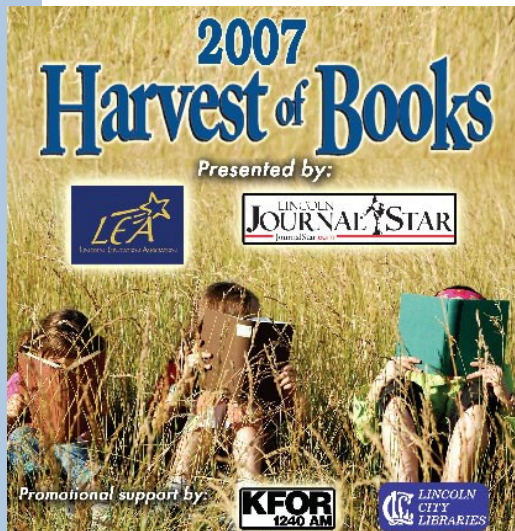


LEAdvocate

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*A Basic Right...
A Great
Public School
for Every
Child.*



The 2007 Harvest of Books Has Begun!!!!

Running from October 5- 21, 2007, the Harvest goal this year is to provide 13,000 new books to Lincoln First and Second grade students.

Please do what you can to support and spread the news about the Harvest!

If you and others would like to participate, you can purchase books at **25% off** the retail price at the following participating bookstores:

- B. Dalton Bookseller, Westfield (Gateway Mall)
- Barnes & Noble Booksellers, 5150 "O" Street or

2910 Pine Lake Road –Suite A1

- Gloria Deo, Alamo Center Suite 15, 5601 S 56th
- Lee Booksellers, 5500 S 56th Street
- Lemstone Christian Stores, 2801 Pine Lake, Ste J
- Nebraska Bookstore, 1300 "Q" Street
- University Bookstore, Lower Level-Nebraska Union-City Campus
- Usborne Books via Alicia Chrastil at 499-8147
- Usborne Books via Miriam LeBlanc at 489-8800, www.MiriamBooks.com
- Usborne Books via Becky McGarvie at 477-0249
- Usborne Books via Amy Rempe at 486-1031
- Usborne Books via Megan Tupper at 476-0394

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E-Mail Headaches

We thought the following **excerpt** from an article that first appeared in *Education Week's Digital Directions* on September 12, 2007 might be of interest and value to members. Underlined portions are with editorial emphasis from LEA. The entire article may be read at:

<http://www.edweek.org/dd/articles/2007/09/12/02email-s1.h01.html?print=1>



Security Breaches, Employee Carelessness, and Spam by Michelle R. Davis

On every school day, thousands of e-mails fly through school district cyberspace. While e-mail has become a routine and seemingly indispensable part of district operations, it can cause some real headaches for information-technology directors.

Breakdowns in security, inappropriate use, and the sheer volume of electronic communications are some of the problems that districts grapple with, says Linda Sharp, the director of cyber security for the digital-district project at the Consortium for School Networking. The Washington-based CoSN is an advocacy group for educational technology.

“We don’t spend the time we need to on staff development—teaching people appropriate e-mail etiquette and procedures and how to manage their e-mail,” Sharp says. “Those are critical issues.”

On the question of security, she says, employees often resist changing passwords periodically, or leave their passwords in full view as reminders to themselves. But if a student gets a teacher’s password and accesses the e-mail account, private correspondence between the teacher and parents, for example, would be at risk. The student also would be able to send e-mails under the teacher’s name or even get into data, grades, and other private records elsewhere in the system, Sharp says.

In addition, with revised **Federal Rules of Civil Procedure** requiring that school districts archive their e-mail, possibly for extended periods of time, it’s particularly important, she says, that district employees know they need to have a personal e-mail address as well.

“You don’t want your personal e-mail archived with the school system’s e-mail,” Sharp says, referring to employees who use their office addresses for e-mail exchanges not related to work.

Every employee should be aware that e-mails are not private and can be read by information-technology staff members at any time, she says.

“We need to make sure teachers understand that everything they write in e-mail, it’s just as if they printed it out and hung it up for everyone to see,” she says. “The tech leaders can retrieve almost any e-mail sent or received.”

Inappropriate Use

Though most school systems require that employees sign a policy on e-mail use that lists what is permitted and not permitted on school e-mail, most don’t read it or remember it, Sharp says.

Misuse can get employees into serious trouble. Last year, 20 teachers and other staff members in the 84,000-student Jefferson County, Colo., school district lost their jobs for sending pornographic and other inappropriate e-mails, says Lynn Setzer, a district spokeswoman.

“When you’re at work, you have to be aware of the kinds of e-mails you’re looking at and passing along,” Setzer says. “People can get complacent sometimes about looking at things that other people would find offensive. In a school district, you must be hypervigilant.”

~~~Michelle R. Davis is a contributing writer for Education Week and Digital Directions.

## Urban Myths # 4



Mr. Ed, the “talking horse” on the early 1960s TV show was a horse, “of course.”

You might find this one hard to believe, but Mr. Ed really wasn’t a horse! The horse originally “cast” for the role in the show’s pilot program would not



perform his tricks on cue and the show, on a tight budget, couldn't afford going over time because of a stubborn horse. The solution: *a trained zebra*, Amelia, from Jungleland in Thousand Oaks, CA, who already had been trained to perform the same kind of tricks Mr. Ed needed to perform, got the part. Filmed in black and white, the animal's stripes never showed up on camera. To make up for the fact that zebras are smaller animals than horses, Mr. Ed's stall was built on a smaller scale than normal and the human star of the show, Alan Young, was only 5'4." Amelia appeared as Mr. Ed in all five seasons of the program!

***Here is another "urban myth" the truth about which you might find hard to believe:***

LEA and LPS need to get out of the Blue Cross/Blue Shield Health Insurance plan and into a larger pool of insured persons to reduce the rate of insurance premiums. ***Nay! Nay!*** The current BC/BS plan available to teachers through the Educators Health Alliance is already the largest health insurance pool in the state of Nebraska with nearly every Nebraska school district participating in the pool. Made up of education employees, administrators, and school board members (all of whom are represented on the EHA Board of Directors), Nebraska's BC/BS EHA model is pointed to by NEA to other state affiliates as the way to go to reduce health care costs. If Lincoln was to drop out of the EHA pool, premium rates would inevitably be higher because the smaller the insurance pool, the fewer dollars that are flowing into the pool to cover medical costs.

What makes the critical difference to employees is the amount of money their employer contributes to each employee's health insurance premium and those employee contributions vary from school district to school district. Hence, LEA members rated help with health insurance premiums *at a premium* for the 2006-2008 contract negotiations in surveys and the increased amounts that LPS contributes toward health care premiums in each of the contract years that were eventually negotiated.



**OUR THANKS TO JAN MAHLMAN, JOANNE PERRAULT, AND PAT SHELTON FOR  
THEIR RECENT HELP WITH LEA MEMBERSHIP MATERIALS.**

**JAN, PAT, AND JOANNE ARE THREE OF THE BEST "PEACHES"  
AMONG OUR MANY VOLUNTEER HELPERS!**