



An affiliate of the National Association of Elementary School Principals



President's Message

Clay Cates

WAEMSP President

Principal, Pronghorn Elementary School

Gillette, Wyoming

Dear Colleagues,

I wanted to give you all a big Wyoming “Howdy” and hope that your first quarter of the year has been stellar. The school year seems to go fast these days but we are in the best profession on Earth and it’s always wonderful to know that we are leading schools that will impact our future generations. Every single time that I see that Steamboat symbol of the cowboy and bucking horse, I feel a sense of pride knowing that I am in the greatest state around, working with the school community and doing what I love. What can be better than that?

I have been in education for 28 years as well as being a member of WAEMSP for 13 years. I have seen our principal association doing great things over that time and I am honored to be your President during the current school year.

Our association mission for WAEMSP is to promote and the support the improvement of education for all Wyoming children through effective educational leadership. Here are a few opportunities that will help us all engage in that mission:

Our WAEMSP email portal serves as a connector for questions, discussion, and sharing of ideas that help us communicate and learn on the fly to all members of the association

Our association website at <https://www.waemsp.org/> is loaded with information that can be helpful to us all, especially new members

The WAEMSP State Conference will be held November 6-8 in Casper. This conference will have several special speakers and presenters including Dr. Todd Whitaker, who will speak to us about What Great Principals Do Differently. We will also hear from our State Superintendent of Instruction and two state legislature members. All of this will inform us on top priority education within the state as well as help us grow as leaders using best practice

WAEMSP also hosts weekly Zoom meeting each Monday at 1:30 PM. This is a great opportunity to connect with your peers in the association and discuss things going on in other districts as well as collaborating on hot topics in education

Our association also has a retired Elementary Principal and current Executive Director in Kenny Jones that is a great resource, is extremely knowledgeable, heavily involved, and easily accessible to all members. He can be reached at the email address of waemsp.exec@gmail.com.

(Continued on next page)

I encourage all members to engage in these opportunities within our association. The most valuable information that I have witnessed in WAEMSP is the connection with other peers around the state and learning from them. I have grown so much over time from these connections with other principals and the growth from hearing best practice presentations at the annual conference. I know you will too!

I wish you continued success in leading your schools and I hope you have a great rest of the school year. Please contact me at ccates@ccsd.k12.wy.us or (307) 682-1676 if you need anything.

Sincerely,

Clay Cates, WAEMSP President 2022- 2023



.....FROM THE BELTWAY

Liann Brenneman

Federal Relations Coordinator

Principal, Buffalo Ridge & Hebard Elementary

Cheyenne, WY

I am so excited to begin my new position as the Federal Liaison. Our first meeting NAESP advocacy meeting was very informational. The committee will be meeting monthly, and I will make sure to share key information soon after the meeting. Here are some highlights from this month's meeting.

Biden Student Loan Relief Plan was a key topic. An online application form will be available by early October. To sign up for federal student loan borrower updates, visit the [website](#).

PSLF Day of Action: For a limited time, educators are eligible to apply for loan forgiveness because of their service in schools. The Public Service Loan Forgiveness waiver runs until October 31, 2022. Go [here](#) for more information and see if you meet eligibility to apply.

[NAEP scores](#) show a significant decline. This is no surprise as we all know the pandemic affected student achievement and mental health. NAESP will continue to be focused on how to work together to provide educators and children the supports they need to overcome the challenges.

October is National Principals Month! Visit principalsmonth.org to learn how to get involved and see all of the activities that celebrate you and lift up your voice and stories as we advocate on your behalf.

Thank you to all of you for everything you do for the children of Wyoming. Because of you our students are growing and learning, and together we will help them succeed.

Liann

The mission of WAEMSP is to promote and support the improvement of education for all Wyoming children through effective educational leadership



NAESP Report

Heather Moro

NAESP State Representative

Principal, Slade Elementary

Laramie, Wyoming

Happy National Principals month to all of our Wyoming leaders!

Fall is such an exciting time in the school year. Everything seems possible and problem-solving is in full swing. As principals, we are on the front lines; relentlessly striving toward educational excellence and well-being for each child in our care. This work is exhausting and rewarding. Take a moment to celebrate what is going well and reflect on ways you are finding success. What you do matters!

This year NAESP is focusing on principal wellness during the month of October and beyond. Visit the NAESP website or click on the following links to watch a video on [Wellness tips from NAESP President Dave Steckler](#), tackle the [October Wellness Challenge](#), or share your school's story on social media using #ThankAPrincipal.

The Zone 7 State Representative monthly meetings begin on October 13th. This is an opportunity for me to learn about advocacy resources and events at the nation level. I also get share stories from around Wyoming. Please let me know if you have a Wyoming story you would like me to share.

