



PEI

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATORS OF IOWA



Dear Front Desk,

WHAT IS GIVING TUESDAY?

We just enjoyed a day for giving thanks. We have three days of huge sales; Black Friday, Small Business Saturday and Cyber Monday. Now, we have GivingTuesday, a global day dedicated to giving back. On **Tuesday, December 1, 2015**, charities, families, businesses, community centers, and students around the world will come together for one common purpose which is to celebrate generosity and to give. PEIF is active the year round working on what is best and can be done within the guidelines of a charity. We want to grow the benefits and depth of our foundation. For you, the gift to PEIF is a tax deduction. This is why we emphasize giving this time of year as do other very fine foundations.

We at PEI Foundation invite you to give generously this year to help enhance our scholarship program, conferences, seminars, and other activities. With our conference center we hope to provide more seminars in a variety of subjects. A healthy PEI Foundation helps a healthy PEI Association.

The PEI Association has made great strides in the past year toward increased influence in our state education system. We are at the decision-making table more than ever with new appointments to the committees that are now forming education policy. Our growth is your strength. We are very close to being ready to implement a series of professional development classes. This is exciting and although we will do most of them right here in our facility, we are working on providing them in various locations around the state as well. As you tell others about PEI, please consider putting PEIF on your support list. Whether it is a one-time gift or a monthly pledge, it is all important. We hope that you stretch Giving Tuesday to be a part of the rest of the entire year.

If you missed getting this letter opened by December 1, feel free to give anyway!

Sincerely,

Jodie Nation
Professional Educators of Iowa

Did you know?

The *Hallelujah Chorus* is part of the oratorio *Messiah* by George Frideric Handel, concluding the second of three parts. It is Handel's best-known piece and remains hugely popular. Handel was a devout Christian and *Messiah* reflects his faith. The text of the chorus was taken from the King James Bible.



In many parts of the world it is traditional for the audience to stand during the *Hallelujah Chorus*. Legend has it that King George II was so moved by the music that he stood to his feet when he heard it, requiring that his subjects followed suit. There is some doubt over the accuracy of this story.

Andre Rieu has one of the finest versions of this timeless masterpiece. Click: <http://bit.ly/1IpDeee> to watch Hallelujah by Andre Rieu.



The Christmas Season and My Classroom

How can I celebrate? What can I teach?



The staff of PEI recognizes Christmas as the foundation for the Holiday season. We also respect the various religious choices that can be made in this great country. Christmas is a part of our American and world heritage, but questions still emerge about what and how much can be taught in our public systems. In the past few years we have given you much of this information. We have hundreds of new members and believe your rights and responsibilities as educators should be reviewed. We hope that you can utilize some of the following.

The Twelve Rules for Christmas by the Rutherford Institute is a very good legal resource on what can be done within your classroom. Another place to browse is <http://mymerrychristmas.com> where you can look around for what is interesting to you in particular such as the Christmas traditions, Christmas debates, Christmas Traditions and more. We do not intend for you to ignore any local board policies, but what we have presented gives you the basic legal guidelines.



We received the calls. "Can I have a tree? Can I wear red and green? Can my classroom music be censored? What about freedom of speech? What is insubordination? Isn't this part of our history? Isn't Christmas part of our heritage? Isn't the celebration of Christmas part of World History?"

To help answer the questions, we are including the entire article from the Rutherford Institute. <http://bit.ly/1MX1vaf>. It is an easy read and full of answers. The following link will also give you legal references: <http://www.rutherford.org/resources/legal-12rules.asp> (just in case you wonder).

For more information, email The Rutherford Institute at staff@rutherford.org.

Just knowing your rights helps you stop any accusations of insubordination. The fact is that many who are making the constraints don't really know their rights and are afraid of the "anti-Christmas" lobby. Let's have a Happy Christmas!

YES! I Am A PEI Foundation Donor!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____



Here is my generous tax-deductible contribution to help PEI Foundation

_____ \$25	_____ \$250	_____ \$2,500
_____ \$50	_____ \$500	_____ \$5,000
_____ \$100	_____ \$1,000	_____ \$10,000
_____ \$ _____		

Mail to: PEI
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Click the link to watch Wizards in Winter Light Show!
<http://bit.ly/1NEpX3L>