

The Apple Core

December 2016

President's Address

Upcoming Events

GVTA Executive meetings:

- January 10
- February 7
- March 7
- April 4
- May 2
- June 6

Held at NPC and begin at 4:00. All members are welcome

Other Events:

- December 23rd— January 8th—Christmas Break!
- January 11th—ESJ book club at CK's, 4:00
- January 17th—Early/Mid Career Retirement Seminar in Carman, 4:30

Happy Holidays from
your GVTA executive!

Welcome, GVTA-ers, to the end of 2016!

You will notice that there is no GVTA Executive Meeting Summary in this issue. Our December meeting was scheduled for the day which became the first snow day of the year. I'm glad that everyone stayed safe, and I hope that you were all able to make use of your additional planning time whether you remained at home, or if you were able to safely trek to your class or office. We are glad to have Board Policy which is written to keep teachers safe in inclement weather: "Teachers and Clinicians are expected to work at school if weather and road conditions permit travelling or at home if weather and road conditions are too dangerous and life-threatening. In either case they will be paid their regular pay for this school closure day" (EBCE.4.6.4). A special thank you to our principal members who "are required to be at work if it is possible to do so" (EBCE.4.6.1). We are grateful for your commitment to student safety, and we are glad that everyone made it through the storm unscathed.

Congratulations to everyone responsible for the many Christmas concerts performed by students this December. The extra hours put in by many - and in particular Music, Band, Guitar, and Choral teachers - are appreciated. What would December be like if we didn't trot our little (and notso-little) ones out on stage to bring holiday cheer to their beaming parents and family? The extra-curricular hours involved in managing all of the aspects of these performances are noteworthy, and I thank you for your commitment to putting on the very best of performances for our community-at-large.

continued.....

Thank you to everyone who took some time to visit with me on my school visits in November and early December. The purpose of the visits is just to be available, and to be in the locations where GVTA members are. I've also had a chance to see new places and chat with many of your students, which has been a joy. I will be back again in February and in May. Of course, if you would like me to stop by at any other time for a friendly chat I'd be glad to come and visit - send me an e-mail, text, or give me a call.

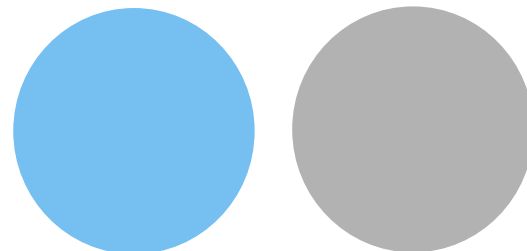
I wish you many blessings this holiday season. May it be a restful time spent with loved ones.

Merry Christmas,

Joel

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WELCOM Welcomes Your Input

An exciting initiative was launched at The Manitoba Teachers' Society Annual General Meeting in May as the Women in Education Leadership Commission (WELCOM) was established to examine the fact that women are under-represented in education leadership roles in our schools, our union and in the community. In Manitoba, roughly seventy percent of teachers are female, yet that number is not reflected in the percentage of women in leadership roles.

WELCOM is an arms-length body distinct and separate from the MTS Provincial Executive whose mandate is to seek input from women educators across Manitoba and develop recommendations aimed to enhance the participation of women in all aspects of educational leadership.

The Commission is composed of a Chairperson (Carmen Rohne of the Lord Selkirk Teachers' Association) and two Commissioners (Marcela Cabezas of the Louis Riel Teachers' Association and Jennifer Schlag of the River East Transcona Teachers' Association).

The coming months will be busy as the Commission will be reaching out for input from female MTS members in a variety of ways including a Telephone Townhall tentatively scheduled for late-February and a series of in-person focus groups in communities all across Manitoba.

The Commission will provide safe and secure opportunities for women members of the Society to discuss their experiences, aspirations, successes and barriers to assuming and pursuing leadership roles in their schools, school divisions, local associations and MTS and to promote awareness about the roles of women within educational settings.

