



Inkwell



Eau Claire Association of Educators

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Affiliated with Wisconsin Education Association Council and National Education Association

Unprecedented Times!

Ron "Duff" Martin, President

It would be very easy for me to begin March's *Inkwell* article with all kinds of depressing news, the status of our budget crisis and poor economic times. But, I want to write about what just recently happened on a federal level that will no doubt have a very profound affect on our local school district and budget shortfall.

It is so obvious that our President Barack Obama values public education—the stimulus plan is evident of that! Never before in American history has so much money been earmarked for education. It is apparent that our President is not about cuts and freezes in public education but rather increases—that's the solution to a long term economic problem.

Now it is up to our Governor to implement the stimulus funding. And again I report to you that Governor Doyle has placed a huge priority on education. His message on February 17, in his speech before the state legislature outlining his 2009-2011 state budget proposal, was one of shared sacrifice and protecting priorities like education, providing an increase for schools when almost everything else is being cut!

It is refreshing and exciting news. These are tough times and when our economy is hurting we can not take from education—education is the key to solving the economic problems of our nation!

Don't give up hope—continue to fight the good fight and do what you love to do—work with young people in the Eau Claire Area School District.

March 2nd—NEA's 12th Annual Read Across America Day

Join in the 12th NEA's Read Across America Day! This nationwide literacy event will take place on March 2nd, the birthday of Dr. Seuss, the author whose books epitomize reading fun! Last year, close to 45 million children, adults, and celebrities shared books together across the nation. And this year promises to be bigger than ever! NEA's Read Across America is for all grades Pre-K through Grade 12! You will be surprised at how much some of our older students enjoy some of Dr. Seuss's stories.

But Read Across America is not just for one day. Make March Read Across America Month. Check the RAA website, www.nea.org/readacross, for ideas on how to celebrate reading throughout the month. Download free digital read-along versions of Dr. Seuss books. Read the pledges to find out what's happening around the country. Check out the new downloadable materials for 2009. You can also share your ideas there as well. Take pictures of activities in your classrooms and in your schools. Share your ideas and pictures with the entire district by sending them to Carole Galloy at cgalloy@ecasd.k12.wi.us, so we can put them in the *Inkwell* and on our website.



Important Dates:

- 03/1-31 Read Across America Month
- 03/02 BOE Meeting
- 03/04 Exec. Bd. Mtg.
- 03/16 BOE Meeting
- 03/16-20 Spring Break
- 03/17 St. Patrick's Day
- 03/20 First Day of Spring
- 03/25 BR Meeting



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NEA's Read Across America—Building a Nation of Readers
 March is Women's History Month

Carole Galloy

"You're never too old, too wacky, too wild, to pick up a book and read with a child. You're never too busy, too cool, or too hot, to pick up a book and share what you've got. In schools and communities, gather around, let's pick up a book, let's pass it around. There are kids all around you, kids who need someone who'll hug someone who'll read. Come join us and celebrate in your own special way and make this America's Reach to Kids Day."

Tip of the month: Don't forget to tell the media about your events and about NEA's Read Across America. Send out press releases, write a letter to the editor, invite your local newscasters to read, even partner with local newspapers on a reading challenge.

Link of the Month: Are you looking for bright ideas for your Read Across America celebrations? Check out the pledge pages on NEA's Read Across America Web site. You'll find plenty of event ideas from around the country. Go to www.nea.org/readacross.

Activity of the Month: Are you planning the biggest, funniest, most unusual Read Across America event in the country? Save your photos, videos, stories, and news clips and enter the 2009 Read Across America Awards. For rules, categories, and an application, go to www.nea.org/readacross.

March Literacy Dates:

- March is Women's History month www.nwhp.org
- March 2 NEA's Read Across America Day
- March 2-6 Newspaper in Education Week www.neafoundation.org
- March 6 World Book Day
- March 8-14 Teen Tech Week www.ala.org

www.nea.org/readacross



NEED A CAT IN THE HAT COSTUME?

ECAE has a few Cat In the Hat Costumes. If you are interested in using one sometime in the next few weeks, please contact Duff (martinr@weac.org) to reserve a costume.

