



# Inkwell

**Eau Claire Association of Educators**



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

Volume 2010-2011

Issue 1

*Affiliated with Wisconsin Education Association Council and National Education Association*

## WELCOME

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

**W**elcome to Eau Claire and to a dedicated group of educators delivering a quality education to the young people of our community! Joining the ranks of educators in Eau Claire are the following individuals and where they will be working. Take a moment out of your busy schedule and welcome them to your building! Some of the individuals are not necessarily "brand new" to the district; however they may be in a new position or an emergency contract teacher. We welcome:

- Caroline Akervik** – Media Specialist, Lakeshore Elementary
- Benjamin Albrecht** – Math, North High School
- Andrea Antonson** - Resource Teacher, DeLong Middle School
- Brent Diederma** – Special Education, Northwoods Elementary
- Patricia Basche** - School Psychologist, District
- Carrie Blohowiak** – French , North HS and DeLong MS
- Jill Borgwardt** – Resource Teacher, Lakeshore Elementary
- Julie Brooke** - Art, Northstar and DeLong Middle Schools
- Cassandra Christensen** – Special Education, Northwoods Elementary
- Robert Cypher** - Math, North High School
- Kacey Danzinger** - EC4T, Longfellow Elementary
- Tessa Darley** - Counselor, Manz Elementary
- Paula Decker** – Grade 1, Manz Elementary
- Jill Denk** – Grade 4, Putnam Heights Elementary
- Brandon Fanning** - Health Education, DeLong MS and Memorial HS
- Bonnie Fisher** – Resource Teacher, Locust Lane
- Katie Fitzpatrick** – Grade 3, Locust Lane Elementary
- Sharon Fortune** – Media Specialist, Longfellow Elementary
- Donna Friedeck** – Literacy Coach, District
- Mackenzie Gabler** - Special Education, Northstar Middle School
- Valerie Greenfield** – Reading, Montessori Elementary
- Melissa Greer** - Gifted & Talented, Putnam Heights, Meadowview, and Flynn Elementary
- Sara Gunderson** - Grade 4, Sherman Elementary
- Emily Helgerson** – Grade 3, Robbins Elementary
- Jane Hermundson** – Resource Teacher, Lakeshore Elementary
- Wendy House** – Resource Teacher, Manz Elementary
- Nichelle Hrudka** - Grade 2, Northwoods Elementary
- Nicole Jaeger** – Special Education, Putnam Heights Elementary
- Sheena Kaatz** – Resource Teacher/Gifted and Talented Teacher, Locust Lane & Roosevelt
- Connie Kees** – Gifted and Talented Teacher, Sherman, Sam Davey, and Manz
- Rachel Kleman** – Grade 4, Longfellow Elementary
- Erin Kremer** – Social Studies, Memorial High School
- Geraldine Lee** – Gifted and Talented Teacher, Northstar Middle School
- Ashlee Legear** - Math, North High School
- Ashley Lynch** – Kindergarten, Lakeshore Elementary
- Amanda Marquardt** - Special Education, Flynn Elementary
- Kristina Maves-Labs** – Kindergarten, Locust Lane Elementary
- Meghan McCarthy** - Grade 2, Meadowview Elementary
- Mary McFarlane** – Special Education, Montessori Elementary
- Brittany Merkes** – Grade 1, Roosevelt Elementary
- Alisha Moldenhauer** – Grade 6, South Middle School
- Maria Monpas** – Physical Education, DeLong Middle School



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### Important Date:

### FIRST BUILDING REPRESENTATIVE MEETING:

**September 15,  
4:00-6:00  
American Legion,  
434 Water Street**



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## Education Jobs Fund Saves Jobs



**U**.S. Representatives Ron Kind and David Obey and Senators Herb Kohl and Russ Feingold both voted in August with the majority to authorize \$10 billion to save 161,000 education jobs as part of the Education Jobs Fund, signed into law recently by President Obama. For Wisconsin, passage means that schools will receive \$179,650,099 to save and create jobs in Wisconsin schools.

