readacross](http://www.nea.org/readacross) and head to our partners page.

#### August Literacy Dates:

August 6-9 John Steinbeck Festival [www.steinbeck.org](http://www.steinbeck.org)

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

#### Recommended Youth Reading:

- ◆ *The Fire Within* by Chris d'Lacey (ages 9 to 12)
- ◆ *Dragon Slippers* by Jessica Day George (ages 9 to 12)
- ◆ *The Princess Tales* by Gail Carson Levine (ages 7 and up)
- ◆ *The Spiderwick Chronicles* by Tony DiTerlizzi and Holly Black (ages 7 and up)
- ◆ *Million-Dollar Throw* by Mike Lupica (ages 9 to 12)
- ◆ *Tangerine* by Edward Bloor (ages 9 to 12)
- ◆ *Airball: My Life in Briefs* by L.D. Harkrader (ages 9 to 12)
- ◆ *The Birchbark House* by Louise Erdrich (ages 9 to 12)
- ◆ *The Buddy Files* by Dori Hillestad Butler (ages 4 to 8)
- ◆ *The Liberation of Gabriel King* by K.L. Going (ages 9 to 12)

# NOTICE:

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

## Celebration of Service & Retirement Banquet

*Shirl Ruesch*

This year's Celebration of Service and Retirement Banquet was held at Florian Gardens on May 27, 2010. Our emcee was Mary Kay Kopf, retired principal from Meadowview Elementary and current Coordinator of the Service Learning Grant. ECAE President Duff Martin presented the following awards: Friend of Education to Dianne Willer and Excellence in Education Teaching Award to Pat Telisak. Public Relations Chairperson Carole Galloy presented the five high school scholarships to: Alex Craker, Brittany Landorf, Benjamin Lange, Mariah Mousel, and Sarah Smith. It was a great evening. Again, congratulations to all ECAE retirees.



## Beyond Diversity Training

*Duff Martin*

August 11th and 12th: Beyond Diversity is a powerful and personally transforming two-day workshop designed to consider the implications of racism, exclusion and prejudice on student learning. During the seminar, participants will engage in a thoughtful, compassionate exploration of racism and how it manifests today in our culture and in our schools. A critical workshop outcome is an awareness of the degree to which racism and other diversity issues are part of educational failure. Participants will explore strategies of identifying and addressing policies and practices that negatively impact students' ability to meet rigorous academic standards. Over 350 ECASD employees have participated over the past several years.

**Location: Ramada Convention Center (downtown), Main Ballroom.  
Register: Email Robyn Criego at [rcriego@ecasd.k12.wi.us](mailto:rcriego@ecasd.k12.wi.us).**

Two more sessions will be offered during the school year: February 15 & 16 and April 7 & 8.

\$200.00 stipend for attending.

Credit through Hamline is expected to be offered, details on August 11th.



### Wise Words from Benjamin Franklin

"Actions speak louder than words and speak far fewer lies."

"People become well-to-do by doing what they do well."

"A man's work is a portrait of himself."

"A smile is a curve that can set a number of things straight."

### Random Stats:

72% Americans who prefer to hand their toilet paper roll over rather than under.

100% Chance you will be in an awkward spot when you realize your kids didn't replace the roll.

On average, consumers use 8.6 sheets per trip—a total of 57 sheets per day. That's an annual total of 20,805 sheets! (Charmin)

The average person spends 3 years on the toilet over the course of a lifetime!



## NEA 2010: Turning Hope Into Action, Reflections on the 148th RA

**D**id you know that the NEA's Representative Assembly (annual meeting) is the world's largest democratic convention in the world? This is an annual event held each year at the beginning of July. ECAE is allowed seven delegates and we budget for 3-4 members to attend. Representing ECAE was Kathy Peterson-Sherman Elementary, Chris Hambuch-Boyle-Itinerant Teacher, Andrea Benedict-Northwoods Elementary, and Duff Martin-South Middle School.

It was very clear that NEA members are angry—angry at our government and with President Barack Obama. In President Van Roekel's address to almost 14,000 delegates he said, "The politics of anger have replaced the politics of hope." He went on to say, "It seems as if our government has upside down priorities, the CEO's are walking away with their pockets bulging." Education funding throughout the nation is being cut or seriously under funded.

