

# The BEA Line



www.beaok.org

November 2017  
Editor: Judy Allen

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## Words from the Prez:

I've been reading all the "Thankful" posts that have started appearing on my Facebook page this November. I enjoy reading them and I know that expressing gratitude is a great way to stay positive and focused on the things in life that really matter. For years, I've made it a habit to reflect each day on at least three things I'm grateful for or that were positive that day. As I have watched the special legislative session unfold, I've become increasingly frustrated and even very negative about the state of public education in Oklahoma. While I believe these feelings are certainly justified (and they keep me motivated to continue fighting for teachers and students), I thought I would try to come up with three things I'm thankful for professionally.

1. I work for a truly amazing school district with an administration and school board that are incredibly supportive.
2. My co-workers are fantastic, dedicated professionals who go above and beyond daily for their students.
3. I teach first grade so at least one really funny or touching thing happens to me daily. Not long ago I got a big hug from a student who inhaled deeply and exclaimed, "I love how you smell. You smell just like my grandma's car".

Thanksgiving Break is just around the corner! Enjoy your break and take some time to reflect on the positive things. ☺

*Heather Boyle*  
*BEA President*

## BEA Rep Meeting

All members are invited to attend the next BEA meeting.

**When:** November 15

**Location:** Wayside Library

**Time:** 4:15

**Special Guest:** Melissa Kaltenbaugh, OEA

**Topic:** Advocacy

## OEA's

### Read Across America Contest

Get On Board With Reading, OEA's 2018 Read Across America Poster Contest. The Assignment is so simple even the Cat in the Hat could do it. Draw a picture featuring transportation from your favorite Dr. Seuss book. All Oklahoma public school students are eligible to enter. [More info](#) click on the link. Posters are due 5 pm on January 31, 2018.

## NEA's Veteran's Day

Veteran's Day takes place across the U.S. on the 11<sup>th</sup> of November each year. We honor our veterans for choosing to help give and protect the rights we have in many ways. Schools usually have assemblies and complete activities designed to enlighten students on how the role of veterans and soldiers influence in their lives. [Classroom ideas](#) are just a click away.

## Building Reps

### **BHS:**

Belinda Buoy

### **Academy:**

Theresa Keller

### **Central:**

Lindsey Schnoebelen

### **Hoover:**

Lauren Vysotsky

### **Jane Phillips**

Gwen Sally

### **Kane:**

Erin Perry

### **Madison:**

Tina Ewing

### **Ranch Heights:**

Twila Divine

### **Wayside:**

Kristen Flick

### **Wilson:**

Kris Zorn

## NEA's American Education Week

What is American Education Week? American Education Week (Nov. 13-17) presents all Americans with a wonderful opportunity to celebrate public education and honor individuals who are making a difference in ensuring that every child receives a quality education. Did you know? The National Education Association was one of the creators and original sponsors of American Education Week. Distressed that 25 percent of the country's World War I draftees were illiterate and 9 percent were physically unfit, representatives of the NEA and the American Legion met in 1919 to seek ways to generate public support for education. The conventions of both organizations subsequently adopted resolutions of support for a national effort to raise public awareness of the importance of education. In 1921, the NEA Representative Assembly called for designation of one week each year to spotlight education. In its resolution, the NEA called for: "An educational week ... observed in all communities annually for the purpose of informing the public of the accomplishments and needs of the public schools and to secure the cooperation and support of the public in meeting those needs." The first observance of American Education Week occurred December 4-10, 1921, with the NEA and American Legion as the cosponsors. A year later, the then U.S. Office of Education joined the effort as a cosponsor, and the PTA followed in 1938. Other co-sponsors are the U.S. Department of Education and national organizations including the National PTA, the American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary, the American Association of School Administrators, the National School Boards Association, the American Federation of Teachers, the American School Counselor Association, the Council of Chief State School Officers, the National School Public Relations Association, the National Association of State Boards of Education, the National Association of Elementary School Principals, and the National Association of Secondary School Principals. This year's theme is "Great Public Schools: A Basic Right and Our Responsibility," American Education Week is always celebrated the week prior to the week of Thanksgiving.