

## MNEA Members... Make Your Concerns Known

Fill out the TEA Survey and become eligible for a get-away-vacation. Go online via [www.teateachers.org](http://www.teateachers.org) between January 9 and February 3, 2006, click on the link to the survey.



Respond to the TEA Special Education Ad Hoc Committee study of inclusion practices in this statewide survey. This survey will assess how our members view local service delivery models, related professional development practices, collaboration between special education and general education teachers and staffing patterns.

Help the Association stay on top of this important education issue. We need to hear from you.

## No Name-Calling Week

During the week of January 23-27, 2006, schools serving grades five through eight across the nation will take part in a week of educational activities aimed at stopping name calling and creating safer and more affirming schools for all students.

No Name-Calling Week seeks to focus national attention on the problem of name-calling and bullying. It aims to provide students and educators with the tools and inspiration to launch an on-going dialogue about ways to eliminate name-calling. Remember, words do hurt! Visit [www.namecallingweek.org](http://www.namecallingweek.org) to register your school, receive educational materials and find out more about this exciting project.

Send MNEA news about your school or class participation. We would like to share your story.

## Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Celebration, January 16, 2006



The city-wide main march will leave Jefferson Street Baptist Church at 11:00 a.m. heading to Tennessee State University Campus.

## Black History Month Activities

Americans have recognized black history annually since 1926, first as "Negro History Week" and later as "[Black History Month](#)." This recognition came as a result of concerns brought forth from Dr. Carter G. Woodson. MNEA wants to help you meet the state and local requirements to include in your instruction the teaching of black history and culture. You will be reading and hearing about many of the upcoming events being planned throughout the city of Nashville. We encourage you to celebrate and arrange to attend where possible.

The MNEA Minority Affairs Committee will be sponsoring an African American History Fair at MNEA on Saturday, February 18, 2006 from 10 am to 1pm. Come out and bring your family and friends. Visit these and other sites on the web for help in planning your own activities.

[www.biography.com/blackhistory/](http://www.biography.com/blackhistory/), [www.historychannel.com/exhibits/blackhist/main.html](http://www.historychannel.com/exhibits/blackhist/main.html), [http://www.kidsdomain.com/kids/links/Black\\_History.html](http://www.kidsdomain.com/kids/links/Black_History.html)

## Know Your Contract

### Things To Make You Say, hmmm?



According to the *Educational Agreement*:

- > The Monday of each month preceding the MNEA Representative Assembly shall be set aside for MNEA faculty meetings, if needed, or faculty meetings at which MNEA matters are first on the agenda. Attendance at MNEA faculty meetings is voluntary.
- > When a teacher is newly assigned or is transferred between schools, grade levels, and/or subject matter areas, every effort will be made to provide necessary materials for that subject or grade to set up the classroom.
- > A monthly summary of the local school's instructional materials and supplies ... fund allocations and remaining balances by divisions within the school shall be posted for teachers' information. The monthly printout of transactions shall be available to teacher upon request.
- > Personal Leave may be taken for any purpose that requires absence during work hours. *No explanation shall be required*. Personal Leave shall not be used for extending a holiday or vacation.

Read your negotiated *Educational Agreement* and find out what other rights you have as a certificated employee. **MNEA works for you!**

## KICK IT UP A NOTCH

Spice up your teaching with **"Survive & Thrive" 2006** (Sponsored by the Metro PALS. Sessions open to ALL MNPS teachers.) Registration will be on ERO!

**New Year's Open House and Exhibition**  
**January 25 3:00-6:00 p.m.** MNEA Building  
**ALL grade levels** (drop by anytime)

Come enjoy refreshments and view multiple displays of ideas and activities for a student-centered classroom.

## MNPS Board Delays Action on 2006-07 School Calendar

The Board of Education rescinds its December action on the 06-07 proposed calendar and will reopen discussion at its next meeting, January 24.

The Board directed the administration to return with a calendar around the following parameters: start school mid August, have Spring Break in March and give adequate and timely notification to students, parents and teachers.

## Back by popular demand!

The first contest to win a gasoline card was so popular we're having another. Complete the form below and send it to MNEA by January 26.

Members' Name \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_

Association Rep. \_\_\_\_\_

Home email address \_\_\_\_\_

Winner will be notified by email.