"PUDDLE JUMP"
Longfellow Elementary
5k Fun Run/ Walk
 Phoenix Park
 Eau Claire, WI
APRIL 18, 2009



Registration information can be found at:
http://www.longfellow.ecasd.k12.wi.us/About/puddle_jump.htm



4252 Southlakeside Dr. Suite B, Eau Claire, WI 54701

Dave Tracy
 REALTOR®

Direct: 715.833.1152 Fax: 715.831.1588
 dtracy7@gmail.com
 www.hiredavetracy.com
 www.chippewavalleyproperties.com




Chris Redman
 Realtor

Cell: (715) 828-2341

KLEVEN REAL ESTATE, INC.
 1803 Harding Avenue, Eau Claire WI 54701
 E-mail: ChrisJRedman@hotmail.com
 Office Fax: (715) 834-9500
 Office Phone: (715) 834-1501

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ODDS AND ENDS

Officer Elections 2009

Up for election this year are the following positions, President, Vice President, Secretary, Prek-5 Representative, and Negotiation's Chairperson. All positions are for a three year period. If you would like more information about the positions please contact Ron Martin at 835-1916 or martinr@weac.org. Nominations are officially open and if you would like your name considered please contact Ron Martin (martinr@weac.org).

Currently in each position are: President—Ron Martin, Vice President—Chris Hambuch-Boyle, Secretary—Lynn Verdon, Prek-5 Representative—Brian Wiltgen, and Negotiation's Chairperson—Gretchen Beckstrom. All are eligible to run for these positions again.

Constitutional Bylaws Amendments

At this time the Executive Board and Building Representatives have approved sending two constitutional amendments to the membership for a vote. The changes deal with Bylaw IV-Election of Building Representatives, changing the date of election from May to September and removing term limits of Building Representatives. The other change is Bylaw XVI-Elections of WEAC/NEA Representative Assembly Delegates, changing the election date from April to February. Both bylaw changes deal with being able to run elections efficiently and in a timely manner. If you would like to see the full text of the changes, please contact your building representatives. Questions can also be directed to Ron Martin at 835-1916 or martinr@weac.org.

San Diego or Bust?

Interested in representing ECAE at the NEA's Representative Assembly? It takes place July 1-6 in San Diego, California. ECAE is allowed five delegates of which we have budgeted enough money to send three delegates!. It is an incredible experience watching the world's largest democratic convention take place, with sometimes over 13,000 voting delegates and another 5,000 visitors! If you are interested in getting your name on the ballot, or if you have questions, please contact Ron Martin (martinr@weac.org).

Friend of Education!

ECAE has historically given a "Friend of Education" award at the Celebration of Service retirement banquet. We honor a person or group in Eau Claire who has shown support for our public schools, teachers, and students. Previous recipients have included: Jeff Smith, Justine Vernon, Marv Lansing, Dr. David Franks, and many others! If you have a nomination, please contact Carol Miller (millercc@weac.org) to receive a copy of the nomination form.

The Award for Teaching Excellence!

This award recognizes, rewards and promotes excellence in teaching and advocacy for the profession. It also honors public education and the dedicated members of ECAE, WEAC, and NEA. If you know of someone who is an instructional expert, a creative and innovative teacher, an advocate for the profession, a diverse, exemplary leader, connected to our community and is a lifelong learner, consider nominating them for the first ever ECAE AWARD FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE! The winning candidate from ECAE will then be forwarded on to WEAC who will also make a selection for Wisconsin. If you know of a colleague, please submit their name to Carol Miller (millercc@weac.org) and we'll get you the necessary paperwork to complete the nomination. Due date is March 9. A committee of ECAE members will make the selection.

On a Personal Note: Thank you everyone for your thoughts, prayers and acts of kindness in response to the loss of my mom. We will plant trees in her memory, so her grandchildren and great-grandchildren can watch them grow and know the cycle of life continues. Sincerely, Carole Galloy



As the practice of feng shui teaches us to live in harmony with the universe and the earth, as well as each other, it behooves us to take care of our surrounding. Conserve the earth's resources by reducing, reusing, and recycling as much as you can.



"Indoors or out, no one relaxes in March, that month of wind and taxes, the wind will presently disappear, the taxes last us all the year."

