

NEWS & VIEWS

Try your luck & support at least 3 scholarships to Billings graduating seniors



Teachers make more scholarships possible . . .

The prizes have been great and participation in the annual fundraising event for the *BEA Karen Cox Scholarship Fund* has been tremendous! On Dec. 4, the fourth and final weekly drawing will take place at the *BEA*

office. To date over **4,000** tickets have been sold and **\$3400** raised!

Tickets may be purchased from *BEA* Building Representatives and Board members or the *BEA* office until 4 p.m. on Dec. 4. All raffle tickets will be given a final spin in the raffle drum for the Grand Prize drawing.



Prize Donors

1st Interstate Bank
Audet
Blanco
School
Shades
Thayer Artwork
CJ
Canoe Montana River
Expeditions
Costco
Darell Tunnicliff
Del Taco
Pottery by Dennis Cox
Dinner's Served

EBMS
Eileen's Colossal Cookies
Gainan's
Great Harvest
Herberger's
Holiday Inn Grand
Montana
Joan Sleeth
Karen Tanner Artwork
Linda Lemire Massages
Masterlube
Mustard Seed
P. Ching Jewelry
Perkins
Phil Cox
Poets
Red Robin
Riddle's Jewelry
Rock Pile
Summit Credit Union
The Yellow Bus
Tiny's

12 winners . . . so far!

Week #1
Augi Aga
Linda Espeseth
Nancy Vasilakes
Shirley Hiers

Week #2
Diane Kessler
Carol Blackwell
Deb Wippert
Carolyn Gransberg

Week #2
Pat Schindele
Scott Carlson
Teal Gibson
Susan Peterson

Prizes

December 4 - Week #4

1st Place

Framed snowman painting by *Carolyn Thayer* (\$185)
Rock Pile Sports Bar Gift Certificate (\$50)
Borders Gift Certificate (\$50) donated by *EBMS*
Blanco School Facial (\$25)

2nd Place

\$50 CASH donated by *Allan Audet*
Blanco Blanco Haircut & Style Cert. (\$40)
Mustard Seed Gift Certificate (\$25)

3rd Place

Gainan's European Garden (\$40)
Poets Gift Certificate (\$25)

4th Place

Pottery by *Dennis* Ceramic Ornaments (\$18)
Perkins Gift Certificate (\$10)

Scholarship Raffle Update



December 4 - GRAND PRIZE

One Day Canoe Trip for 2 with a picnic lunch on the Missouri River from *Canoe Montana River Expeditions* (\$240)
One Night's Stay and Breakfast at the *Holiday Inn Grand Montana* in Billings (\$145)
One Hour Massage by *Linda Lemire* (\$60)
\$100 CASH donated by *Phil Cox*

Norene Peterson wins MAACE Award

The Montana Association for Adult and Community Education (*MAACE*) presented a newly created award to its namesake. The *Norene Peterson Inspiration Educator Award* was given to Billings Adult Education teacher Norene Peterson. She was recognized for outstanding service, exceptional teaching talent, longstanding involvement and dedication to the field of adult education.

John Miller named TOY Finalist

The *BEA* recognizes John W. Miller as a finalist as 2006 *Montana Teacher of the Year*. Miller is an honors biology and environmental studies teacher at Billings West High School.



Running Start

Dual Enrollment (Running Start)



Allan Audet
BEA President

A Dual Enrollment Task Force met to discuss how implementation could occur if it were to be implemented state wide. Representatives from Post Secondary and K-12 were to discuss the details of implementation and make a written recommendation to the Kindergarten through College Committee. Erik Burke, Public Policy Director from MEA-MFT, Jane Suberg, teacher from Highwood Public Schools, and I met with the Post Secondary representatives on two occasions to discuss the details of Dual Enrollment/Credit.

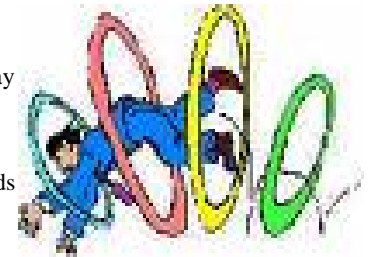
A second concern that brought about much discussion was concern over teacher certification and NCLB's requirement of highly qualified teachers. In both cases, the post secondary representatives said the issues are those of the school district and would have to be addressed in the interlocal agreement. If or when an interlocal agreement is developed, it will be imperative it has strong language to maintain the quality program offerings that are currently available to students while maintaining staffing levels.



The Task Force focused on the potential benefits and concerns of having a running start program in a given district.

Potential Benefits:

- Allows students to expedite their progress toward a college degree
- Reduces the overall cost of achieving a college degree
- Improves the transition from high school to college
- Exposes students to a broader array of curriculum choices
- Provides a different educational setting to meet unique student needs
- Creates an incentive for working collaboratively between K-12 and postsecondary



Potential Concerns:

- Licensure & highly qualified concerns about the postsecondary instructors
- State content performance standards do not align with postsecondary level courses
- State class size standards would not apply at the postsecondary level
- Accessibility issues for those who cannot afford the tuition, books, and fees
- Lost opportunities at the high school level if some classes are eliminated due to reduced numbers
- Supplement vs. Supplant, disagreements about the interpretation of statute language
- Impact of lost students on extra – curricular activities
- Adjunct teachers at colleges vs. highly qualified teachers at the high schools



Dual Enrollment (Running Start) is back. Legislation that was passed during the 2001 legislative session created what is called the *Montana's Running Start Act*.