At the national level, NAESP's priorities for advocacy on Capitol Hill this year are:

- ◆ Secure robust federal funding for programs like Title II, Part A, that support the preparation, training, and support of principals
- ◆ Advocate for professional development and mentoring programs that strengthen principals' knowledge of early childhood education and provide federal funding streams for high-quality early education
- ◆ Reauthorize the Higher Education Act to improve principal recruitment, preparation, and retention.

Another topic of interest at the national level is the Loan Forgiveness for Educators Act that was recently introduced to update the existing Teacher Loan Forgiveness Program and expand access to K-12 school leaders. If you support this legislation and want to share your thoughts with our Wyoming legislators, below is sample letter you could use.

The *Loan Forgiveness for Educators Act* was recently introduced by Sen. Ben Ray Lujan (NM), Rep. Teresa Leger Fernandez (NM), and Rep. Jahana Hayes (CT). The bill would update the existing Teacher Loan Forgiveness Program and expand access to include early childhood educators and K-12 school leaders. The legislation would completely eliminate an educator's student loans after five years of service in a high-need school and would make the monthly loan payments during that time.

Student loan debt can have significant impacts on educator recruitment and retention, and inequitable access to a well-prepared and diverse educator workforce has become a feature of our nation's education system. The Loan Forgiveness for Educators Act would reward committed educators who support our most underserved students. It is an important recruitment, retention, and diversity strategy to help address the educator shortage.

We strongly urge you to take action now, and contact your members of Congress using the link below.

[_https://p2a.co/nU7NO9m](https://p2a.co/nU7NO9m)

Please feel free to reach out to me and let me know how I can better serve WAEMSP through the State Representative position. I look forward to seeing you in Casper in November!

Governor's Proclamation



NATIONAL PRINCIPALS' MONTH

WHEREAS, the role of a school principal is broad based ranging from educational leader to community builder and from budget analyst to facilities manager; and

WHEREAS, school principals work collaboratively with teachers and parents to develop and implement clear missions, high curriculum standards and effective performance goals; and

WHEREAS, school principals create school environments that facilitate great learning, effective teaching and continuous improvement; and

WHEREAS, school principals are a mobilizing force in effective schools; and

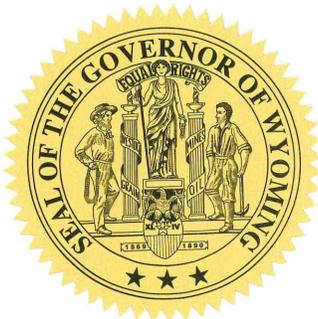
WHEREAS, National Principals' Month recognizes the contributions of elementary, middle and high school principals and their role in ensuring that every child has access to a high-quality education.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK GORDON, Governor of the State of Wyoming, do hereby proclaim October 2022 as

NATIONAL PRINCIPALS' MONTH

in Wyoming.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Executive Seal of the Governor of Wyoming to be affixed this 11th day of October, 2022.



Handwritten signature of Mark Gordon in blue ink.

The Honorable Mark Gordon
33rd Governor of the Great State of Wyoming



Executive Director Report

Kenny Jones

WAEMSP Executive Director

Sheridan, Wyoming

Membership: We currently have 177 members who have renewed or joined WAEMSP and NAESP for the 2022 - 23 school year as of October 11. *As a member driven organization it is important to maintain our membership so that we can continue to provide benefits to principals within Wyoming. I would strongly encourage you to renew your membership, if you haven't already done so, and if you could recruit a new principal or assistant principal that would be great.* As a continuing show of appreciation for those who renew quickly the executive board is continuing to hold drawings for \$50 on the first of September, October, November, December, and January for those who have renewed their membership. Our August winner was **Carolyn Connor** in Thermopolis and our September winner was **Valerie Bruce** in Gillette. Congratulations to all the winners thus far and thanks to all of you who have renewed this year.

National Conference will be in Washington, D.C. on July 10 - 12, 2023: Early bird registration for NAESP's National Conference will be opening soon, you can save big on your registration if you take advantage of the early bird registration. I hope many of you will be able to attend next summer as I have found the national conferences to be outstanding professional development opportunities.

WAEMSP Annual State Conference: The state conference set for November 6 - 8, 2022 in Casper is shaping up to be a great professional development opportunity. We have a great slate of speakers lined up for those who are able to attend as well as organized time for you to network with your colleagues from around the state. I am including more state conference information further down in this newsletter along with the registration form. If you haven't already registered I would strongly encourage you to join in the learning and networking with your colleagues.

Summer Reading 2023: Participants this year were: **1,463** students (up 207 students from last year) in **36** schools, down (1), participate in our summer reading program. Those students read **2,339,973** minutes which breaks down to be an average of about **26.65** hours per student! Each of the participants should be commended on their efforts. I would like to personally thank all of the principals who had their children participate in the WAEMSP summer reading program!!

