

BEA BLADE

Burnsville Education Association

MAY/JUNE 2015 ISSUE

...ON THE CUTTING EDGE

CALENDAR

**M. W. Savage
International Night**
May 14th
6-8 p.m.

Armed Forces Day
May 16th

**Teacher of the Year
Reception**
May 20th
BHS Senior Campus
Commons
(Diamondhead)
4:00 pm

Memorial Day
May 25th
No School

**MJH
H2O for Life Carnival**
May 29th from 9am-5pm

BEST Commencement
June 2nd at 6pm
Diamondhead

BAHS Commencement
June 3rd at 4pm
Mraz Center

**BHS Class of 2015
Commencement**
June 5th at 6pm
BHS

President's Column... By Robert Nystrom

It's May and the 2014-15 school year is winding down. My final term as BEA president is coming to a close. The last three years have been somewhat of a blur. The next few years will be rife with change and challenges.

When I took office, three years ago, the BEA and the District were reeling from years of stagnant funding from the Minnesota Legislature. That lack of funding was compounded by some leadership gaps at the District level. The BEA stayed strong and weathered through. The District found a new Superintendent.

A renewed energy was palpable when Superintendent Gothard joined the District in 2013. Yes, he's only been here 2 years. As a district we are moving to embrace our ethnic diversity like never before. We are moving to align our grade levels and improve our facilities at an ambitious pace. Unfortunately, the state is not keeping up with our funding needs. Working together, we will weather this storm too.

For us, as an organization, we are only as strong each of you. When I started teaching, in 1987 after a brief career in another field, I didn't understand the importance of political involvement for teachers. Our profession is under attack. Unions are under attack and ours is viewed by some as the big-game trophy. The one thing that has become most clear to me in my nearly 30 years in the profession is that we must stand together to keep our profession strong.

Regardless of your political party leanings I want to encourage each and every one of you to become more educated in issues facing our profession. Really start paying attention to what your elected leaders are saying and doing at the School Board level,

the State level, and the Federal level. Are they acting in the best interest of students and in the best interest of educational professionals? Or, are they looking at education as a corporate investment opportunity where wages can be suppressed and money can be made through privatization? Where are we headed?

In the coming days, and weeks, our State will finalize funding for the next biennium. Our local School Board will finalize a budget and our administration will finalize the cuts. Life will go on and we will weather another storm. It's time to stop living storm-to-storm and start turning the climate.

How do we turn the climate? We need to broaden the public understanding of what we do. We need to tell our stories. Legislators, with a few exceptions, have a stilted view of what we do every day in our classrooms. They don't know what effect not having a school nurse has on classroom teaching. They don't know why the 31st student in a second grade class makes any more difference than the 21st. They don't know that teachers are the first line of intervention when Johnny or Ahmed or Jose comes to school without having eaten since yesterday's school lunch. They don't know how learning is impacted when Sally or Gabriella or Ashkiro is worried about where they will live after losing their house or apartment. We need to be publicly and politically involved!

**President's column
continues on page 2...**



By hikingArtist.com

President's Column continues...

As a union we have local challenges, like negotiating and enforcing our contract. We have State and National challenges that are becoming more and more real by the day. The threat of Right to Work (for less) is ever present. While corporate interests push for greater “accountability” so they can profit from standardized testing and privatization, we have many battles to fight. Our union, the BEA, Education Minnesota, AFT and NEA, will only remain strong with a commitment from our members to be publicly and politically active.

An analogy of membership was shared at the most recent representative convention. Some of you (us) think of union membership like a pop machine. We pay our dues and expect that when we want a service (can of pop) it will be there. I'd rather have members thinking about membership like a gym membership. I pay my dues and know that I will only get out of my membership what I am willing to put in. The benefit of membership is showing up and working out. There might be some “freebies” or perks that don't require a lot of effort, but to realize real change I have to participate. Which are you, a pop machine member? or a gym member?

Okay, I've rambled long enough. Wendy Drugge becomes BEA president on July 1. I'm excited for her leadership and the energy she will bring to our organization. Please step up when she calls for action. Wendy has been a joy to work with during this mentorship year and she will do a great job leading this organization forward.

