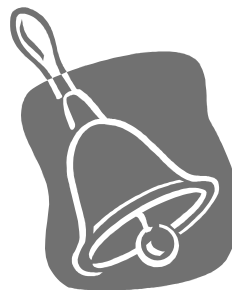


MAKE RESERVATIONS FOR LAURELS NIGHT 2008



Don't miss an opportunity to honor your fellow educators! The annual OEA Laurels Night will be held on Wednesday, April 30, at the DC Center, 11830 Stonegate Circle.

We will honor OEA members with 25 years of service in OPS and those who are retiring. The evening event will begin with a social from 6:00-6:45 p.m. followed by dinner. The \$25.00 ticket cost includes a dinner of Hawaiian chicken, cheese tortellini, twice baked potato, vegetable, salad and dessert.

The deadline for reservations is Tuesday, April 15th, at 5:00 p.m. Please include the full name of all members of your group and indicate if you have any special seating requests. However, seating cannot be guaranteed unless the entire party sends their reservation request together. This year fliers will be sent to all the schools in an effort to accommodate these requests. Payment must accompany each reservation with checks payable to the Omaha Education Association.

If you have any questions regarding Laurels Night 2008, please contact Lorrie at the OEA at 346-0400.

Laurels Night 2008 reservation form

PRINT Names for table reservation
(if applicable, include name of honoree).
Maximum of 8 per table.

Number of attendees _____
@ \$25.00/person **!DEADLINE!**

Total cost \$ _____
of meatless entrees _____
**Tuesday,
April 15th
5:00 p.m.**

**Send table reservation
information to :**

(Name)
**Return to
OEA c/o
Laurels
Night**

(School) **!DEADLINE!**

OEA Tip-Off

The OEA *Tip-Off* is a bi-monthly publication printed for members of the Omaha Education Association.

Direct inquiries to: Maddie Fennell, Editor or Sue Perkins, Reporter

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Visit us on the web at: www.omahaoea.org

Raising achievement and closing the gaps for ALL students.



OEA

Tip-Off

March 25, 2008

25 YEAR HONOREES

Listed below are those who will be honored for 25 years of service at Laurels Night on Wednesday, April 30th.

Karen Anderson – Benson West
Tracy Blankenship – Highland
Barbara Bockes – Sunny Slope
Jeri Bushon – Rose Hill
Sandra Carpenter – TAC
Ann Catania – Prairie Wind
Levetta Chamberlain – Marrs Magnet
Middle School
Susan Clarke – Hale Middle School
David Cook – Hale Middle School
Durlean Crayton – Field Club
Sue Durfee – Buffett Middle School
Janis Falcone – Burke High School
Jo Ann Flaxbeard – Washington
Mary Flodine – Catlin
Vernon Floyd – McMillan Magnet
Middle School
Jerrie Glassman – Northwest High School
Theresa Goltl-Fuxa – Pawnee
Cheryl Goodwillie – Western Hills
Alice Gould – Belvedere
Cathy Hill – King Science Center
Middle School

THANK YOU

THANK YOU

THANK YOU

Renate Horn – Highland
Debbie Huggins – Masters
Jacqueline Johnson – Northwest High School
Kelly Karkosky – Oak Valley
Kaye Kiepert-Hensley – Franklin
Kelene Langenfeld – Masters
Teri Lisko – Adams
Kathryn Meyer – Chandler View
Mark Miller – Bryan Middle School
Ranae Murphy – TAC
Debra Paris – Benson High School
Kathleen Porter – Benson High School
Lessie Rodriguez – Northwest High School
Darlene Schaap – Central Park
Jayne Sturek – Fullerton
Judy Torrens – Franklin
Christina Tritsch – Highland
Jeffrey Vojtech – TAC
Elaine Westbrook – North High School
Maude Williams – Catlin
Jo Wooden – Masters
Robert Woodworth – Benson High School

What's Good in Education? You Tell Us!

We want to celebrate what's going well in our classrooms!

Send us your favorite teaching tips, good news, funny stories, or questions. Thoughts on our profession, local or national topics, or the view from your own classroom—anything good, positive and related to education.

So, what's good and right in your educational world right now?
No qualifiers, no buts, just a celebration and appreciation of what is wonderful.

Send to maddie.fennell@nsea.org or sue.perkins@nsea.org



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Nominate a Star

Nominate a K-12 Teacher for the 2008 American Stars of Teaching Awards

The U.S. Department of Education continues to honor exemplary classroom teachers as the American Stars of Teaching. Those honored are successful in using innovative teaching strategies and raising student academic achievement. These teachers will be highlighted as representatives of the thousands of teachers who are making a difference in the classroom. One teacher from each state and the District of Columbia will be selected. Officials from the U.S. Department of Education will visit the classes of each winner to congratulate them on their success. Nominations will be accepted through **March 31, 2008**. Winners will be announced this fall.

For more information about the awards and to nominate an exceptional teacher, visit :

<http://www.t2tweb.us/AmStar/About.asp> .

Questions about the awards may be sent to :

TeacherQuality@westat.com.

Congratulations Jane!!

OEA Board member Jane Erdenberger has been appointed to the Nebraska Educational Finance Authority (NEFA) by Governor Dave Heineman. Jane's appointment will run from now through December 31, 2011; she will be eligible to serve another full four year term.



Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching

The Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching are the nation's highest honors for teachers of mathematics and science. The awards recognize highly qualified K-12 teachers for their contributions in the classroom and to their profession.

Since 1983, more than 3,700 outstanding teachers have been recognized for their contributions to mathematics and science education. If you know great teachers, nominate them to join this prestigious network of professionals.

Nominations for elementary school teachers are being accepted online and should be submitted as soon as possible. Teachers who are nominated must complete an online application. Applications are due **May 1, 2008**.

(Secondary school teachers are eligible to apply in 2009.)

For additional information on the award and to nominate an outstanding teacher, visit :

<http://www.paemst.org/controllers/home.cfc?method=view>.

If you have questions about this opportunity, please contact your state coordinator. To find your state coordinator, visit :

<http://www.paemst.org/controllers/coordinator.cfc?method=findcoordinator>.



Signs Your Car has Pothole Damage

A pothole can seriously damage a vehicle's ride control system, according to the Car Care Council, and drivers are advised to avoid them whenever possible.

Should you not be able to steer around one, however, and you feel a bad jarring motion, don't ignore it. You should have the car's shocks or struts checked to make sure they haven't been damaged.

Shocks and struts control how cars ride and handle. Shock absorbers – or struts – act as a cushion to dampen the bouncing action that comes from the car's springs. Springs absorb road bumps and, without them, the car would be difficult to control.

Shocks and struts also control spring and suspension movement to keep tires in contact with the road. This affects steering, stability and even braking. A broken shock or strut could alter steering and handling of the vehicle and create a driving hazard.

Here are some warning signs you may have damage:

- The vehicle rolls or sways on turns.
- The vehicle's front end dives when braking.
- The vehicle's rear end squats when accelerating.
- The vehicle "bottom's out" or thumps on bumps.
- The vehicle sits lower in the front or rear.
- The vehicle is leaking or has signs of physical damage, such as rusting or dents.
- There is a loss of directional control during sudden stops.

Don't wait to get your car's shocks or struts fixed, to maximize your safety on the road.



If you have additional questions concerning your vehicle or would like to receive a free no-obligation quote, please give us a call at **1-877-777-1419**. This is a message provided by A+ NEA Members Auto & Home Insurance Program.

ANNUAL CAF GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

AR Assembly and OEA-CAF meeting are scheduled for **Tuesday, April 15th, 4:15pm, Wilson Middle School.**

Recommended candidates will be in attendance.
OEA-CAF General Assembly will follow the AR Assembly.
OEA-CAF members are encouraged to attend and consider the school board candidate recommendations.

40 Developmental Assets

by: Linda Dierks, Bryan Middle School

The 40 Developmental Assets are the essential building blocks to healthy development. The Developmental Assets are a list of forty positive experiences, relationships and personal qualities that help youth avoid risky behaviors and guide them on the path of success.

The Developmental Assets are based on decades of research collected from thousands of youth across the country by the Search Institute in Minneapolis, Minnesota. It is this body of research that provides the foundation of the Developmental Assets framework. The forty assets are divided into eight broad categories of human development. The first four categories focus on external structures, relationships, and experiences that create a positive environment for our youth. Those categories include support, empowerment, boundaries and expectations, and constructive use of time. The second four categories concentrate on internal values, skills, and beliefs that young people need to fully function and completely engage in the environment they are in and the community around them. These four internal asset categories are comprised of commitment to learning, positive values, social competencies, and positive identity.

You may be saying to yourself, this all sounds wonderful but where do I begin? What can I possibly do? After all, I am only one person! Well that's the great thing about the Developmental Assets framework. YOU can make a difference whether you are working as an individual or as a team of people. The key component to you making a difference is the fact that you care about the youth in your own home, your school, your community, and the world at large.

Think back to a time when you were young, and identify an adult who made an impact on your life. You might be thinking of a special teacher, a school counselor, a principal, a school secretary, a custodian, a coach, a club sponsor, a school nurse, a neighbor, a youth minister, a priest,

pastor or simply a family friend. Try to identify what that person did for you or how that person made such a difference in your life. There is a good chance that your answer might be something like, they made me feel special, they helped guide me in the right direction, they took time to talk and LISTEN to me, they cared and loved me, they were a person I could count on no matter what, or they always made time for me even when they were busy.

One of the single most important things we can do to make a difference with our youth is to build positive, caring and genuine relationships with them.

As we begin our work in building assets in our youth, let us keep in mind a few principles to help us guide the way:

- Everyone can build assets
- All young people need assets.
- Relationships are key.
- Asset building is an ongoing process.
- Consistent messages are important.
- Intentional repetition is important.

The Assets framework is focused, intentional, and based on research. It has been an OPS grass roots effort (which has gone ablaze) to introduce and implement the Assets framework. Counselors, SSDS facilitators, and Central Office staff have been providing information and awareness to paraprofessionals, school staffs, deans, and principals throughout the district. "Building Bright Futures" along with community agencies and other metro school districts are learning about the positive impact that Assets continue to provide.

For more information and to learn more about the 40 Developmental Assets, visit the Search Institute Web site at: www.search-institute.org.