—Ogden Nash

"If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant. If we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome."

—Charlotte Bronte



WISCONSIN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION COUNCIL'S STATE BARGAINING GOALS

(Approved at the WEAC Board of Director's Meeting, February 22, 2009)

Wisconsin's public schools are among the best in the nation because of our state's talented, caring, and committed teachers and educational support professionals. Our members are essential to creating a better future for the people and especially the students of Wisconsin.

In this economic crisis, there are some who will call on teachers and support professionals to sacrifice more and shoulder the burden of this crisis through pay freezes or other concessions. This simplistic approach fails to recognize that our teachers and support professionals have already been stretched to the limit in terms of their ability to do more with less and for less. Freezing pay of the educators isn't the answer to Wisconsin's financial crisis, and such calls lack vision and will only lead our State to further economic decline.

We are willing to partner with school districts to investigate options and alternatives to help our communities get through these difficult times, but must not give into calls to reduce funding in education. Investing in education is part of the solution to the current crisis. We must work together to make investments in education a priority.

In this next bargaining cycle, our greatest challenge is to stand together during these difficult times to resist concessions and move our priorities forward. Success will require better coordination between our bargaining committees paired with the willingness to work through our differences. By having the courage to stand together, we will build a stronger union and find success in these difficult times.

WEAC BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S COMMITS TO SOME BASIC TEACHER GOALS FOR BARGAINING PURPOSES! (Approved by the WEAC Board of Directors, February 22, 2009)

1. Raise career teacher earnings to levels consistent with other professions requiring similar levels of education.
2. Provide, maintain or improve health insurance benefit levels and avoid cost-shifting and high deductible health plans as we pursue broader health care reform.
3. Protect the value of our post-employment benefits. Careful analysis of the present value of post employment benefits should occur prior to making changes to the benefit plan to ensure that our members' interests are protected and preserved.
4. Establish pay schedules and support programs linked to professional development and PI-34 licensure advancement.
5. Improve the quality of education by addressing working conditions such as: class size, class load, class schedules, preparation time, and related professional and instructional policies.
6. Ensure that the full WRS rates are paid by employer

Tony Evers for Wisconsin State Superintendent

Personal Qualifications

Attended Wisconsin public schools
Children graduated from public schools
Grandchild is a kindergartener in Wisconsin public school

This is an 11.29 communication with WEAC and ECAE members, Federal Statute CFR 110.8(b)(4)

Statewide Service

Deputy State Superintendent since 2001
Chief Administrator of CESA 6 serving 42 school districts from 1992-2000
Superintendent of Verona and Oakfield school districts
High school and elementary principals
Teacher of gifted and talented
Technology coordinator in Tomah

National Service

Curriculum auditor in states across the U.S.
National president of the Deputy State Superintendent Leadership Commission



Governor Doyle and WEAC endorse Tony Evers for Wisconsin State Superintendent.

These are certainly uncertain times. Given the many unknowns regarding the economics at the national and state levels, this will be a difficult bargain at best. What *don't* we know yet? While we *do* know that Wisconsin will be receiving funds from the federal economic stimulus package for the state fiscal stabilization fund, Title I, and IDEA, we are *unsure* how this will affect Eau Claire Schools specifically.

We *do* know that Governor Doyle has made education a priority and has proposed a \$201 million increase in state aid for 2009-10, though it is still *too early to predict* what the final budget will contain. The proposed budget asks for the repeal of the QEO. Many would argue that this should go hand-in-hand with repealing revenue caps, however if we must settle for a "foot in the door", so be it. The QEO has effectively tied K-12 teachers hands when it comes to fair bargaining practice. As an example of how this unfair law has hogtied us since 1993, we offer this. (CVTC is not bound by the QEO and has been able to make considerable progress in the teachers' pay scale).

In 1993:

ECAE starting salary: \$23,000

ECAE master's degree: \$24,882

ECAE schedule max: \$45,392

CVTC (BS degree): \$26,482

CVTC (master's): \$29,923

CVTC (max): \$45,198

In 2008-09 (after 15 years of the QEO and revenue caps):

ECAE starting salary: \$36,591

ECAE master's degree: \$39,409

ECAE schedule max: \$61,799

CVTC (BS): \$44,786

CVTC (master's): \$50,187

CVTC (max): \$78,155



Please encourage our education-friendly legislators to repeal the QEO. We are willing to take our chances.