This fall I will be returning to my previous math teaching position at Nicollet. Retirement is still a few years out and I will continue in a leadership role as past-president until the next president-elect takes office. These next few years will be exciting as we, the teachers, the heart of the District, move forward and make learning happen.

Thank you for your support these past 3 years and find time this summer to relax, refresh, and re-energize!

Classroom Grant Awarded!



Maureen Burke and a team from Gideon Pond elementary was awarded an Education Minnesota *Foundation for Excellence in Teaching and Learning* Classroom Grant, announced at the April Representative Convention.

Through "Panthers Mind the Gap: Read-at-Home project" Pond teachers are committed to preparing all students to be career or college ready. To achieve that goal, the teachers at Gideon Pond recently created and have begun the implementation of a system of intervention, assessment and progress monitoring that ensures that all students are carefully monitored on their journey to becoming proficient readers. Pond is committed to this program with a singular goal of closing the achievement gap for all students.

The \$1774 grant award will be used primarily for reading materials.

**Meet and Confer
Jennifer Bohr, Chair x3835**

Meet and Confer met 4 times this year. There were several themes in the concerns brought forward. The substitute shortage and ripple effect it had in buildings was a main concern. It was noted that both professional development and other absences were up compared to last year. The TLT is looking at the purpose of professional development and being more mindful of how many people are being pulled at a time.

There were also concerns regarding the curriculum library and professional development. The current curriculum priorities are literacy in elementary and social studies in secondary. The high school will be moving to a Learning Management System, with the junior high and elementary to follow. As far as reviewing curriculum, it will be in response to changes in state standards or in response to a department as a need arises.

Finally, we have decided to funnel concerns through building representatives and pull meet and confer agenda items from the building concerns that come to the Executive Board Meetings. Our hope is to address a number of smaller items before they make it to meet and confer. A plan for addressing concerns will be ready for the fall.

Retiring Teachers...Join NOW!

Join Education Minnesota Retired now as a **PreRetired Member** and pay only \$450 for a lifetime membership. You can save money and join while still working **or** before August 31, 2015 to lock in your benefits. Dues may be paid in full or over a one-year payment schedule.

You can still join in retirement after August 31, 2015 as a **Retired Member**, dues will be \$550. Dues may be paid in full or over a one-year payment schedule.

Stay connected with your profession through this program specifically for retired educators. You can save money through financial programs and connect with other retired members. An application can be downloaded from the Education Minnesota website under “Benefits/Membership”, or call Education Minnesota Retired (800) 642-4624.



Our Retiring Teachers

As this year comes to an end, we say farewell to a few of our fellow colleagues as they embark on their new adventure as retirees. We thank these teachers for their hard work and dedication to the profession of teaching and to their students. Our best wishes for their future...enjoy!

Howard Anderson ✪ BHS
 Suzanne Anderson ✪ BHS
 Roxane Buege ✪ Sky Oaks
 Byrla Busch ✪ Vista View
 Lawrence Daily ✪ BHS
 Cynthea Hart ✪ Rahn
 Julie Hoostal ✪ Hidden Valley
 Britt Nordrum ✪ Gideon Pond
 Bonnie Olson ✪ ECFE
 Cathy Rezmerski ✪ ECSE
 Helen Schwartzhoff ✪ District Wide
 Jeff Walsh ✪ BHS

Retiring Teachers help us to keep in touch!

Send your home email address to:

bea@bea191.org



School News

Thank you for sharing your school news!

Metcalf Jr. High

H2O for Life Carnival - Friday May 29th from 9a.m.-5p.m.
 All proceeds go to raising money for a water well for the Adamasiko Primary School in Uganda.

Also, still accepting pennies (\$) for our Mile of Pennies drive to raise money for the same cause. We are almost at 1/4 mile!

M. W. Savage International Night

Thursday, May 14th from 6-8 p.m.