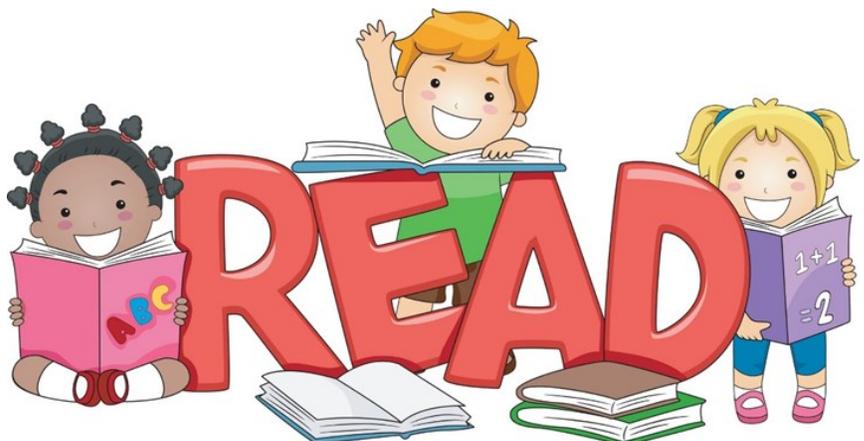




The Burlington Elementary summer readers are enjoying ice cream and toppings for their summer reading efforts.



Afton Elementary summer readers received their summer reading certificates from their principal, Mr. Danny Robinson!





Big Horn Elementary students enjoyed lawn games with ice cream at the Bradford Brinton Museum for their summer reading celebration.



Uinta Meadows summer readers received a fun afternoon of slushies, face painting and play for their efforts reading over the summer - 163 students participated!!!!

Draft - 2022 WAEMSP Annual Conference Agenda

Clarion Inn at Platte River, Casper, WY

Sunday, November 6, 2022

9:30 – 11:00 WAEMSP Executive Board Mtg

12:00 – 1:00 Registration
1:00 – 2:00 Breez Daniels - PLC
2:00 – 3:00 Roundtable Discussion
3:00 – 4:00 Legislators

4:30 – 6:30 WAEMSP/WASSP Awards Gala

Monday, November 7, 2022

7:00 – 8:00 Breakfast & Registration
8:00 – 8:30 Welcoming Remarks – WASSP & WAEMSP Presidents, State & Natrona 1 Supt.
8:30 – 9:30 Rachels Challenge
9:30 – 11:30 Dr. Bill Zeigler – Innovation Sponsored by Apple
11:30 – 1:00 Vendor Fair & lunch
1:00 – 3:00 Mark Wilson
3:00 – 4:00 WAEMSP General Business Meeting
6:00 - ??? Fun Night Activities

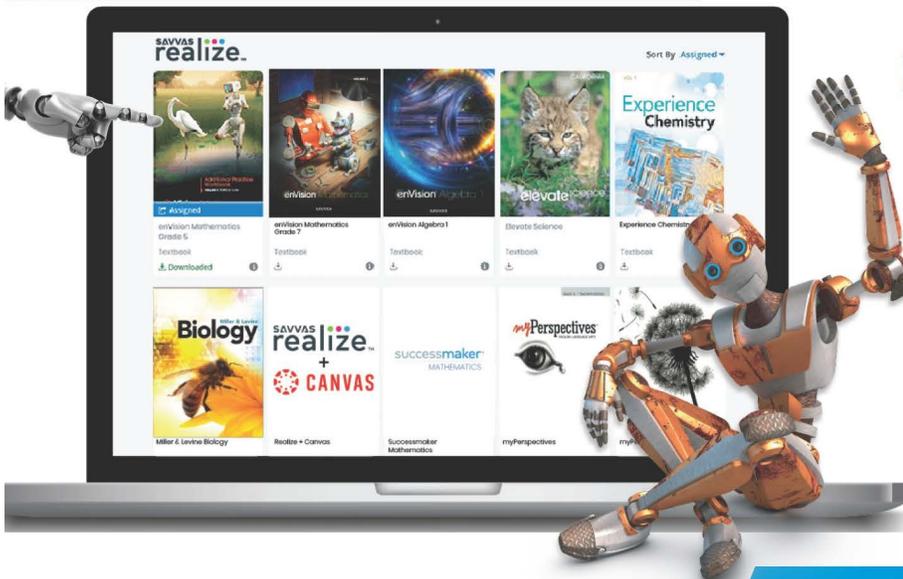
Tuesday, November 8, 2022

7:00 – 8:00 Breakfast
8:00 – 8:30 Business Sponsor time
8:30 – 10:30 Todd Whitaker
10:30 – 11:30 Dr. Barbara Hickman UW
11:30 – 12:00 Closing and prize drawings

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- | | |
|--|-------|
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Mail form along with payment to: **Kenny Jones, 2073 Pheasant Draw Road, Sheridan, WY 82801 , waemsp.exec@gmail.com**

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