What else is still an "unknown?" Health Insurance rates are going to be horrendous—unless something can be done at the state and federal levels. In attending the insurance meeting last week, the bids came in and the news isn't pretty. Medica came in at a top bid of a 55% increase! The low bids were in the 32%+ range (and we may not be looking at apples to apples when compared with our current plan. We are still exploring our options at this point. The WRS is expected to increase and those numbers will not be available until June. With so much up in the air, the Negotiations Team felt it wouldn't be productive to go to the table just yet. We plan to meet with the Board in early April. We appreciate your support as we stand together in this most noble profession.

School Finance Network Launches Plan

OnWEAC Direct@weac.org

February marked the launch of the School Finance Network's plan to reform school funding in Wisconsin. In Green Bay, Verona, West Allis, Wausau, Altoona, LaCrosse, Rhinelander, Janesville and Racine, the SFN laid out its plan for school funding reform. WEAC is one of the nine members of the group, along with AFT-Wisconsin, Fair Aid Coalition, School Administrators Alliance, Southeastern Wisconsin Schools Alliance, Wisconsin Alliance for Excellent Schools, Wisconsin Association of School Boards, Wisconsin Association of School District Administrators, and Wisconsin Parent Teacher Association.

In schools across Wisconsin, class sizes are growing larger, programs are being reduced, positions are not being filled and sports teams are being cut. Opportunities for students are shrinking because of revenue control caps, and education is diminished from what it was even a few years ago. Recognizing that not every student costs the same to educate, the SFN proposes to enhance categorical aids to school districts across the state. Additionally, the SFN plan calls for changing how annual per-pupil increases are calculated, moving them from \$264 to \$350 in year one, and then tying future increases to overall statewide economic growth.

For more information on the SFN plan, visit the group's new Web site, <http://www.sfnwisconsin.org>. It will take all of us working together to demand that Wisconsin find a better way to provide opportunities to all students. You can help inform your friends and community about the importance of changing the way our schools are funded. Through letters to the editor, guest columns and other community outreach pieces, you can inform the community on school funding reform. You can order brochures, postcards and informational pieces about the plan. WEAC members can find materials at <https://www.weacm.org/content/2008-09/schoolfundingtools.cfm>

Dozens of WEAC members have shared their stories of how school funding has impacted their professions. Considering sharing yours as well. <https://www.weacm.org/content/2008-09/ShareYourStory/Share.cfm>. From OnWEACDirect@weac.org

Cleaning closets or garages?
Looking for a bargain?

BARGAIN BLITZ

List your items in the
Inkwell Bargain Blitz!

Deadline for submitting materials is the **15th of each month**. Sorry, no personal ads.
Send items to Carole Galloy at: cgalloy@ecasd.k12.wi.us

SELL: 2004 Stratos Bass Boat 275 Pro XL. 17'-8" long, 93 Beam, dual console with center bench to seat a third person. Stratos custom trailer & cover included! Fully loaded and in *show room condition!!* Metallic burgundy and gold. \$13,200. Contact Emilee at eplanert@ecasd.k12.wi.us or call 715-577-4953.

SELL: 2002 Ski-Doo MXZX 440 Factory Race Sled. Absolutely mint shape, only 475 miles & never raced. \$3,250 Email Emilee: eplanert@ecasd.k12.wi.us or call 715-577-4953.

WANTED: Good used sofa/sleeper or futon. Call Bill at 852-5295 or email wsimon@ecasd.k12.wi.us

SELL: Very well kept Third Ward home near downtown & Univ. Nice neighborhood, private back yd. w/deck. Full basement w/egress window. Range, refrig., microwave, washer, dryer & laundry tub. Newer roof and siding. Newer furnace and AC. Very energy efficient home. Ready to move in for single family or possible student rental. 1509 S. Farwell \$150,000 Contact Jeff 715-288-6791, Cell 715-829-2059 for showing.