Will feature grade levels performing pieces of music from all over the world! There will be displays hosted by MWS families that share their native country's culture! Everyone will have the opportunity to create crafts from all over the world! An international buffet will provide a taste of foods from all over the world! Guest musicians and performers will be featured throughout the evening! The PTO will sponsor a BOGO Book Fair! Sign up to win prizes! **A free event for people of all ages!**

Neill

6th Graders' District-Wide Track Meet - May 15th

All School Field Day - May 29th, All day

Student Variety Show - Friday, June 5th.



This year's show, "An Evening With the Stars", was a great success! We were able to award **FIFTEEN** scholarships to BHS graduating seniors! That is more than ever before.

We also had more staff in #191 involved in the show than in the 27 year history of "Class Acts". We would like to thank everyone for their support by participating, coming to the show, buying raffle tickets, working in the theater, donating to the over 32 baskets that were raffled or donating money for such a great effort.

We do this for the students. They are #one in our plans for organizing the show, keeping the message positive and the direction we all hope guides decisions made in our district.

A sincere and heartfelt thank you to all!
 Lucretia Jeffers, Holly Schultz, Jennifer Gandrud and Mary Stucynski

New No-Cost ID Theft Protection for Education Minnesota members

Education Minnesota ESI has teamed up with Securus ID to provide a complimentary CORE Essential identity theft plan for individual active teacher and ESP Education Minnesota members. Members may upgrade to a household plan for as little as \$2 per month.

The CORE Essential individual plan provides you with the highest level of personal identity recovery available. It's simple — if you suspect you are a victim of identity theft, call Securus. Let their experts do the work and restore your identity on your behalf! CORE Essential plans include all forms of ID theft, including financial and medical fraud. It also covers family fraud and acts of terrorism.

Register through the Securus website at educationminnesota.securusid.com. Register by June 1 and be eligible to win a \$500 gift card.

If you have any questions about the identity theft plan options, call Securus ID at 877-833-9041.

The no-cost CORE Essential plan is available to individual active teacher and ESP Education Minnesota members (full and part time). The CORE Essential family plan is available for \$2 per month. Other members (reserve, retired, student and substitutes) can purchase identity theft plans at negotiated discount rates.

WANTED

Looking for good, used lawn mower! Andrea Friendt x2466.

**FREE**

20 gallon fish tank with accessories. Contact Cherise Barnes, x3526 or cbarnes@isd191.org

For Sale

1. Craftsman 10-inch (blade) Motorized Table Saw. Model No. 113.298051. Mounted on 4 legs with wheels. There are two Table Extensions. Manual included. Mite cuts, rip cuts, bevel cuts. Class BE37845 Asking \$300 (original price was \$600) Call Cindy Lamb at 612-819-1900 or at 952-707-3183.

2 Craftsman 10-Inch Radial Arm Saw with table on wheels. Model No. 113.199250.. Original Saw \$600 and Table was \$250. Asking \$425 for Saw and Table. Call Cindy Lamb at 612-819-1900.

3. RYOBI 10 inch Compound Miter Saw Model TS1350-double insulated . Ebay is asking for \$70 for this particular item. I am asking for \$35. Cindy Lamb 612-819-1900.

4. Gryphon Zephyr Ring Saw used in Stain Glass work. Original price \$318. Asking \$159. Call Cindy Lamb at 612-819-1900.

5. Meade 10" lens Telescope/Tripod/case. It has 115v/60Hz with LX Drive System. Asking half of original prices for all parts: Meade Telescope/ Tripod/Meade Equatorial Wedge/Celestron T-Ring/ Meade Telescope Extender/Case/ Eye pieces which are Meade Research Grade 2 Orion 7mm. asking for total of \$600. Cindy at 612-819-1900.

6. Two Large Light Oak Shelving/Cabinets. Height is 79 inches; Width 38 inches, depth is 15 1/2 inches. Top half is divided into 4 open shelves with electric lighting from top of units. Middle has a drawer that is 5 inched high, bottom has a 20 inch high cabinet with doors. Cabinets have two shelves in them. Nice for dining, living, or family room. Asking for \$150 a piece. Call Cindy at 612-819-1900.

