

The Apple Core

September 2016

Upcoming Events

GVTA Executive meetings:

- October 4
- December 6
- 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:

- September 30th—Orange Shirt day
- October 6th—GVTA Fall Picnic. 5-7 at Pembina Threshermen's Museum
- November 1st— Fall General Meeting, Days Inn Conference Center

Welcome Back!

Welcome, GVTA Members, to a brand new year!

My name is Joel Swaan. I teach band, music, and French at Parkland School. As GVTA President, I am excited to have the opportunity to serve you, and to work with your elected GVTA executive for this school year.

I hope you will take some time this year to participate in some of GVTA's offerings, whether that be through PD, our social events, the ESJ Book Club, attending our General Meetings, or one of the many other opportunities that arise.

As a branch of the Manitoba Teachers' Society, we also have access to Retirement Planning seminars, the Educator Assistance Program (counselling available throughout the year in Winkler), many Professional Development opportunities including "SAGE Day" on October 21st (register before September 30th for a reduced fee to many sessions), *The Manitoba Teacher* and *Balance* magazines, and the MTS Discount Program available at many local and Winnipeg retailers. We will attempt to highlight as many of these opportunities as we can over the coming months.

Since our June Apple Core, we have seen a few changes on the Executive. We have welcomed Anny Froese (PDS) as Education Finance Co-Chair, Joanne Unrau (HOC) as Public Relations Co-Chair, and Members-at-Large Wes Reimer (BVS), Gwen Heinrichs (DO), Josh Neufeld (JRW), and Laura Unger (WES). This means that we say good-bye to some previous Members-at-Large: Jessica Askin (DO), Walter Fehr (BVS), and Margaret Reimer (SUB) have served the teachers of Garden Valley faithfully, and we look forward to the opportunity to work with them again. Thanks to them for their service.

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Something new to Apple Core this year is a summary of the GVTA Executive Meetings. While the full minutes are always available upon request, we will be publishing a “highlights” version in the monthly Apple Core. Check it out to see what is happening at the Executive table, and pass along to me any questions or comments you may have. We hope it will assist you in knowing how your local executive works for you.

I encourage you to consider looking for ways to honour Residential School survivors through Orange Shirt Day on September 30th. This annual nation-wide event is in its fourth year, and MTS is participating in raising awareness this year through links on the mbteach.org website. MTS’s “Every Child Matters” campaign is a good way to begin having a dialogue with students, colleagues, and neighbours about this significant issue.

Please feel free to contact me anytime as the year goes by. I can be reached through division e-mail, privately through gvtapresident@gmail.com, or by phone at 204-384-5635. I look forward to hearing from you. I also hope to see many of you at our Fall General Meeting on Tuesday, November 1st at 4:30pm at the Days Inn Conference Centre. Look for more details in our October Apple Core.

Cheers, and I wish you a fantastic school year,
Joel

GVTA would like to congratulate the following members on their retirements this past school year. We wish you all the best!

Mary Wall - JRW

Brenda Untereiner-Falk - JRW

Tim Brown - GVC

Dale Ready - GVC

Gerry Falk - GVC

Valerie Dyck - SWD

Margaret Kelso - SWD

PD Opportunity

The Manitoba Chapter of the Neufeld Institute is bringing Dr. Deborah MacNamara to Carman and Winnipeg for two presentations. Registration information and additional information on both presentations can be accessed through the PD committee.

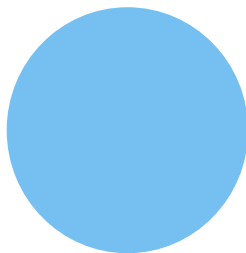
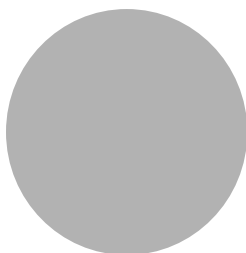
Early bird tickets for each event are \$15 per person until October 5th. Then the price goes up to \$20.

