

# The Apple Core

January 2016

## Upcoming Events

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

All are welcome:

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

## COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT-IN-COMMITTEE

On Wednesday, January 13, 2016 your GVTA Table Team concluded negotiations with representatives of the GVSD Board. An Agreement-in-Committee was reached which now requires a vote by GVTA membership. A tentative **date for ratification** has been set for **Monday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at 4:30pm**, at GVC in The Zone. Doors open at 4:15.

All GVTA members (including Substitute Teachers) are encouraged to come and participate in the ratification meeting. Information about the contents of the Agreement-in-Committee will be presented at that time, with a ratification vote to follow immediately. Voting will happen by secret ballot, and members must be present to vote.

As a courtesy to our substitute teacher members, please give them information about the meeting's time and location (once announced) in your sub plans up until the date of the vote.

Thanks, and we'll see you on the 8<sup>th</sup> (which is also my birthday, no gifts please).

Joel Swaan  
GVTA Collective Bargaining Chair  
On behalf of the Collective Bargaining Committee

### Discussion topics will include:

- Salary
- Salary Payment Schedule
- Interest on Retroactive Pay
- Administrative Allowances
- Sick Leave
- Substitute Teacher Consecutive Days
- Parenting Leaves
- Family Medical Leaves
- Preparation Time
- Extra-Curricular Leave
- Benefits
- Personal Leave

## PD Sessions for February 5, 2016

February 5th is a full day PD day is for K-8 staff. These are the choices for the day if you are not in a CLG. All are half day sessions, and you will need to choose a first and second choice for both the morning and the afternoon. You can sign up for the sessions with your school's PD representative. The deadline to register is Friday, January 22.

### History Comes Alive

Presenter: Claire Goertzen

Book your passage on the Titanic! Join us in learning more about the human stories from the famous ship. When you arrive, you will be given a boarding pass as a real Titanic passenger. After the presentation and display tour, you will learn your fate. Did you survive or perish that fateful night? Learn more about the people on board as well as Manitoba and Canada's role in the Titanic's history. Make history come alive for your students – how can we make learning more engaging?

### Teaching Comprehension in the Early Years

Presenter: Deb Loewen

Reading is the process of making meaning from text. This session will consider how the reader, the text, and the context interact in the process of comprehension and will provide specific strategies for direct and explicit comprehension instruction in the early years. The session will also look at ways that students can apply these strategies in their reading and in their reading responses.

### Integrating Technology in the Classroom

Presenter: Gerald Letkeman

We will look at 3 different pieces of software that can enhance classroom strategies in a practical way:

- An interactive on-line quiz site that greatly motivates students.
- An introduction to OneNote, including the organization and saving of anecdotal student observations.
- Learn to use a "screen recording" software to easily create tutorials that students can watch.

### Crazy for Crosswords!

Presenter: Derek Bowman, Published Crossword Creator

In this three-hour program, I will discuss the history of the crossword puzzle, as well as give solving and designing tips, and discuss how puzzles can be incorporated into the classroom.

I will outline five steps to designing crossword puzzles: developing themes, grid, fill, clues and finally the submission of the puzzle. In some of the steps, I have notes specifically for solvers.

### Exploring Lego Mindstorm

Presenter: Brent Prokopowich

Robots are hard to build from scratch unless you have degrees in engineering and programming. That's what makes LEGO's Mindstorms sets so amazing. They're flexible robotics kits that combine sensors, motors, and an electronic brain with LEGO Technic components to make robots anyone can build.

### Creating a Classroom Culture of Reading: Middle Years Edition

Presenter: Pam Klassen-Dueck

How do we create the conditions in which Middle Years students can remain joyful readers? And as we are shaping our versions of Readers Workshop, how can we adjust our teaching to meet the needs of our struggling readers? In this session we'll share ideas on this topic including the following areas:

Creating a community of readers.

How to help kids pick books.

Several reasons why particular kids struggle to read.

Structure for a 1-1 reading lesson with a struggling reader (to focus on comprehension).

What to do when a struggling reader is stuck on a word (hint: we don't need to say 'sound it out' to a floundering kid!).

A few tricks to try with students who have reading disabilities.

Why summer reading is crucial, especially for our kids with disadvantages.

Why struggling readers need physical activity.

When you leave this session you'll have in hand several strategies to try in your classrooms. *Please bring the texts that are most popular with your students* (e.g., picture books, novels, cookbooks, etc) to share with the group!

### Aboriginal Hoops

Presenter: Joel Swaan

Come and learn about the tradition of Aboriginal Hoop Dancing. Learn about the history of the hoops, teachings about the circle, and spend time dancing with the hoops as you learn to make different shapes from the creation, such as mouse, snake, flower, butterfly, wolf, and eagle. Joel has been teaching hoop dance to students for nearly 10 years, having been taught by hoop dancers and elders in Saskatoon.

### Middle Years Problem Solving

Presenter: Nicole Vinet, Numeracy Coach, Border Land School Division

In the context of thinking about the mathematical mindsets of middle years students, this session will focus on why it is important to design lessons with rich problem solving content in order to develop curiosity, positive attitudes and ultimately strong skills in math. Participants will dive into rich problems, discovering how to begin with the context in order to develop conceptual understanding.

## Low German Mennonites – Historical and Current Perspective

Presenter: Tina Fehr Kehler, Program Coordinator - Low German Mennonite Services

Tina works for the Mennonite Central Committee, in Low German Mennonite Services. Her presentation includes information about historical and current perspectives on Low German Mennonite communities. Tina is an engaging speaker, and very knowledgeable on the topic of Low German Mennonites. She has presented to the Garden Valley Teachers' Association.

## Poverty Simulation

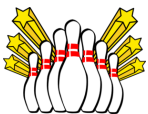
This learning tool has been created as a way to help people understand the realities of poverty. During a simulation, participants role-play the lives of low-income families (and the various organizations they must interact with). They have the stressful task of providing the basic necessities and shelter on a limited budget during the course of four 15-minute "weeks". They interact with human service agencies, grocers, pawnbrokers, bill collectors, job interviewers, police officers and others (the roles you would be asked to play).

Although play money is used, this simulation is not a game. It is a simulation that enables participants to look at poverty from a variety of angles and then to recognize and discuss the potential for change within their communities. The simulation was designed to sensitize those who frequently deal with low-income families, as well as to create a broader awareness of the realities of poverty among policymakers, community leaders and others, even teachers.

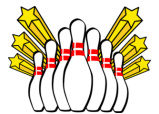
## What to do with those scraps of paper?

Presenter: Tammy Hendrickx

Let's turn them into art! Using scraps of paper and other found objects, Tammy will help you create works of art. Using Matisse's work as exemplars, you will walk through the process of using a sketchbook to map ideas, to the process of using junk to create a piece of art. K-4 session in the morning only, grades 5-8 session in the afternoon only.



# **GVTA BOWLING NIGHT**



All GVSD staff and families are invited

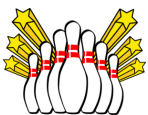


When: February 19 from 5-8 pm

Where: Winkler Bowling Lanes

What: Pizza, Snacks and Pop

Cash Bar



Come out for some family fun! Wear socks!

