

The Apple Core

October 2015

What is MTS PD Day?

Upcoming Events

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

All are welcome:

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

While the October PD Day has undergone many name changes in recent memory, much like entertainers Puff Daddy, Snoop Dog, and the artist formerly known as Prince, the very nature of the day remains the same. The 44th Annual MTS Professional Development Day (formerly known as SAGE day, formerly known as SAG day) will take place on Friday, October 23rd. With thirty special area groups offering over 800 workshops, there truly is something for everyone to participate in and to enjoy!

The MTS Professional Development Day is similar to any other professional development day, except that it is on a much grander scale. On this professional development day, teacher autonomy is at the forefront as we are able to select which of the many SAGE Co-ordinated Conferences or ÉFM sessions we wish to attend that day. An added bonus is that, through attending these conferences, we are provided the opportunity to meet, network, learn with, and learn from colleagues from across the province. The following Monday in our classroom could fundamentally change as a result of something we learn, someone we meet, or something we see that day.

In any case, I hope that your participation in the MTS Professional Development Day proves beneficial to you and what you do in the classroom. Join thousands of other teachers, including the President and Vice President of the Society, by participating in this valuable professional development opportunity. On Friday, October, 23rd, “You’re the student, stay the day,” and “Have a great day at school!”

- Marcela Cabezas, Louis Riel Teachers’ Association



Committee Spotlight—Professional Development

We are a divisional committee made up of representatives from each school unit. The committee organizes the PD opportunities available on divisional days as well as funding in-school PD days. We are also responsible for considering and approving Collaborative Learning Group (CLG) applications. If you are new to the division, CLG's are your self-directed option for PD on divisional PD days. Got a PD suggestion? We'd love to hear from you!

Don't forget that MTS PD Day is on Friday, Oct 23! It is a great opportunity to learn something new, and develop your skills. Here are just some of the possibilities:

Manitoba Elementary Teachers' Association

Teaching Diverse Learners

Dr. Shirley Steinberg, University of Calgary is committed to a global community of transformative educators and community workers engaged in social justice and the situating of power within social and cultural contexts.

Manitoba Association of Teachers of English and Canadian Council of Teachers of English

Reconciling, Renewing, and Reimagining: The Future of English Language Arts and Literacy

Dr. Michelle Honeyford is interested in understanding how learning is mediated by students' cultural identities and how ways of knowing and learning in schools can be expanded to include and represent diverse youth more effectively, particularly through writing, multiliteracies, and critical inquiry.

The Science Teachers' Association of Manitoba

How Learning About the Brain is Easier And More And More Fun Than You Think

Greg Gage Popular Neuroscience

In this energetic, highly entertaining talk, TED Fellow Greg Gage uses a cockroach to show how brains receive and deliver electric responses. As the cockroach's leg twitches, Gage uses a low-cost version of electrophysiology to see and hear the insect's brain function on his iPad. It's an astounding "Aha!" moment for audience members that breaks down the assumed barriers of neuroscience research—too expensive, too complicated, too advanced—and shows students that hands-on learning about the brain is possible, right here and right now.

Manitoba Association of Mathematics Teachers

Planning for Problem Solving

Jennifer Lawson

This session will explore the challenges of teaching problem solving, the types of problem solving tasks to focus on in the classroom, and guidelines for teaching problem solving to enhance student engagement and success.

The PD Committee is asking all GVTA members to consider signing up for CLGs. A list of CLG topics will be emailed out to all members. If a topic is of interest to you, simply email the coordinator of that CLG for more information, and to sign up. CLGs will vary in time commitment, length, and method of study. Some CLGs may choose to study a book, and others may choose to visit classrooms or gyms. If you are unsure about registering, or would like more detailed information, email the coordinator of the CLG, or Jacqui Kusnick, PD Chair of the GVTA.

We look forward to seeing you at CLG meetings, and to hearing your feedback!

Co-chairs: Jacqui Kusnick and Donica Blatz

Wanting to switch up your MTS PD Day experience?