WELCOM looks forward to hearing from you. Dates for the Telephone Townhall and focus groups will be announced soon.

In the meantime, for general enquiries or to get in touch with one of the Commissioners, please send an email to WELCommission@gmail.com.

Eligible Educator School Supply Tax Credit

There is a new refundable tax credit available to teachers for the 2016 tax year and beyond. The Eligible Educator School Supply Tax Credit allows you to claim a 15% refundable tax credit up to \$1000 of supply purchases per year. Teachers who are employed at an elementary or secondary school in Canada and hold a certificate for the province they are teaching in are eligible for the credit. This applies to early childhood educators as well. For more information on eligibility and allowable expenses, please visit:

<http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/nwsrm/txtps/2016/tt160906-eng.html>

PD Library

There are a number of teacher resources available for members to sign out in GVTA's PD library. Members are welcome to borrow books from the PD library by emailing their requests to Raff Bagnulo.

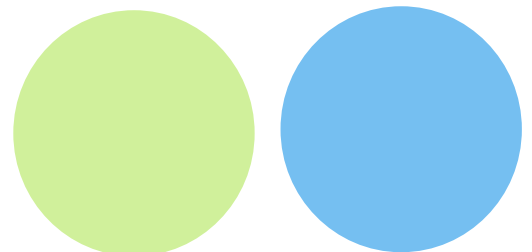
Resource spotlight: **The MindUp Curriculum (K-2, 3-5, 6-8)**

This research-based curriculum features 15 lessons that use the latest information about the brain to dramatically improve behavior and learning for all students. Each lesson offers easy strategies for helping students focus their attention, improve their self-regulation skills, build resilience to stress, and develop a positive mind-set in both school and life. The lessons fit easily into any schedule and require minimal preparation. Classroom management tips and content-area activities help you extend the benefits of MindUP throughout your day, week, and year.

Includes a BIG, colorful teaching poster with fascinating facts about the brain!

Workplace Safety and Health

Everyone should be familiar with MSDS. It is a record of hazardous chemicals in the school and where they are stored. You may not realize that any hazardous materials you may bring into the school needs to be registered. This includes items such as spray paints or lacquers or any item that has a hazardous material symbol on it.



Did You Know..

You have many insurance options available to you as a member of the Manitoba Teacher's Society. Group Life has mandatory participation as well as optional insurances such as Family Life, Accidental Death and Optional Life Insurance are easily accessible to all members.

Group Life Insurance

Offers peace of mind with coverage for you, your spouse and your dependents.

At the time of your employment, mandatory coverage is provided at two times annual salary.

You can increase to up to seven times your annual salary:

31 days after employment

Past 31 days with evidence on good health

Within 90 days of a major change in status (acquisition of spouse, birth or adoption of child or death of a spouse)

Family Life Insurance

Optional insurance can be purchased with the purpose of providing a benefit in the case of the death of a spouse or child

If your spouse dies, you receive a lump sum of \$20, 000

If a child dies, you receive \$10,000

Accidental Death and Dismemberment

This optional insurance provides a lump sum in the event of death, or loss of limb, sight, hearing, etc. resulting from an accident.

This valuable benefit can help with home renovations, vehicle modifications, living aids such as wheelchair and prosthetic limbs.

You can insure yourself or yourself and your family in amounts up to \$360, 000 (in units in \$18,000)

Evidence of good health is not required

Optional Life Insurance

Helps your loved ones replace your income while they adjust to new circumstances, pay off debt and manage funeral costs.

You and your spouse can purchase up to \$250,000 (in units of \$10,000) of additional coverage

Life insurance that goes where you go - if you change jobs or retire

You are covered until the age of 70

For more information on the optional insurances please contact Sarah Quickfall at sarah.quickfall@gvdsd.ca or Moira Porte for application forms to any of the insurances listed above.