[Parenting in the Digital World - Tuesday, October 18th, 7 p.m. at the Carman Community Hall](#)

The digital world is here to stay, changing our society in a way that has far-reaching consequences for our children. What are the implications for raising children? How do we harness the spectacular connecting potential and yet avoid the pitfalls of attachment technology gone awry? How do we prepare them to live in this new world and yet preserve what is required for healthy development to take place? We will consider the digital revolution through the lens of developmental science, committed to helping adults help children reach their full human potential.

[Tears, Turmoil and Frustration: Making Sense of Kids of All Ages—Monday, October 17th, 7 p.m. at the Canadian Mennonite University](#)

The expression of frustration, aggression and other intense emotions in children and youth can take on many forms including temper tantrums and various forms of attack. Part of making headway requires understanding the roots of these emotions, and how to deal with the resulting behaviours. This presentation will bring clarity to the plethora of confusing information bombarding parents and educators today, focusing on strategies for dealing with the emotions of a child while preserving one’s relationship to them.



Meet your GVTA

Collective Bargaining - Sarah Quickfall and Joel Swaan

It is the role of the Collective Bargaining Committee to:

- a) Negotiate a new collective agreement based on provincial and regional bargaining goals and the needs of the membership;
- b) Promote knowledge of the collective agreement and/or bargaining procedures amongst the Association; and
- c) Assist in the implementation of the collective agreement.

We have recently negotiated a new collective agreement which will expire June 2018. This year, your bargaining team will be gathering data from you, our members, in order to begin the process of creating a new asking package for when bargaining rounds begin. Before that work begins, most of the bargaining team is also sitting on the GVSD/GVTA K-8 Prep Time Review Committee. If you have any questions about the implementation of our new contract, or the preparations involved in our next round of bargaining, please check with the committee member at your school or with Joel Swaan (chair/PKD) or Sarah Quickfall (co-chair/GVC). Other committee members are Pam Klassen-Dueck (BVS/BFD), Dale Martens (NPC), Carolyn Schellenberg (SUB), Curtis Harms (PCS/EWS), Anny Froese (PDS), Joanne Unrau (SWD/HFS), Mike Urichuk (ECS), Mary-Anna Aaldyk-Doerksen (WES), April Harms (DO) & Josh Neufeld (JRW). Additional members representing GVTA on the Prep Time Committee are Karla Rootsart (SWD), James Harder (PKD, formerly of EWS), Heather Fehr (BFD), and Rick Schroeder (GVTA Past-President/NPC).

Social and Wellness - Caitlin Parr and Mike Urichuk

Caitlin Parr

Teacher of French, English, and Psychology at Garden Valley Collegiate in Winkler, Caitlin has a heart for people and their wellbeing. A strong, reliable friend who works hard for the inclusion and support of those around her, Caitlin has volunteered to champion GVTA's Social and Wellness Committee this year as its chair.

Get to know Caitlin better at events, meetings, and fastball games in the spring!



Mike Urichuk

As a teacher of Band, Science, ICT, and Health at Emerado Centennial School in Winkler's South end, Mike wants to help support others in their journey of self-improvement. After enduring a bout with stress last year, Mike wants to make sure every teacher feels welcome and supported within our community. In order to help out, Mike has volunteered to aid in the success of GVTA's Social and Wellness Committee as its co-chair this year.

Get to know Mike better at events, meetings and basketball games.

Treasurer - Rhonda Peters

Rhonda is responsible for keeping an accurate record of all funds collected and to pay the bills. She prepares a financial report for each executive and general meeting. With the input of each GVTA committee, the treasurer and the president prepare the budget. Rhonda prepares all necessary reports for the yearly financial review and presents the completed review at a general meeting.

Workplace Safety and Health - Jacquie Mitchell

Jacquie has returned to GVTA this year to be the Workplace Safety and Health Liaison. The first divisional WSH meeting will be on September 29th. MTS will be hosting a training seminar for committee members in October. More information will be available after these meetings.

