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Letter from the President

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

Hopefully, you all have returned renewed and refreshed from the holiday/new year break.

The 2017 legislative session began on Tuesday, January 3. This year's session is a full session and is scheduled to go through May 22. As you know, there are several major topics on the agenda for the legislature. In addition to health care, transportation and bonding, education will also have "top billing" during the session. We will provide updates over the next several months, and hope you will forward those updates to your school community. The voice of students and parents is very significant and contacting your local elected officials still has great effect.

I want to encourage you to participate in the [technology seminar/webinar](#) highlighted below. Sam Meyers and Minnehaha Academy received the 2015 Program Award at the Private and Independent Education Awards for this topic. Take the time to attend, or join the webinar. You will find Sam's presentation very relevant.

National School Choice Week is January 22-28, 2017. Mark your calendars now for **Tuesday, January 24, 2017**, and plan to join us for [an event at the Capitol](#) in support of school choice. It's an opportunity to learn about legislative activities and meet with your local legislators express your support of school choice for all students.

Thank you for your support and belief in MISF and Kids!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tim Benz".

Tim Benz, CFRE
President

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Welcome Beth Murphy

New MISF STEM Program Manager

We are pleased to announce that Beth Murphy has been hired as the new STEM Program Manager for MISF. Beth comes to MISF with an extensive background in STEM education, leadership and project management. Beth has a B.A. in Physics from Colby College, and received her Master's and Ph.D. in Physics from University of Rochester (NY). Previously, Beth served as director of education and special projects at the Bakken Museum, has taught courses in higher education and is a past member of the board of directors for SciMathMN.

We thank Margo Berg for her influential and important role with our flagship program since 2009. Many of you have interacted with Margo over the last several years. Margo has helped bring a high level of knowledge and professionalism to all facets of the STEM program and we wish Margo the very best in her retirement.

Beth will work closely with Michelle Ponsolle during this transition period and the upcoming grant application period. We know Beth looks forward to learning and helping schools and educators enhance and expand STEM education in independent and private schools.

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STEM Scoop

MISF STEM Grants



Is your school planning on submitting a STEM grant application this year? This is a reminder that Letters of Interest (LOIs) are due on January 20th. You must submit a LOI to be eligible to submit a full grant request. Go to the STEM page on the MISF website for more information: www.misf.org/stem.

MDE Science Update

The January issue of the MDE Science update is now available, with science news, information about teacher events and workshops, and notices about school grants and student award competitions. [Click here to read and download this informative newsletter](#).

Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics & Science Teaching

Nominations are now being accepted for the PAEMST. One science and one math teacher (grades 7-12) from each state will receive this award: \$10,000 and a trip to Washington DC to meet the president. It has been several years since there has been a nominee from a private school in Minnesota. [Click here to learn more](#).

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Private & Independent Education Awards

Nominations opening soon

Watch your inbox for information on nominating a leader, faculty, staff or community member from your school for a Private & Independent Education Award. This year's categories include:

- Behind the Scenes
- Community Champion
- Program
- Leadership Award
- Honor Teacher Award

These awards recognize the great work that is being done in Minnesota's private &

independent schools. [Check out photos from last year's event here](#), and start thinking today about who you will nominate!

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MISF Lunch & Learn Seminars

Technology Seminar *An Empathetic Approach to Digital Citizenship*

Thursday, January 19, 2017
11:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Good Shepherd School, Golden Valley



Lunch & Learn Seminars

Do you find yourself giving students more warnings than hope when giving online advice? Are your digital citizenship lectures and presentations a better fit for your teachers than your students? What is your teacher-student tech savviness ratio?

Although our schools and classrooms don't always reflect it, technology has changed the way digital natives learn. As teachers, it is important for us to learn how to use the 4C's to engage our students in similar ways that they will use when they graduate. We will discuss how generational gaps in the digital age are making the job of teaching increasingly demanding, yet still so necessary.

This seminar presenter is Sam Meyers, Science Teacher & Academic Technology Integration Specialist at Minnehaha Academy in Minneapolis.

Sam will present in person at Good Shepherd School AND via live webinar.

Cost:

- MISF member school staff in person: Free for first staff member, \$25 for each additional.
- MISF member school staff via webinar: Free
- Non-member school staff in person: \$65 per person
- Non-member school staff via webinar: \$25
- Lunch and all presentation materials are included

[Click here to register.](#)

Admissions/Marketing/Development Seminar *Using Stories for Everything but the Kitchen Sink*

Presented by Lori Jacobwith of Ignited Fundraising
Thursday, February 23, 2017
11:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Watch your inbox for more information!

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National School Choice Week

January 22-28, 2017

Held every January, National School Choice Week shines a positive spotlight on effective education options for every child. The goal of National School Choice Week (NSCW) is to raise public awareness of all types of education options for children. These options include traditional public schools, public charter schools, magnet schools, online learning, private schools, and homeschooling.

To meet this goal, NSCW encourages schools, organizations, and individuals to hold positive events that celebrate school choice options, while drawing attention to the need for even greater opportunities for children.

The Opportunity for All Kids (OAK) coalition, of which MISF is a member, is sponsoring two events at the newly remodeled State Capitol during National School Choice Week:

- [The Legislative Breakfast](#) ~ Tuesday, January 24th, 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM at the State Capitol in the L'toile du Nord Vault Room
- [The Rally for Kids](#) ~ Tuesday, January 24th, 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM at the State Capitol Rotunda.

Click on the links above for more information, and to register for the events. Watch for emails with more information later this month.

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