Congress' approval of the funding follows a huge campaign launched by WEAC and NEA members, coalition partners, parents, activists and governors who all emailed and lobbied Congress demanding that law makers do right by the nation's students. The campaign generated 301,000 emails and 100,000 calls to Congress. More than 35,000 became active fans of the Speak Up for Education and Kids Campaign on Facebook and 145,000 new member lobbyists signed up to take action. Many WCEA members were active in this campaign.

The funding can be used to restore jobs for teachers and support staff lost due to budget cutbacks, retain educator jobs, and create new educator jobs. The dollars are intended to be used for salaries and benefits for educators.

ECAE has received information showing what each neighboring district will receive, as shown below.

### Neighboring Districts

Altoona	\$228,406
Augusta	\$115,098
Bloomer	\$215,965
Durand	\$214,814
Eleva-Strum	\$102,142
Elk Mound	\$133,181
Fall Creek	\$115,488
Mondovi	\$154,856
Osseo-Fairchild	\$158,550

### Big Rivers Conference Schools

<b>Eau Claire Area</b>	<b>\$2,504,567</b>
Chippewa Falls	\$1,046,803
Hudson	\$1,583,336
Menomonie	\$734,764
New Richmond	\$588,091
River Falls	\$800,121
Rice Lake	\$659,954

### Comparables

Appleton	\$3,193,802
Beloit	\$692,104
Fond Du Lac	\$1,584,280
LaCrosse	\$1,712,438
Oshkosh	\$2,132,027
Sheboygan	\$1,653,822
Stevens Point	\$1,753,995
Wausau	\$1,756,881

### Top 10 Wisconsin School Districts

Milwaukee Public	\$14,432,873
Madison Area	\$8,377,542
Racine	\$4,568,722
Waukesha	\$4,266,035
Kenosha	\$4,232,263
Green Bay	\$3,761,871
Appleton	\$3,193,802
<b>Eau Claire</b>	<b>\$2,504,567</b>
Wauwatosa	\$2,353,760
Oconomowoc	\$2,232,027

Why the different numbers? The distribution of funds will take place according to Wisconsin's state school funding formula rather than the federal Title funding mechanism, which would have been the other choice. Title funds would have been weighed toward high-poverty districts. If you were to compare some school districts, like Hayward – the amount they will receive compared to like size districts and smaller is much greater. Hayward will receive \$372.00 compared to Bloomer (Heart of the North) who will receive \$215,965.00 – this shows the glaring flaws in the current school funding formula.

### CANDIDATE MEET AND GREET

Pine Harbor Campground  
Sunday, September 12th 3:00-5:00 pm

The following candidates have been invited to participate: Julie Lassa-7th Congressional District, Senator Pat Kreitlow, Senator Kathleen Vinehout, Representative Kristen Dexter, Representative Jeff Smith, and Candidate CW King (67th Assembly District).

Pine Harbor: 7181 18th Street, Chippewa Falls Questions: 715-723-0496

This is an 11.29 communications with ECAE/WEAC members.

