

# THE SCHOOL BELL

Publisher S M E A

Volume No. 1

Issue No. 2

Date October 1, 2001



## HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS

Imagination and wonderful, wacky ideas are everywhere this week as ghosts, goblins, astronauts, ballerinas and cartoon characters celebrate Halloween. Unfortunately, some of the best parts of Halloween, from carving the pumpkin to traipsing around in the dark, are also the most dangerous. Keep your children safe this year. Here are some of the dangers and ways to avoid them:

- Paint that face! It's safer than a mask, and more fun too.
- Make costumes short. Don't hike up long skirts, cut them off for safety.
- Secure hats so they will not slip over children's eyes.
- Wear shoes that fit. Children should never wear mom's high heels or dad's boots.
- Stay on the sidewalk. Don't cut through yards.
- Decorate costumes, bags and sacks with reflective tape or paints.
- Use Halloween costumes that are light or bright enough to be seen at night.
- Never let kids under age eight go trick-or-treating without an adult.
- Remind children to stop, look left, right, and then left again before crossing any street.
- Look for "Flame Resistant" labels on costumes, masks, beards and wigs.
- Use fire resistant material for all homemade costumes.
- Avoid costumes made out of flimsy material and outfits with big baggy sleeves or billowing skirts.
- Only give and accept wrapped or packaged candy.
- Go trick-or-treating in the daylight.

## *MEA Needs Reviewers*

MEA has been asked by the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) to assist in finding teachers who are endorsed in and teaching in certain subject areas to serve on specialty review committees as a part of the Periodic Review of teacher preparation programs.

If you have a teacher(s) who would be interested in reviewing teacher prep programs in the areas listed, please let me know name, address, phone, email, and school district by October 22. The teacher cannot have graduated from or have a relationship to any of the colleges/universities to be reviewed. Teachers must be available for both the training day and review day, noted below, for their subject area.

Leave time would need to be provided by the district. MDE will pay for mileage, lodging, and lunch. We will be reviewing programs from Adrian, Albion, Madonna, Marygrove, MSU, SVSU, and UM-Dearborn.

### Reviewers needed:

Elementary/middle mathematics teacher (we already have two representatives from Lansing Public Schools)  
Elementary/middle social studies teacher (current reps are from Farmington, Roscommon, Holly, and Midland)  
Elementary/middle French teacher (current reps are from Livonia and Traverse City)  
District or ISD mathematics coordinator  
Secondary history teacher (current rep is from Holly)  
Secondary sociology teacher (current rep is from Midland)

Training for math, social studies, history and sociology reviewers will be Nov 8 (full day).

Training for French reviewers will be December 4 (full day).  
The mathematics PR/PE conference will be held on January 7-8, 2002.

The social studies PR/PE conference (includes history and sociology) will be held on January 29-30.

The French PR/PE conference (optional for majority of reviewers) will be held on January 28.

## *Safety first on Halloween Eve*

- Go trick-or-treating in pairs or small groups.
  - Avoid hard plastic or wood props such as swords or wands.
  - Do not enter homes of people you do not know.
- Drive and walk with extreme care on October 31. Do all you can to protect our children; we don't have a single one to spare.

## Political action pays!

### *Give away planned for Xmas*

If you haven't filled out your PAC, do it now. Political contributions are the life-blood of lobbying. MEA's lobby efforts mean more money for school. An MEA PAC contribution is a vote for better schools, locally, state-wide and nationally.

Donate now, (or if you have already donated), and you could be eligible to win one of four (4) \$50 gift certificates. If the 5 E,G coordinating council raises an additional \$2000 in PAC between now and December 15, donors will be eligible to win. If you do not donate, you can't win! Give whatever you can, \$2 per pay period goes a long way in Lansing AND locally!

## Classified ads for free? Yessiree!

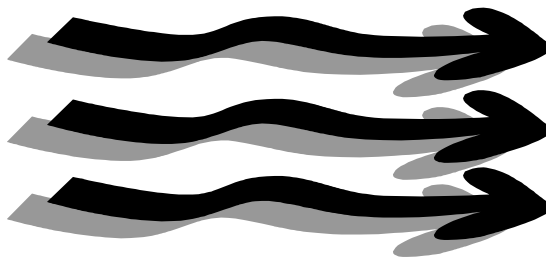
The School Bell will run MEA members' classified ads for free. Ads will be placed in the newsletter first come first served and inclusion will be based on space limitations and editorial prerogative. All editorial decisions will be final. Please enclose contact information. Ads will not be included without phone numbers or e-mails. The School Bell will not take messages for, or conduct business for, advertisers or buyers. Additionally, The School Bell takes no responsibility for the quality of the goods for sale or trade.

**Room Needed** -- a room or flat in Battle Creek for a Kellogg Community College student. Please call 616-489-2931.

**Refrigerator** for sale, \$75 or best offer. Old style freezer fridge works great. Perfect for storing beverages in the garage. Call 278 9013.

**What?** -- What are you trying to sell? Put it here next month. Sell it cheap and fast!

**Your Ad here in the next issue. Call 279 5285 for details. MEA members only!**



## Local office training Schedule 2001-02

The Michigan Education Association office in Three Rivers will be offering training and informational meetings for local members at least once a month.

October 29, 2001	"Dealing with Difficult People"
November 29, 2001	"Probationary Teachers"
January 12, 2002	"Your Legal Rights (ESP)"
January 17, 2002	"Retirement Planning"
February 19, 2002	"Grievance Processing for Presidents and Building Reps""
February 26, 2002	"Understanding your District's Finances"
March 19, 2002	"Team Building for Local Leaders"
April 23, 2002	"MEA Financial Services"
May 16, 2002	"Your Legal Rights (teachers)."

All trainings, except Jan. 12, will be 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the MEA office in Three Rivers. Refreshments will be provided. Of the five units bargaining in the spring, I hope they are going to want some team training or bargaining training. I encourage them to attend the Bargaining and Public Relations Conference in Dearborne at the end of January.

The MEA in Three Rivers is committed to your professional growth and success. Don't hesitate to call with questions or for more information: 616 279 5285. See you at the office!