Letter from the President

Dear MISF Member Schools, Staff, Colleagues, and Friends of Independent Schools:

The next several weeks are very busy for schools across Minnesota and we extend our best wishes for a successful completion to the school year.

The 2015 SCOPE survey continues. Thank you to the more than 105 schools that have completed their survey. The deadline for completion is May 16 and we encourage all private and independent schools to complete their school profile. MISF conducts this every four years, so the 30-45 minutes invested is time well spent. Thank you to the Katherine B. Andersen Fund for their generous support of this extensive project.

The 2016 legislative session is winding down. The next two weeks will be quite active, and we remain very hopeful for legislation that will benefit students and families in our schools. Stay tuned for our advocacy alerts and please send update to your school community. We need the voice of our students and families heard at the state capitol.
Don't miss our upcoming development seminar featuring Lori Jacobwith. This seminar is a must attend for school leaders, development and advancement staff.

To better serve our schools and increase engagement, the MISF website will undergo an overhaul during the next several months. Our goal is to make it more relevant and your "go to" place for information and resources. We will provide updates as we move along the project timeline.

Thank you for your support of private and independent education.

Tim Benz, CFRE
President
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Follow me on Twitter
@misfprez

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**STEM SCOOP**

**MISF’s Ninth Annual STEM Education Conference**

- Thursday, August 11, 2016
- 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- Host School: Concordia Academy ~ Roseville, MN

Open to all Nonpublic School Educators in Minnesota.

You can find additional Conference information and breakout descriptions by clicking here.

[CLICK HERE NOW TO REGISTER](#) and sign up in advance for your Breakout Sessions! Space for each breakout session is limited so register early to guarantee your session of choice.
Congratulations to our 2016 Award Winners

Honor Teacher Finalists
K-8
Diane LaBeau~Risen Christ School
Erin McBurney~Annunciation School
Krista Welle~St. Pascal Baylon School

9-12
David Pearson~DeLaSalle High School
Ned Thompsen~Hill-Murray School
Krista Woolever Marinez~St. Paul Preparatory School

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Leadership Award (K-8)
Jane Nordin~St. Joseph’s School (West St. Paul)

Leadership Award (9-12)
Cade Lambert~New Life Academy

Community Champion Award
Jack & Mary Ann Remick~Rochester Catholic Schools

Behind the Scenes Award
Marion Sandfort~Calvin Christian School

Program Award
Project Based Learning~New Life Academy
Honor Teacher K-8
Diane LaBeau~Risen Christ School

Honor Teacher 9-12
David Pearson~DeLaSalle High School

Over 250 people attended the Private and Independent Education Awards on Sunday, April 24th. Every story told that evening was incredibly heartwarming and compelling. One attendee said, “I don’t know how you came to choose a top candidate!” Everyone honored that evening was a winner... truly the best of the best.

The videos from the event have been posted on MISF’s YouTube channel, and pictures are on MISF’s Flickr page.

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**MISF Schools in the news**

**Good Shepherd School, Golden Valley**

Tom Zellmer, Good Shepherd's principal, is retiring after 47 years as a Catholic school educator, 38 of those years at Good Shepherd School in Golden Valley. [Click here to read more about Tom's amazing teaching career.](#) Good luck, Tom! We wish you all the best.

**St. John’s Prep School, Collegeville**

Pamela McCarthy has been named as the next principal at St. John's Prep. She had been the Interim Assistant Division Director, Upper School and Dean of Students for the Latin School of Chicago. She will join SJP in July, as current principal, Matthew Reichert's, term ends. We wish Matthew continuing success in his next ventures, and warmly welcome Pamela. [Click here to read more.](#)

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We are happy to share news from your schools. Please send items to office@misf.org.

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**MDE Update**

**Drinking Water in School - Guidance Materials Available**

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) Drinking Water Program provides guidance to school administrators on the sources and health effects of lead and copper in drinking water. The guidance manual, [Reducing Lead in Drinking Water: A Technical Guidance for Minnesota's School and Child Care Facilities](#), is intended for use by all public and private schools in Minnesota.

The manual is designed to assist Minnesota's schools in minimizing student and staff lead exposure. It provides instructions regarding testing and corrective actions intended for school health, safety, and maintenance personnel as well as consultants working with educational...
agencies. MDH also encourages school administrators to distribute lead information to parents so that they can evaluate exposure to lead from all potential sources in their homes.

The following information and guidance materials are available on the Drinking Water in Schools page of the MDH website.

- Reducing Lead in Drinking Water: A Technical Guidance for Minnesota's School and Child Care Facilities
- Reducing Children's Exposure to Lead in Drinking Water
- Let it Run.....and Get the Lead Out!!! (English, Spanish and Hmong versions)

Access additional information about Lead in Schools on the MDH website. Local water suppliers are also a great first resource/partner for information about water quality.

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## Member Schools in the Spotlight

### Edgerton Christian Elementary School

Edgerton Christian Elementary School, located in the southwest corner of the state, became a member of MISF in 2011. Their mission is "to grow and learn together, firmly rooted in Christ, so we can glorify God and bear the fruit of services to others." [Click here to read more about Edgerton Christian Elementary School.](#)

### Park Christian School

Park Christian School in Moorhead joined MISF in 2014. For over 30 years Park Christian School has been educating the next generation of leaders in the Fargo, Moorhead, and West Fargo area. Park Christian's thoroughly Christian education and commitment to academic excellence has resulted in a confident tradition of student success. Students graduate from Park Christian School strong in their faith and well prepared for the rigors of college, career, and relationships. [Click here to read more about Park Christian School.](#)
St. Alphonsus Parish School became an MISF member school in 2012. Located in Brooklyn Center, St. Alphonsus Parish School is a Christ-centered school where the Catholic faith is taught in the classroom every day. Students are a part of a caring, family-like environment in which each child learns to show their faith in their daily life and is encouraged to develop a relationship with Jesus through regular participation in the sacraments. Kari Staples, principal of St. Al's, is the daughter of Tom Zellmer, retiring principal at Good Shepherd School in Golden Valley (story above). They believe they are the only father-daughter principal team in the state! Click here to read more about St. Alphonsus.