

The Apple Core

November 2015

2015 GVTA FALL GENERAL MEETING

Upcoming Events

GVTA Exec meetings for the year at NPC. All meetings start at 4:00pm.

All are welcome:

- December 1
- January 7
- February 2
- March 1
- April 5
- May 3
- May 24—General Meeting
- June 7

This year's November 03 - Fall General Meeting met its quorum obligation again! Thanks to all the teachers that were in attendance. We are managing to keep our proceedings brusque in an effort to better accommodate everyone's busy schedules and will continue to combine our fall general meetings with a social event to give us all some time to get together and have some fun as a collective group.

This year we invited our MTS Vice-president - James Bedford - to give a short address to see how our bargaining efforts connect, contrast, and compare with territories and provinces outside our own. Those who attended received a real treat as James walked us through the broad range of professional issues that our neighbours to the east, west and north are working through as they negotiate with their respective regions. In general, Manitoba teachers are holding their own and have just this year returned to the purchasing power (not to be confused with salary) that peaked in 1983. While that might not sound great, it exceeds what has been happening elsewhere.

After our meeting, the remainder of the evening was spent in a friendly and competitive game of Trivia. The Social Committee provided the Pizza and everyone in attendance had a great time and prizes were awarded to the most "trivial" of our colleagues!

Equity and Social Justice Update

This term, NPC and GVC has some PD opportunities around ESJ topics. On November 20th, teachers participated in a Social Justice themed PD from Dr. Sandra Sukhan. Coming up on December 5th, NPC has invited Kevin Lamoureux to return to our division to continue the discussion he began on the first day of school.

Looking for ideas and resources based around the ideas of equity and social justice? There are great themed resources at the Department of Education's website at the following link....

http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/diversity/educators/reaching_out.html

Committee Spotlight—Social and Wellness

We hope you are enjoying the school year that seems to be moving along very quickly. It was wonderful to see so many of you at the GVTA Fall Picnic. It was a beautiful evening and was a lot of fun for the whole family. Moving forward, the Social Committee would like to wish all the teachers and their families a year full of health, happiness and personal growth. Good health comes in many forms, and spending some time outside of school with your peers and their families is a great way to ease stress and share laughs.

The planning is still in the works for our next event, a Bowling Night, which will take place sometime in February 2016. If you have any suggestions for social events, or any other questions, please feel free to contact us:

Shelley.Nikkel@gvsd.ca or Esther.Klassen@gvsd.ca

Below is a list of our schools' Social Committee Representatives.

School Name	Social Rep
Border Valley / Blumenfeld	Neal Remple
Emerado	Brian Driedger
JR Walkoff	Val Cobb Friesen
Parkland Elementary	Val Harder
Edelweiss / Plum Coulee	Mary Eberling Penner
Prairie Dale	<i>No current rep</i>
Southwood / Hochfeld	Amanda Loewen
Winkler Elementary	Esther Klassen
Garden Valley Collegiate	<i>No current rep</i>
Northlands Parkway Collegiate	Shelley Nikkel



Call for Presenters!

The PD committee is looking for interested individuals to present at our annual Mini SAGE event on February 5, 2016. If you are willing to present on this day, please email Jacqui Kusnick with the topic you would be willing to share with your colleagues. A bonus incentive—you get paid for your time and effort! If interested, please contact Jacqui as soon as possible.