# NOTICE:

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



## Welcome to Eau Claire Educators

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- Mary McFarlane** – Special Education, Montessori Elementary
- Brittany Merkes** – Grade 1, Roosevelt Elementary
- Alisha Moldenhauer** – Grade 6, South Middle School
- Maria Monpas** – Physical Education, DeLong Middle School
- Kajsa Mooney** – Grade 4, Meadowview Elementary
- Colleen Morgan** - Grade 6, South Middle School
- PaSia Lor Moua** - Grade 4, Meadowview Elementary
- Heidi Myers** – Reading, Longfellow Elementary
- Derek Olson** - Math, Memorial High School
- Kerri Patton** - German, Memorial High School
- Reed Pecha** – Social Studies, South Middle School
- Morgan Pederson** - Speech & Language, District
- Laurie Peterson** - PreK-5 Literacy and Assessment Coordinator, District
- Amy Quaschnick** - School Psychologist, District
- Dana Reck** – Art, Montessori and Robbins Elementary
- Bethany Richter** – Special Education – Sam Davey and Locust Lane
- Anne Robenhorst** - Special Education, Sherman Elementary
- Michael Roemhild** - Grade 4, Lakeshore Elementary
- Elizabeth Sacia** - Grade 3, Roosevelt Elementary
- Nicole Schemenauer** - EC4T, Longfellow Elementary
- Amanda Schrader** - Kindergarten, Sam Davey Elementary
- Beth Schott** – Grade 3, Flynn Elementary
- Ashley Schullo** - Science, North High School
- Amanda Seveland** - French, Memorial HS and DeLong MS
- Bridget Smylie** - Reading, DeLong Middle School
- Caryn Stanek** – Resource Teacher, DeLong Middle School
- Andrea Steffen** - Special Education and Reading, Northstar MS
- Jedidiah Stutzman** - Social Studies, DeLong Middle School
- Heather Tanner** – Special Education, District
- Analiese Tushaus** – German, DeLong Middle School
- Kazoua Vang** – Kindergarten, Meadowview Elementary
- Shelly Voegeli** - Counselor, Northstar Middle School
- Soua Yang** - Grade 1, Lakeshore Elementary School
- Joan Wallin** – Occupational Therapist, District
- Anna Willkom** - Speech and Language, District
- Christina Yocca** - Art, Meadowview, Sherman, & Roosevelt Elementary



## LABOR DAY

(from WEAC-Fox Valley UniServ newsletter – *The Propeller*)

September 6th – The eight hour day, the 40-hour week, company health insurance, the regulation of hazardous job conditions, workman’s compensation, unemployment insurance, the minimum wage, the reduction of child labor, severance pay – all are creatures of the labor movement.

For most Americans, Labor Day marks the end of summer vacation, the re-opening of Schools, and the resumption of a full schedule of family and work activities. The original celebrations had a more serious purpose, however.

The idea for Labor Day sprang from the imagination of one union leader in New York City. Peter J. McGuire, the dynamic president of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, suggested in 1882 that since we had certain holidays to represent “the spiritual, civil, and military spirit,” a day should be set aside to honor the industrial spirit – “the great vital force of the nation.”

McGuire’s fellow workers adopted the idea that same year and 10,000 workers paraded around Union Square and up Fifth Avenue to Forty-Second Street, headed by a band and mounted police. A big picnic followed with speakers and dancing, and finally, fireworks.

What began as a private event became a legal, public holiday in all the states. Labor Day is a day in which America honors all the workers – organized and unorganized – who contribute to the economic success of our communities.

The early unions, traditionally blue collar, were made up of factory workers and craft employees. Today, unions have grown to include cooks, custodians, secretaries, teaching assistants, teachers, police officers, engineers, attorneys, and

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### Wise Words

**Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower.**

by

**Albert Camus**

**Winter is an etching, spring a watercolor, summer an oil painting, and autumn a mosaic of them all.**

by

**Stanley Horowitz**

**No spring nor summer beauty hath such grace As I have seen in one autumnal face.**

by

**John Donne**

**Dreams are the touchstone of our character.**

by

**Henry David Thoreau**

### Trivia

**One pencil can write 45,000 words! More than 2 billion pencils are used in the United States every year, and most of them have erasers! However, the majority of pencils sold in Europe do not have erasers! Do Europeans make more or less mistakes? The typical pencil can draw a line 35 miles long!**

[www.pencils.com/pencil-trivia](http://www.pencils.com/pencil-trivia)



## Help Our Substitutes!

**I**t may not be in your lesson plans right now, but sometime in the future you're probably going to miss a day of school and you'll need a substitute.

Subs are like Santa's elves—they do the work when the big guy isn't around.

Subs will do a better job if you make sure everything they need is marked and handy.

Label a file folder or notebook "Substitute" and always keep it somewhere that people can find it (desk drawer, filing cabinet).