National Geographic Magazines from 1980-2013 (complete sets). Call if interested [952-484-2538](tel:952-484-2538) Sue Anderson.

Our Members**Congratulations**

Jennie (VV) and Chris Bordonaro on the birth of their first daughter, Liana Grace Bordonaro, born April 20th, 8lbs 8oz. Everyone is healthy and doing great!

Kim (MJH) and Aaron Fritz welcomed daughter, Hayden Rose, (8 lbs 2 oz) on April 24th. Her brother, Baker, is very proud of being a big brother!

We have had two births at Sioux Trail.. MacKenzie Oakes, first grade teacher, had a baby boy (Owen Michael) on December 30th and Liz Banovetz, Mental Health Therapist, had a baby girl (Lumi Marie) on March 31st.

Dwight Schmidt welcomed daughter Caroline, born Sunday, March 29th. She is 8lbs, 1oz and 21in. long. Mom and baby are doing well.

The *BEA BLADE*, a publication of the Burnsville Education Association it is distributed to all District #191 teachers. Anyone interested in obtaining an issue should contact a BEA Officer or Building Representative.

The views expressed within are those of the individual writers and do not necessarily represent the views of the collective membership. Letters and articles to the editor are welcomed and can be submitted to Lucretia Jeffers at Metcalf Jr. High, ljeffers@isd191.org

BEA office Monday, Wednesday, Friday (952)431-6515 or e-mail bea@bea191.org

BEA Web Site www.bea191.org

**Congratulations to the
2015 ISD 191 Teachers of the Year**

Burnsville High School – Nathan Strand

Burnsville Alternative High School – Tony McNeil

Eagle Ridge Jr. High – Jeff Hammer

Metcalf Jr. High – Bobby Griffiths

Nicollet Jr. High – Kevin Silberman

Edward D. Neill Elementary – Patty Herkenhoff

Gideon Pond Elementary – Laurel Mirs

Harriet Bishop Elementary – Emily Mechavich

Hidden Valley Elementary – Jennifer Bohr

Marion W. Savage Elementary – Angie Preston

Rahn Elementary – Rachel Lucius

Sioux Trail Elementary – Bobbie Kunkel

Sky Oaks Elementary – Matt Berg

Vista View Elementary – Kimberly Wood

William Byrne Elementary – Greta Krupke

ECSE – Sue Woodcock

ECFE – Vicki Spieler

TOSA – Nancy Meyer

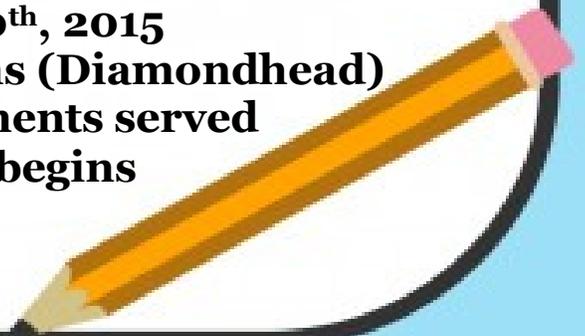
Please join us for the 2015 Teacher of the Year Reception!

Wednesday, May 20th, 2015

BHS Senior Campus Commons (Diamondhead)

4:00 - 4:30 pm refreshments served

4:30 pm program begins





We had an incredible variety of wonderful baskets and we'd like to thank everyone who donated items, gift cards, money or entire baskets! This really helped us reach our goal of 15 scholarships and we thank you most sincerely. Some of our winners this year include:

Amy Tangney
Laurel Mirs
Tonya Johnson
Deb Bieleck
Sara Anderson
Maria Rhuland
Elizabeth Rhinevault
Jenny Hugstad-Vaa
Jon Huber
Beth Mortinson
Brenda Moe
Kari Ward
Cindy Nepsund
Sara Jeffers
Kristine Helwigs
Brooke Delmont
Katherine Cayer
Kim Queensbury
Diane Bane
Sandra Pranske

..... and the beat goes on..... and the beat goes on 🍪
Happy Spring to everyone!
Lucretia, Holly, Jen and Mary