Bilingual Bonus – Why not attend a session offered by ÉFM this year to brush up on your French? *Ou pourquoi ne pas assister à une session d'un des groupes de SAG cette année?*

50/50 – Do you have more than one teachable area? Hit up two conferences; one in the morning and one in the afternoon! Some Special Area Groups offer a half day rate if contacted ahead of time.

Think Outside the Box – Just because you don't teach a certain subject area doesn't mean you can't go to that conference. Take a look at the program offerings of other SAG groups that could connect to your professional assignment and related activities or addresses needs in your school. Hearing/seeing things from a different perspective might be rather inspiring.

It's a Date! – Attending sessions with a friend is sometimes easier than going alone. Chat with friends to find out where they are going in order to see if you'd be interested in tagging along.

MTS Makes History, Takes Membership Engagement to New Heights

On September 30th, over 800 Manitoba teachers helped make history by participating in the first ever Manitoba Teachers' Society telephone town hall to discuss federal election issues important to teachers and public education in Canada.

MTS President Norm Gould hosted the hour long phone call from the McMaster House Boardroom. Special guests from the Canadian Teachers' Federation joined Norm on the call from Ottawa to talk about the *I Teach, I Vote* campaign. Participants were invited to ask questions about the federal election campaign either by connecting to the call live or through social media using the Twitter hashtag #mtstownhall.

"This was an unprecedented display of membership engagement," said Gould. "Using the virtual townhall technology allowed us to hear directly from teachers across the province from the comfort of their homes."

The success of this townhall means that MTS members can expect to be invited to participate in more of these events in the future. **However only those members who have registered for a My Profile Account will be able to participate**, so in the coming months efforts will be undertaken to urge MTS members register for their online account at www.mbteach.org.

The benefits of registering for a My Profile account extend beyond being able to participate in future membership townhalls. Other features include online registration for MTS events, posting of information for members from MTS staff, signing up for electronic versions of the Manitoba Teacher Magazine and the ability for MTS and EFM reps to update their school information.

Why?

It's time for you to hear the latest on our **Collective Bargaining Initiative**

WE WANT YOU



Why? Oh Why?

Because Every Forum needs a Quorum!

What?

- **Hear Reports**
- **Connect**
- **Stress Relief**
- **Chutzpah**
(def/n. the quality of audacity – for good or for bad – aka Karaoke)

Learning something new is fun!



Learning to crawl, standing, and playing the triangle – that WAS new AND fun – But you call that a LIFE?!?!? – Where's the CHUTZPAH?

What Else?

Special Guest Appearance and Performance by...

The Honourable James Bedford

Your Society's Reigning Vice-president!

Improve your LIFE! at the combined

GVTA Fall Annual General Meeting

Followed by...

The Trivia Quiz Show Challenge
(A Social Extrava-game-za!)

Followed by...

The Karaoke Chutzpah Event
(An iTunes U - presentation)

Why? Why? Why?

FOOD! PIZZA! BEVERAGE!
&/or buy a "Pop"

Who – All Garden Valley Teachers' Association Members

What – Your 2nd Annual Autumn Combo →

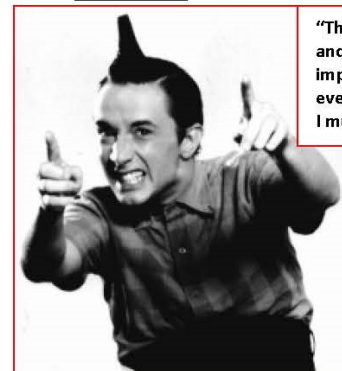
Fall General Meeting & Social Extrava-game-za Event

(with just a little added Chutzpaaah!)

- ✓ Doors Open at 4:00 pm
- ✓ Meeting Starts @ ~4:15 pm

Where – Quality Inn – Winkler

When – Tuesday November 03, 2015



"This is a fun and important event – I must say."