Here are some suggestions for what could be in the folder:

- ◆ Schedule of classes (regular and special) and supervision assignment.
- ◆ Names and schedules of students who leave the room during the day for special reasons.
- ◆ Names of students with special needs or disabilities.
- ◆ Seating chart.
- ◆ Procedures for reporting student absences, lunch, etc.
- ◆ Lesson plans (Include an emergency lesson plan in case regular lesson plans don't make it to the sub.).
- ◆ Your classroom rules and discipline procedures.
- ◆ Location of any manuals or materials to be used.
- ◆ Procedure for use of AV material or any other special equipment.
- ◆ Names and schedules of aides and/or volunteers.
- ◆ Names of students who can be depended on to help.
- ◆ Names and location of teachers to call on for help.
- ◆ Procedures for dealing with sick or injured children.
- ◆ Procedures for regular and early dismissal.
- ◆ Floor plan of the building.
- ◆ Procedures for emergency drills.
- ◆ Some sort of evaluation form so that the substitute can let you know how things went.

Hopefully there are some helpful tips as you help our substitutes!!

## Parents are People Too!

**G**ranted, you may have doubts about this statement after receiving a cranky note from a parent who's perturbed or confused about what's going on in your classroom. But establishing a solid partnership with parents can make all the difference in a child's education. The sooner you make that essential connection, the better your success rate with your students will be. It may be one of the most important things you do as a teacher. Here are some tips for effective parent communication:

- ◆ Start off the school year with a letter home introducing yourself, explaining your goals for the students, and letting parents know how they can contact you.
- ◆ Send a handwritten (or photocopied) note home to parents on a regular basis, letting them know what their children are learning and how they can reinforce those lessons at home.
- ◆ Send "success notes" to parents, applauding the positive things their child has done. Don't wait until a conference to let parents know about any problems or accomplishments.
- ◆ When you communicate with parents in writing, be sure to proofread for spelling and grammatical errors. Avoid education jargon; write clearly and neatly. Make a copy for your records.
- ◆ Always say thank you to parents for their cooperation and their efforts.
- ◆ Keep a log of the phone conversations you have with parents. Include day, time and the subject of your conversation. It's a great memory aid for you and for the parents.
- ◆ Involve parents by requiring them to sign their children's homework and permission slips.
- ◆ Create a Web site that introduces yourself and your classroom to parents. You can post homework assignments and tips and provide a way for parents to communicate with you.
- ◆ If a Web site is a little more than you want to tackle at first, join with other teachers at your grade level and produce a regular newsletter.

Get parents on your side early on!! Good luck.



## WEAC Applauds DPI School Funding Framework

By Mary Bell, WEAC President

**O**n June 24, State Superintendent Tony Evers unveiled a proposed framework for school funding called “Fair Funding for Our Future.” The framework emphasizes the need for greater transparency and accountability in how we fund our schools, including allocating the School Tax Levy Credit to general school aids. Currently, the credit is called school aid but is never used to educate even one child. The change will not result in a net property tax increase, but will instead direct funds that are already part of the school funding system into our schools.

Some key parts of the framework include:

- ◆ Providing a minimum level of state aid for every student, no matter where they happen to live.
- ◆ Using student poverty as a factor in determining a portion of state aid.
- ◆ Instituting a predictable system that allows school district to more accurately budget; and
- ◆ Expanding aid for rural schools, which teach a large percentage of Wisconsin's students.

I stand with Superintendent Evers in support of this framework because it will help decrease the uncertainty around how much aid a local school district will receive each year. Simply put, it will help teachers and education support professionals to put the focus

The framework is consistent with our union's work on school funding reform, and the ideas embodied in the School Finance Network Plan. We, along with SFN Coalition members, are pleased that the Department where it needs to be – in the classroom.

The framework is consistent with our union's work on school funding reform, and the ideas embodied in the School Finance Network Plan. We, along with SFN Coalition members, are pleased that the Department of Public Instruction has taken a step forward to begin the school funding discussion.