Wisconsin understands all too well what happens when a government's priorities are about keeping the wealthy rich as we watch vital programs deteriorate to less than average, and in some cases, all out abandonment. Public schools are the target of politicians who believe that taking money from public schools will solve the nation's financial problems, or worse yet, as President Van Roekel said, "Tramples employee rights and they call it education reform."

This is not the change we had hoped for! The message we need President Obama to hear is we are not happy and will not accept the path your advisors have laid out because it is not the path you promised us. NEA and its 3.2 million members feel betrayed.


President Van Roekel reminded us that the time to turn hope into action is now. We are a strong and vibrant union, and yes, we have had some tough times, but we are unified. We will continue to demand respect and President Obama to fulfill his promise of great public schools for all!

An important message I bring back from the NEA RA is that we should expect and demand respect from our local, state, and national elected officials, but we too have to do our part in helping politicians and community members understand the importance of great public schools. President Van Roekel said it best, **"If we are not activists for education then we will be the victims of politics."**

ECAE attendees at the NEA RA were Andrea Benedict, Duff Martin, Chris Hambuch-Boyle and Kathy Peterson.



## Letter from First Lady on Health Care!

 When you hear about the new health reform law these days, too much talk is focused on the political.

What I've found is that most Americans just want to know how this new law helps their families stay healthy—and how it reduces their costs.

The first thing I tell people who ask about the Affordable Care Act is that, for moms like me, it makes our lives easier. It gives families control over their own care. And it gives us the comfort of knowing that our insurance will be there when we need it most—especially if we get sick. Then I tell them that it gets better, but there's a lot to know. To help, this administration has set up **HealthCare.gov**, where folks can see customized information about how care will improve for their families.

So much of what makes this law great is its emphasis on preventive care—right now, too many people aren't getting the check-ups or the screenings they need to stay healthy. Twelve percent of kids haven't seen a doctor in the past year. And 59 million adults—and 11 million children—depend on an insurance plan that does not cover basic immunizations.

Health reform is changing that. Under this new law, all new private plans will provide basic preventive services—things like childhood immunizations and checkups, mammograms, colonoscopies, cervical screenings, and treatment for high blood pressure—absolutely free of charge. No co-pay. No deductible. No co-insurance needed.

And, on **HealthCare.gov** you can not only learn what preventive steps will help keep your family healthy, but also what insurance coverage options are available based on your needs.

A focus on prevention will help us to combat diabetes, heart disease, and high blood pressure—chronic illnesses that right now lead to seven of ten deaths in the United States and 75 percent of our national health care costs.

And it will help us tackle an issue that is dear to my heart—childhood obesity. As some of you know one of my top priorities as First Lady is the Let's Move! campaign, where we have made it our goal to put a stop to the challenge of childhood obesity within a generation, so children who are born today grow up at a healthy weight.

Each of us needs to take responsibility for our own health and the health of our families, and the new health reform law can help. That's why I'm writing today—to make sure you and Americans across the country know how their health plans are getting better day by day under reform.

Please visit and find out more about your care:

[www.healthcare.gov](http://www.healthcare.gov)  
<http://my.barackobama.com/page/m/55c10b0e/6bff7081/880fb6e6/11880077/2738890574/VEsC/>



Thank you,

Michelle Obama



## On Your Marks, Get Set, GO! BR & ABC Training

### ECAE Leadership Training Event Thursday, August 26, 2010

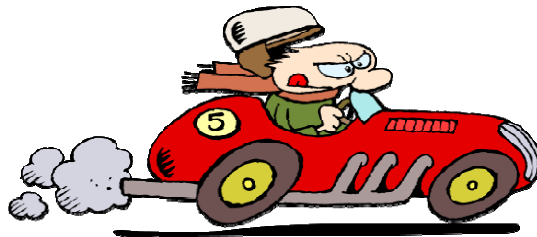
- 9:00-10:00**     **Registration—Refreshments**  
Welcome & Introductions  
Outline of Activities  
Special Speaker
- 10:00-11:00**     **SESSION I (choose one)**  
BR for Communication Training  
BR Training
- 11:00-11:15**     Break—refreshments
- 11:15-12:15**     **SESSION II (choose one)**  
ABC Committee Training  
Your Union—The Bigger Picture  
PI-34 Licensure Information
- 12:15-1:00**     **LUNCH**
- 1:00-2:00**     **SESSION III (choose one)**  
Understanding Your Contract (The Basics)  
Grievances 101  
Nationally Board Certified Teachers