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### Congratulations!

MNEA AR Donna Jones, Gower Elementary, won two, \$500 gift cards in the Horace Mann Insurance Quote Sign Up Promotion at the December Representative Assembly. Jones is pictured above (center) with Horace Mann representatives Michael Hershman, Hank McFadden, Brian Bobier, and MNEA President, Jamye Merritt.

### Win donuts for your faculty!

Does your Association Representative go above and beyond the call of duty? MNEA wants to recognize our hardworking ARs. Please nominate your building AR for "AR of the Month." If your AR is chosen, your faculty will get donuts, courtesy of MNEA.

School \_\_\_\_\_

Name of AR \_\_\_\_\_

Explain why you think your AR should be "AR of the Month."

Signature of member making nomination \_\_\_\_\_

## From the President

### RESPECT

*Are we getting mixed messages?*

Recent comments heard at the December 13, 2005 School Board meeting have led me to wonder:

At a time when educators have worked hard to meet the current "yard stick" for student achievement by getting test scores up, where is the respect? As teachers, we feel like we are getting side-swiped while hitting the scoreboard for the MNPS and State accountability systems. This feels like getting an "F" and an "A" for successful achievement at the same time.

The tone of the discussion at the Board Meeting regarding negotiations talks, leaves us questioning whether this Board really has respect for educators and the work we do. Support and adequate funding for our schools is necessary to enable us to progressively move ahead. We realize that it takes all groups working together to bring about change. It truly takes a village to make a difference in the lives of the children in our care.

However, the respect is lacking when we hear comments such as "negotiations talks may need to cease."

The Board compelled MNEA to the table on October 17 to settle language issues. At the December 13 Board meeting, some School Board members' comments suggested that the Board considers it a waste of time and money to continue bargaining contract language issues.

*Are we getting mixed messages?*

### RESPECT...

**What does it mean to YOU?**

*Jamye*

"If I were a young person today, trying to gain a sense of myself in the world, I would do that again by reading, just as I did when I was young."

Maya Angelou

# Read Across America



MNEA gears up to celebrate NEA's Read Across America Day. Plans are gearing up to participate in the now eight year old NEA signature event. We encourage children and adults to gather around great books on March 2, Dr. Seuss' birthday. MNEA will join more than 45 million children and adults including politicians, celebrities, athletes and the media.

MNEA Public Relations Committee wants to see every school actively participating in this event. The new Read Across America Resource Kit is now available. Go to NEA's web site [www.nea.org/read\\_across](http://www.nea.org/read_across) to sign up for the online tool kit.

Let MNEA hear about your school's plans. Return the form below to MNEA, Rt. 3, e-mail [gtowner@tea.nea.org](mailto:gtowner@tea.nea.org) or Fax 726-2501.

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## Read Across America 2006

Contact Person(s) \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Activities Planned \_\_\_\_\_

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# Free Books For Read Across America Day

The Literacy Empowerment Foundation, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, invites your school or other literacy project to apply for FREE books for Read Across America Day. During the past year, LEF has distributed over 3,000,000 books to schools all across the country for Read Across America Day and other literacy projects.

Free Books for Read Across America Day Resources are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Orders must be received by February 8, 2006.

For more information and an order form call 717-791-6210 or 610-719-6448 or go to <http://LEFbooks.org>

## Showing you the money

Ah, the new school year. New young faces, new solutions to the challenges of your job, and (gulp) new bills to pay back home. It's definitely time to reassess your economic worth. But where to begin? You might start by joining NEA's groundbreaking national campaign to boost educator pay. The goal: win a \$40,000 minimum salary for every teacher and an "appropriate living wage" as starting pay for every education support professional (ESP). "To provide a quality education to kids our members need to stand up for themselves," stresses NEA President Reg Weaver. "That means advocating for pay to recruit and retain the very best educators available." Look to future issues of *The SLATE*, *TEA NEWS* and *NEA Today* on how to get on board.

## Spend a Few Days in the Mountains

TEA's Spring Symposium on Professional and Personal Renewal to Energize Teaching and Learning is March 24-25, 2006 at Park Vista Resort Hotel, Gatlinburg.

Registration is limited to 300, and must be made by March 6. Contact TEA Website, [www.teateachers.org](http://www.teateachers.org).