SELL: Beautifully remodeled 3rd Ward, 3 bdrm. home w/ brick fireplace, crown molding, refinished hdwd. floors, formal dr, large MBR w/adjoining 1/2 bath & built-ins. Newer kitchen, baths, windows, roof, water heater, light fix. & interior & exterior paint. Private & lushly landscaped bkyd. with paver brick patio, perennials & more. 1711 State Street. Donnellan Real Estate. \$167,500. Email Terry Weld at TWeld@DonnellanOnline.com or call 456-8080. To view more details follow this web address: <http://www.donnellanonline.com/property.phtml?mls=809080>

SELL: Garmin ETrex Vista Personal GPS; never used; 2005 Purchase price \$299; Current Price \$199; Asking \$100. Call Tom Kidd at 597-3725 or Tom Dorr at 834-8876

SELL: Mirrored Swan Picture \$12. Round Duncan Phyfe Leather Inlay Table \$55. Tan Multi Colored Sofa Sleeper \$70. New In Box Milwaukee 12V Compact Driver Model 2401-22 \$110. Many formal prom dresses sizes 7-13/14 \$10-\$40. Brand New Bath & Body Winter Bags Sets With 8oz lotion, 10oz shower gel, 8oz body splash, 10oz bubble bath, & a mesh sponge (1 Japanese Cherry Blossom and 3 Sweet Pea Sets) \$40 each. Fisherman Table Lamp \$20. Wildlife Canvas Pictures 62 1/2 X 42 in. 1 Deer & 1 Birds \$42.50 each. Bench Vice & Stand \$30. Roof Jacks \$10. Delta Radial Arm Saw \$90. Toro 5 h.p. snow blower \$200. Email Denise: dstagliano@ecasd.k12.wi.us

GOOD DEAL: Timeshare in Branson, MO 3 Bedroom Lockout. Biennia Week 20 at Palace View by Spinnaker \$2,500.00 Great Trade!! Email Denise: dstagliano@ecasd.k12.wi.us

WANTED: Dependable car for student driver up to \$2,000. Email Denise dstagliano@ecasd.k12.wi.us

JOBS WANTED: Do you need a babysitter? Do you need a pet-sitter? Kayla Stagliano (21) or Stacy Stagliano (18). Do you need a house-sitter? Email Denise at: dstagliano@ecasd.k12.wi.us.

SELL: Foosball table in excellent condition. Heavy duty construction, similar to a bar table, \$200. Also, Monique Alto Sax. Upper level student sax in excellent condition. Recently serviced, I have the receipts. Includes nice case, neck strap, etc, and music stand. \$475.00 Contact Todd at tlavalley@ecasd.k12.wi.us

Here are some ideas to make NEA's Read Across American 2009 a memorable and meaningful day for the young people of our school district!

Celebrate Stellar Authors! Young readers love to find out more about the authors of their favorite books, and that knowledge can inspire them in their own writing. What reader wouldn't want to learn about what the writers were like as children, where they get their ideas, what they like to read, what their hobbies are, and more?

Dr. Seuss's Birthday One school in Maine is celebrating Read Across America Day by inviting community members to read to children and their parents. They are ending the day with a birthday cake. During the day different classes will be reading a variety of Dr. Seuss stories and some others have invited guest readers.

Progressive Seuss Book A school in Virginia writes a school-wide Dr. Seuss-type book. The children in each grade level write a chapter and send it on to then next class. There is also a door decorating competition featuring different Dr. Seuss stories/books. They are inviting school administrators and school board members to read. They dress as favorite Seuss characters. Older children read to younger children. They eat green eggs and ham for school breakfast.

Dr. Seuss Dress-Up An elementary school in Ohio encourages the students to dress up as Seuss characters. To involve the community, the local librarian will be presenting a retelling of The Cat in the Hat, using props and volunteers from the audience. Parents, principal, and community members will be invited into classrooms throughout the day.

Even High School Gets Involved A high school in Wisconsin reports that teachers in their school get really involved in the day by reading "The Lorax", "You're Only Old Once!" or "Oh The Places You'll Go" this begins the class and a short discussion about the meaning of the story. Pretty simple, but the young people seemed to enjoy the day. Another high school teacher had her seniors identify their favorite children's book and why it was their favorite—these were shared with one of the local elementaries.