**COST—FREE!!**

**Contact: Duff to register 835-1916 or email  
martinr@weac.org**

(we need a number count for meals, refreshments  
and training materials)

Open to all ECAE members! If you are a current BR or ABC member you won't want to miss this opportunity. If you are considering being a BR or ABC member and want to find out more information, this is a great chance to learn about each position!



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 Shirley Ruesch at: [sruesch@ecasd.k12.wi.us](mailto:sruesch@ecasd.k12.wi.us)

**SELL:** Sharp 3 BR 2 BA home nestled on over 1 acre wooded lot in St. Andrews Park. This beautiful one story home offers abundant natural light through its many triple glazed windows. Main floor office and laundry, fireplace in LR, owner suite, large kitchen. New roof & driveway. Pump & water cond., large deck & patio with hot tub. The full basement has abundant shelving, stubbed in 3<sup>rd</sup> bath & chimney flue for a basement fireplace ready for expansion. Check out the wildlife in this nature paradise! Contact Gretchen at [gbeckstrom@ecasd.k12.wi.us](mailto:gbeckstrom@ecasd.k12.wi.us) 833-8089.



**FREE:** College apartment furniture! I have a matching couch and loveseat willing to give away if you can haul it! Please email Duff at [martinr@weac.org](mailto:martinr@weac.org).

**Day Care:** A new in-home daycare on Rudolph Road has two openings available for the 2010/2011 school year. Provider has worked at a local day care for the past five years and is certified in CPR and other pertinent areas. This is a caring environment providing early learning experiences and hands-on freedom to explore, helping children to develop intellectually, emotionally, and socially. Contact Molly at 715-529-8811.

**SELL:** Florida Condo ideal for escaping Wisconsin winters. 800 sq. feet, remodeled kitchen with all new appliances. All new furniture throughout included. One BR, bath/dressing room, living room/dining area, lanai. Pictures at [www.sevenlakes.net](http://www.sevenlakes.net). Free golf for owners. Clay tennis courts. Six swimming pools, many other amenities. 55 yr. or older, secure gated community. Price \$44,900. Contact Frank or Barbara Burdick, 715-235-0831 or [burdick@yahoo.com](mailto:burdick@yahoo.com).

**SELL:** Foosball table. Great for college housing. Will sell for \$25.00. Please contact Duff at [martinr@weac.org](mailto:martinr@weac.org).

## Dates To Keep In Mind—July/August 2010

**T**he beginning of the school year is just around the corner. Keep these dates in mind as you put your final summer outings together:

- July 25-28: WEAC Summer Academy (call Duff if you are interested in attending, 835-1916)
- August 11-12: Beyond Diversity Training
- August 23-25: New Teacher Orientation and Mentor Training (DeLong Middle School)
- August 26: Building Representative and ABC Committee Trainings (register by calling 835-1916)
- August 30-31: Teacher Workshop Days!!



### PAC (Political Action Committee) Funds

ECAE members may apply for a rebate of money used for political purposes. To qualify members must send request to ECAE Treasurer, Phil Hurlburt, 2004 Highland, Suite L, Eau Claire, WI 54701. This must be done between September 1 and October 30. ECAE will return such rebate to the individual requesting it by November 30. The rebate is \$2.00.

### Fair Share Fee Payers

A fair share fee payer pays a "fair share" to WEAC and NEA for the services it renders to the non-member in its capacity as the exclusive bargaining representative. Fair share fee payers are not members for governance purposes (e.g. no voting rights, can't hold office). The political action contribution is returned to fair-share fee payers by WEAC in December 1. For additional information contact Nancy Kaczmarek ([kaczmarekn@weac.org](mailto:kaczmarekn@weac.org)) at 1-800-362-8034 or contact Duff at 835-1916.

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