This legislation allows students to take college courses that apply to both high school and college credit.

There was major disagreement on the interpretation of the language of the statute that states:

A school district may enter into an interlocal agreement pursuant to title 7, chapter 11, with a postsecondary institution to institute a "running start" program to allow 11th and 12th grade students, as defined by the district, to attend classes at the postsecondary institution at a cost determined by the interlocal agreement and to obtain credits in classes not available through the school district.

Those of us from K-12 felt the language was very specific and prohibited the colleges from offering credit for classes such as Spanish, American Government, American History, English Literature and many others that are currently being offered in high schools. We are not opposed to having our high school teachers teach the class and offer dual credit in agreement with the colleges. The representatives from the college were adamant that none of the courses they offered could be considered the same as the high school courses since they were college level courses. They felt all of their course offerings should not be subject to the language interpretation of the statute since the content and performance standards are not the same as the high school course.





BEA Committee Members Appointed

Each school year the *BEA* asks members to serve on the Association's committees. *BEA* members step up to the plate and volunteer their time, energy, and expertise to help the Association on various fronts.

These committees do important work; they honor fellow teachers, administrators, associates and volunteers, keep the membership informed, award scholarships to students, oversee the documents that govern the *BEA*, count ballots to elect *BEA* leadership and decide policy, provide assistance to less fortunate students, endorse legislators, keep a watchful eye on the health insurance plan, sit at the negotiating table, and give valuable input to the District on budgeting, planning, professional development and community issues.

Committee appointments for the 2006/07 school year have been made and the Association would like to thank the members for doing this important work. A complete list of the 2006/07 school year committees and committee chairs follows:

AWARDS

Chair: Sue Bach, West

NEGOTIATIONS

Chair: Allan Audet, BEA

BY-LAWS AND POLICY

Chair: Scott C. McCulloch, Senior

POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

Chair: Allan Audet, BEA

CALENDAR

Chair: Kathryn Anderson, West

ELECTION

Chair: Barb Bergum, Central Heights

EXTRA PAY

Chair: Allan Audet, BEA,

SCHOLARSHIP

Chair: Joan Sleeth, Alkali Creek

FUND FOR NEEDY KIDS

Chair: Carol Lustig, Highland

MEMBERSHIP

Chair: Judy Walker, Newman

MINORITY AFFAIRS

Chair: Marcia Beaumont, Pupil Services

INSURANCE

Chair: Allan Audet, BEA



BEA members also serve on the following district committees:

SD2 BUDGETING FOR RESULTS

SD2 SCHOOL COMMUNITY

SD2 PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

SD2 LABOR MANAGEMENT

SD2 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
ACADEMY ADVISORY



ER&D Classes Start January

Four Educational Research and Dissemination (*ER&D*) courses will be offered in January. Trained *BEA* members teach classes that focus on content and presentation tactics. Methods implement the research strategies in individual classrooms and teach fellow teachers to deliver effective development from experts in the field. Classes offer the opportunity to learn new techniques, not only from the *ER&D* instructors, but from the 'give-and-take' experience with fellow teachers attending the classes.



To register, call *Community Education* (247-3700) at Lincoln Center and specify college or step-up credit. Coursework allows *Step-up credit*, *OPI credit* or *College/Graduate credit*. For more information, visit www.beabillings.org. Class sizes are limited.

Thinking Math 1 for Grades K-8

Designed to help teachers improve math achievement by building on how students learn math.

Course #PDAWN07-202

Instructors: Terri Porisch & Linda Auch

Credits: 30 hour course/3 Step-up credits, 30 *OPI* units or 2 College/Graduate Credits

Cost: \$165 + \$15 printing fee (for college credit: \$250 + \$15 printing fee)

Class Dates & Times:

Mondays, Jan. 22 - April 2, from 4:30 p.m. -7:30 p.m. (no class Feb. 26.)

Location: Arrowhead Elementary



Foundations of Effective Teaching I

ER&D courses address the fundamental aspects of teaching and learning examining proven practices for establishing and maintaining classroom management.

Course #PDAWN07-203

Instructors: Juline Kosmicki & Tania Klein

Credits: 20 hour course/ 2 Step-up credits, 20 *OPI* units or 1 College/Graduate credit.

Cost: \$110 + \$15 printing fee (for college credit: \$125 + \$15 printing fee)

Class Dates & Times:

Tuesdays, Jan. 23, 30, Feb. 6, 13, 21 (Wed.), 27, Mar. 6, 13, 21 (Wed.), 27, from 4:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.

Location: BEA Office



Reading Comprehension for Grades K-8

Focuses on the research practices that help students acquire strong reading comprehension skills, comprehension instruction and vocabulary development.

