

SPRING HILL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2007



Produced by Charlene A. Novakovich, SHEA Vice President

IRS Outlines How to File 'Educator Expenses' on the 1040 Tax Form

Late last year, the U.S. Congress extended the "educator expenses" deduction that can be claimed on the 2006 individual income tax return, but the Internal Revenue Service 1040 form was printed before the bill was approved. As a result, there is no specific line item in the Adjusted Gross Income section as there was on the 2005 form, where 3.5 million tax filers claimed the deduction. The IRS, in a December 22 news bulletin, said that educators must file Form 1040 (not form 1040A) to take advantage of the deduction up to \$250 for out-of-pocket expenses incurred in 2006. The deduction needs to be entered on line 23. "Archer MSA Deduction." The letter "E" must be marked on the dotted line to the left of that line entry, according to the IRS.

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INTRODUCING *PARENTS & COMPANY*: THE ANTIDOTE TO MYSPACE

You've seen or experienced the power of online communities such as MySpace and Facebook. The influence they have over kids is amazing. Now, Parents & Company has been launched, an online community **just for parents and educators**. You can share information and ideas, meet others facing the same challenges and stay on top of the latest issues affecting children and youth.

Parents & Company is absolutely FREE. And it's [online now](#).

NEA Classroom SuperStore Joins NEA Consumer Discount Program

The NEA Classroom SuperStore is the latest addition to the lineup of consumer discounts offered by NEA Member Benefits.

NEA members can now earn an additional 10% off already low pricing from Classroom Direct, an online discount supply store. As a bonus, Association members receive free shipping on any size order of an in-stock item. A free 400-page catalog is available from Classroom Direct, describing the

company's offerings for classroom storage, incentives, room decorations, supplies, furnishings, games, and much more. One of the services provided is an online history of purchases to help individuals in their tax planning keep track of out-of-pocket expenses.

To place an order, go to <http://www.neamb.com/discount/classroom.jsp> or call 1-800-248-9171 and mention the offer code NEAMB.

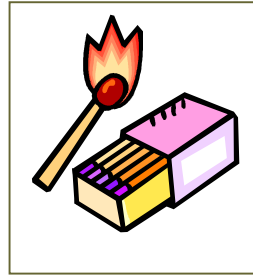
KANSAS CITY -- Educating local students is a top priority for KMBC, which is why the station has partnered with Sprint and [Connect With Kids](#).

CWK is a program that addresses issues that challenge our children, such as bullying and teen depression.

The [Connect with Kids programs](#) give viewers a glimpse into the lives of today's kids, as real children share their true stories, their struggles and secrets.

[Connect With Kids](#) produces five [news stories](#) each week, exclusively about the latest children's issues and teen trends.

They also produce the Emmy® award-winning television series, *Connect with Kids* - compelling [half-hour shows](#) that air eight times a year. Both the news and half-hour programs are shown on [70 leading television stations](#) across the country, including ABC, CBS, NBC and FOX affiliates. See when the next half-hour *Connect with Kids* television program is [playing](#) in your area.



From Brenda Bridges, a third grade teacher at Byron Elementary in Byron, Michigan

"Make two note card sections and have students wander the room to search for their mate. I have used note cards with coins stamped on one card and the amount of money on the other, clocks and their time, and two word parts that create compound words. Sometimes I write two sentences that are very similar in subject or predicate that must be combined to make one longer sentence (Grasshoppers eat beetles. Grasshoppers eat aphids. Combined this would be, Grasshoppers eat beetles and aphids.) Then, of course, students share the results with the class."

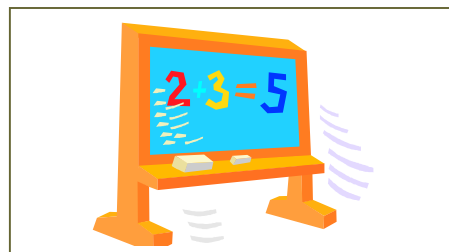
Math Fun – Round Robin review for any age student

From Brenda Bridges, a third grade teacher at Byron Elementary in Byron, Michigan

Students of all ages love to practice in round robin form. I have a set of note cards with a multiplication answer on the top and a question with the next problem on the bottom. For example, one card would have "32" at the top and "9 x 2" at the bottom. A student would read, "I have '32.' Who has the answer to '9 x 2'?" The person holding the card that reads "18" at the top would say "I have '18'" and then read the question at the bottom of the card. "I also use round robin cards for number sense and place value. For

example, "I have '65.' Who has '1 more than 83'?" The responder reads, "I have '84.' Who has the answer to '1 less than 44'?" This type of review could be done with adding tens, hundreds, etc. and using considerably larger numbers. Students could practice matching definitions or characteristics for tests. Surprisingly, a set doesn't take long to prepare. I collect the cards when done, shuffle and play again so we practice twice."

"Students of all ages love to practice in round robin form."