This is a good first step to repair the outdated school funding system because it will result in improved opportunities for students in the classroom.

School funding reform continues to be our union's top priority. We look forward to working with other education, parent, community and business groups so Wisconsin can maintain its tradition of quality public schools.

## Labor Day

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many more so-called white and gray collar employees. Nevertheless, the is expanded group continues the heritage that began over 100 years ago.

Let us not forget it was the labor (union) movement that gave us the 40 hour work week, paid vacations, pension plans, and end to the child labor, and supported free public schools. It is no coincidence that the standard of living the majority of us in the United Education Profession enjoy today is the direct result of our UNION – individuals working together in a united front to achieve what is right and just.

So while you enjoyed your day away from work, I hope you took a moment to reflect on the meaning of Labor Day and the important role that you, as a member of a union, play in helping preserve all the gains that have been made by your brothers and sisters that have gone before you.



## ODDS and ENDS BUT IMPORTANT!!

### NEA Complimentary Life Insurance

Since 1985, NEA Members Insurance Trust has been providing guaranteed coverage to eligible members, and has paid out over \$30 million to members' families. For questions about your coverage, call 1-800-637-4636! If you haven't already identified your beneficiary – you should do that ASAP.

### Don't Forget About Healthworks-Employee Assistance Program

Services provided are: Health and wellness, stress management, marriage and family, relationships, depression, anxiety, alcohol and drug abuse. Grief and bereavement, legal concerns, and finance/budgeting. This is free to all ECASD employees. You can contact Healthworks at 715-838-3060 or 1-800-236-3060. It is confidential! Healthworks is a service of Luther Midelfort-Mayo Health System.

### PAC Rebate Dues

Your ECAE dues for 2010-2011 include a PAC contribution of \$2. The ECAE utilizes these to make contributions to: 1) the political campaigns of candidates for local or state office who have been recommended and approved by ECAE for election because they are friends of education; and 2) Committees that advocate for passage of school referenda. Any member wishing a rebate of his contribution must request in writing by October 1, 2010. Each request must be a separate letter including your name and address. Rebates are normally issued by the end of October. For a refund of your ECAE-PAC contributions write to: ECAE, Attention Phil Hurlburt, 2004 Highland Avenue, Suite L, Eau Claire, WI 54701. **Telephone requests, multiple requests in the same letter, letters post-marked after 10/1/10, email requests, and letters missing any required information (name and address) will NOT be honored.** Fair share non-members do not need to request a refund. An automatic refund will be issued to all fair share fee-payers as soon as that person's fair share status has been certified.

### WEAC Membership Card

The WEAC Membership/Savers' Club Card is a two-year card that will be mailed to members' home addresses in late August 2010. The card includes each member's unique ID number. DO NOT destroy your card. It serves as the Savers' Club ID as well as for on-line trainings, admission to the annual WEAC Convention, and contains your membership ID number.

If you lose your card, you can print another card at [www.weac.org](http://www.weac.org), sign-in as a member, click “My Profile” in the upper part of the page then “Manage my demographic information.” If you need further assistance contact Ron Martin at the ECAE Office, 835-1916.

### Home Emails Needed!!

We prefer to contact you my home email. We NEVER give out your email to an outside organization or group. We would like to have as many home emails as possible. Your building representative may come to you in the next couple of weeks and ask for this information. Again, the email is strictly for our (ECAE) use!

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.



**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:** Location-Location-Location! Completely remodeled ranch home with new vinyl siding, windows, and roof. This home has an open floor plan with a see-through NG fireplace, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, jacuzzi tub, 3 car garage, a sunroom, walk-out LL, featuring a large family room with dance floor, new high efficiency NG furnace and AC, new deck and sun tube in KT, country feeling backyard on mini creek, and a front porch. Located in Third Ward near UW-EC and the bike trail. 315 Bartlett Ct. Call 715-835-4949 or e-mail [twosopers@hotmail.com](mailto:twosopers@hotmail.com).

**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).



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