Course #PDAWN07-201

Instructors: Barb Fettig & Linda Bayne

Credits: 20 hour course/2 Step-up credits or 20 *OPI* units

Cost: \$110 + \$15 printing fee

Class Dates & Times:

Mondays, Jan. 22, 29, Feb. 5, 12, 19, Mar. 5, from 4-7 p.m. & Mar. 12 from 4-6 p.m.

Location: BEA Office



Managing Anti-Social Behavior

This course presents research on behavioral problems of students who consistently act out. Participants learn strategies to reduce and/or prevent the occurrence of disruptive outbreaks.

Course #PDAWN07-200

Instructors: Kathy Rumph & Julie Seedhouse

Credits: 20 hour course / 2 Step-up credits, 20 *OPI* units or 1 College/Graduate credit.

Cost: \$110 + \$15 printing fee (for college credit: \$125 + \$15 printing fee)

Class Dates & Times:

Mondays, 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. Jan. 22, 29, Feb. 5, 12, 19, Mar. 5, 12 from 4:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

Location: MSU-B Downtown Campus



Seniority List

Know Your Master Agreement

Seniority Lists will soon be distributed to the schools. The list produces each teachers' name, date of employment, qualification and certification, as specified in the Master Agreement, Article XVIII, Reduction in Staff, Section 4.

Teachers should examine the seniority list to check for inaccuracies. If there is an error, the teacher must request, in writing, a correction within 14 days. This request should be accompanied by documentation and should be submitted to the District's **Human Resources Department**. A final seniority list will be prepared 14 days after the posting of the initial list. This list is binding and will be used to determine staff reductions, if mandated at the end of the school year.

Member Benefits

'Tis the season for giving and here are two ways you can give. One to a continent far away, another closer to home.

AFT-Africa AIDS Campaign

BEA members may give to the fight against AIDS in Africa, where 30 million people are infecting with HIV. AFT Educational Foundation (AFTEF) has partnerships with teachers in Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa and Zimbabwe. Teacher unions in these and other African countries have agreed to develop effective programs in HIV/AIDS education affected by AIDS. These African programs train African teachers to be peer-educators and work with their colleagues in schools throughout the participating countries.

Sending a tax-deductible contribution to the AFT Educational Foundation. Write 'AFT-Africa AIDS' in the memo portion of the check and mail to AFTEF, 555 New Jersey Ave. N.W.,

Washington, DC 20001. For more information go to: www.aft.org/partners/africa-aids/index.htm



Flowers... a special way give to someone special.

BEA members can send flowers, plants, or a gift basket and save 15%. AFT Union Plus developed this program with Teleflora's Flower Club. Union members get a 15% discount. Call 888-667-7779 or visit www.unionplus.org/flowers.



Dec. - Jan. CALENDAR

- ★ Dec. 2-3 MEA-MFT Committee Weekend
- ★ Dec. 4 BEA Karen Cox Scholarship Raffle Week 4 & Grand Prize Drawing
- ★ Dec. 13 BEA BOD
- ★ Dec. 19 Representative Council
- ★ Dec. 23 - Jan. 1 Winter Break
- ★ Jan. 10 BEA Board of Directors
- ★ Jan. 11 MEA-MFT Pre-Retirement Workshop
- ★ Jan. 16 Representative Council



MEAMFT News _____ Lasts only two hours Pre-Retirement Workshop Set

MEA-MFT will present their annual **Pre-Retirement Workshop** in Billings on Jan. 11, 2007. The workshop will present streamlined information pertinent to both certified and classified staff.

The workshop starts at the Lincoln Center (415 N. 30th St.) in the School Board Room at 4:10 p.m. At 4:45 p.m. presentation of PERS benefits and procedures for Classified personnel (BCEA) will be held at the BEA office while TRS staff discuss benefits and questions for Certified personnel (BEA) in the School Board Room. The event should wrap up at about 6 p.m.


No reservations are necessary. All certified and classified staff are invited and encouraged to bring spouses. Snacks will be provided at the onset.

If retirement is being considered within the next year, contact Joanie Peterson at School District 2 Human Resources (247-3872) to have the

estimated severance package calculated. TRS will then mail the retirement benefits estimate.

Staff from Teacher Retirement System (TRS) and Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) will explain benefits and procedures and answer questions. NEA Member Benefits such as Long Term Care, NEA Valuebuilder investment programs, A+ Auto/Home insurance and Horace Mann programs will be discussed. Tom Bilodeau, MEA-MFT Research Director, will review the MEA-MFT 2007 Legislative Agenda regarding retirement.



<p>BEA President, ALLAN AUDET 1st Vice President, JEFF GREENFIELD 2nd Vice President, KATE MCAULIFFE Secretary, JOAN SLEETH</p> <p>News/Views Editors Marilynn Sexton</p> 	<p>Official Publication Billings Education Association 510 North 29th Billings, MT 59101 248-9812</p> <p>Read the BEA News and Views on the website, www.beabillings.org</p>
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