Math Fun in Round Robin form

Free Web-based Seminars on Personal Finance Coming this Spring

The NASD Investor Education Foundation has awarded a grant to *BetterInvesting*, which is partnering with NEA Member Benefits to deliver web-based personal finance seminars to NEA members.

The "Investing in Your Future" program will include a series of seminars on financial planning and investing topics, as well as online stock and mutual fund analysis tools, educational resources, and a game to encourage participants to construct quality portfolios. It will be free of charge to NEA members. The launch is planned for March 2007.

BetterInvesting is the brand identity of the National Association of Investors Corporation, a national, nonprofit organization of investment club members and individual investors.



**National Education Association (NEA)
Educators Employment Liability (EEL)**

Frequently Asked Questions: Why do I need liability coverage?

The NEA EEL Program is a professional liability insurance program that is provided by NEA as a benefit of membership and is underwritten and administered by Horace Mann Insurance Company (HMIC). In your work as an educator you are frequently exposed to situations that may give rise to legal actions and which can involve your personal liability. If a student or a student's parents file suit against you, the EEL Program will provide you with insurance protection for the vast majority of cases. The program also reimburses you for damage to your personal property in assault-related incidents.

"You ain't got that swing if you don't read a thing."

Read Across Kansas celebrates music!

Kansas NEA is planning a musical celebration. The Cat-in-the-Hat is 50 years old this year and this is the 10th anniversary of NEA's Read Across America.

The theme is "You ain't got that swing if you don't read a thing!"

"Music means celebration. This year we are celebrating music and how music helps kids learn to read and to learn new languages," said KNEA President Blake West.

KNEA's honorary chairman is a Winfield High School student named [Chase Foster](#). He's a Western-Swing inspired musician and songwriter who is receiving national attention.

"Celebrate reading with music," West said. "We encourage everyone to have a concert on March 2 featuring the musical talent in every school community -- students of all ages, school staff and area musicians."

Here are some starter-ideas for musical reading celebrations.

1. Help students learn about musical styles: Western Swing, jazz, blues, country, rock' n roll, classical, opera, rap, etc.
2. Invite musicians in to read and sing. Help students learn about musical styles: Western Swing, jazz, blues, country, rock' n roll, classical, opera, rap, etc.

YOUR SHEA OFFICER TEAM

SHEA PRESIDENT - GEORANN WHITMAN
SHEA VICE PRESIDENT - CHARLENE NOVAKOVICH
SHEA TREASURER - MARSHA LYTLE
SHEA SECRETARY - JANEL CARBAJO

YOUR BUILDING REPRESENTATIVES

HIGH SCHOOL - ELAINE VALLEJOS
MIDDLE SCHOOL - ANDREA COWPER & SUZANNE HOFMANN
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL – JANET VATER
PRAIRIE CREEK ELEM. SCHOOL – LINDA SULLIVAN & ELIZABETH MOORE

SHEA Meeting Calendar

FEBRUARY 8, 2007

PLACE: HIGH SCHOOL CHORAL ROOM
TIME: 4:00 P.M.

All members are welcome and encouraged to attend

MARCH 1, 2007

PLACE: HIGH SCHOOL CHORAL ROOM
TIME: 4:00 P.M.

All members are welcome and encouraged to attend

APRIL 5, 2007

PLACE: HIGH SCHOOL CHORAL ROOM
TIME: 4:00 P.M.

Spring Hill Education Association (SHEA) supports the USD230 Capital Outlay Mill Levy for 2007–2008 school year.

Capital Outlay (C.O.) can be used for a wide range of expenses, but most importantly it cannot be used on salaries. Items it can be used for, which we have purchased in the past are: technology, vehicles, tractors & implements, parking lot repair, track resurfacing, stadium remodeling, stadium lighting, lawn mowers, cleaning equipment, and food service equipment, just to name a few. I like to thank of it as the "home improvement" fund. Think of all the items that could go wrong in your household...washer dies, roof leaks, driveway falls apart, a plumbing leak, window breaks, grass dies, mower dies, VCR eats a tape, TV shoots craps, oven dies, refrigerator dies, and on and on. Those similar things happen to a school building and need to be repaired, replaced, or purchased. As you know, when your roof is leaking you can't just ignore it and go on, you have to do something about. The C.O. fund is typically where districts go to fund those items. However, if the CO fund is gone, that money has to come from somewhere and that may be from General or LOB, which ultimately will have an impact on salaries. As you know, our General fund is limited by the formula from the state, so if we cannot raise funds for C.O., it really ties our hands in the other funds. Just so people realize, C.O. isn't anything new, and some districts levy a lot more than the 4.0 mills we are hoping to get back. If you are a Spring Hill resident, please help inform the public of the need for USD 230 to have this mill levy for the 2007-2008 school year. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. *Georann Whitman, SHEA President.*

This Valentine's Day, make a good impression and enjoy lovely savings at places like:



ANN TAYLOR
LOFT



THE BODY SHOP

ZALES
THE DIAMOND STORE

FragranceNet.com

Visit www.knea.org and discover 150,000 places that offer some handsome savings.