Public Relations - Karla Rootsart and Joanne Unrau

We are responsible for both internal and external PR initiatives on behalf of GVTA. We write the monthly newsletter, buy prizes for meetings, purchase and distribute an annual gift for members and occasionally make donations to causes that pertain to education. We are also responsible for the GVTA signage at the Winkler arena and submissions to local media. Along with a selection committee, we award two scholarships to Grade 12 students entering post secondary to study education. We will be working to make the GVTA website a place for all your GVTA information and resources. More on that to come!

Professional Development - Raffaele Bagnulo and Jacqui Kusnick

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!

Education Finance - Rick Schroeder and Anny Froese

We typically meet a few times a year with the MTS Policy Analyst, Joseph Warbanski and/or Economic Analyst, Mike Bell; for the purpose of reviewing the funding that our School Division receives to see how we match up to other divisions across the province. Often, your GVTA will use that information to start a dialogue with our school division trustees at one of our joint GVTA/GVSD meetings. Studying the financial information allows GVTA to assist in providing a teaching and learning environment perspective to provide knowledgeable input to assist in ensuring that good financial decisions are made that benefit our students and which support positive school experiences.

Employee Benefits - Dale Martens and Sarah Quickfall

The Role of the Benefits Committee is:

- To develop awareness and maintain files of all employee benefits
- To identify and investigate local needs for which the employee benefits committee can provide assistance
- To organize and host employee benefits seminars relative to GVTA members
- Give monthly reports at GVTA Executive and general membership meetings
- Chair and Co-chair attend regional and provincial Employee Benefits meetings and report to committee and GVTA

With the last round of bargaining, we were able to obtain benefits such as dental coverage and vision coverage. To learn more about your benefits you may see a comprehensive list at www.mbteach.org. If you have any questions regarding your benefits, please do not hesitate to email Sarah Quickfall (Chair - GVC) or Dale Martens (Co-chair - NPC). We will be looking for reps from each school to join a benefits committee this year.

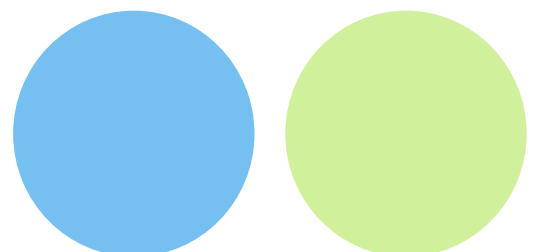
Equity and Social Justice - Joe Lindhorst and James Driedger

Your Equity and Social Justice committee members are Joe Lindhorst Chair and Co-Chair James Driedger serving this school year. Joe Lindhorst, from NPC, comes on board the committee this year and works as the Culinary Arts Teacher at NPC. His interest in serving on the Equality and Social Justice committee comes from years of experience as a teacher participating and dealing with issues of managing inclusive educational environments while on the job not unlike any other teachers....James and Joe can be approached anytime through email if you have any ideas or information about ESJ situations or celebrations that they could then share with the rest of the membership.

We started off the year with the New Teachers BBQ. This was a success with our highest attendance for new teachers attending in the last three years. This BBQ is for teaching staff new to the division. Thank you to our host Mike Urichuk, it was a beautiful evening and great to get to know those who came out that evening. Thanks for taking the time out of your busy schedule to attend and get to know your GVTA representatives.

Some of you may be asking the question what is ESJ? Through discussions in 2008 the ESJ chairs defined EQUITY as fairness achieved through proactive measures which result in equality for support and access to education for all stakeholders students and teachers alike. They also defined SOCIAL JUSTICE as an equality achieved in a society when all members of that society are treated equitably and perceive themselves to be physically and psychologically safe and secure. The same goes for us as educators in the classroom. Whether you are in the position of administration, support, non-teaching or teaching ESJ is a common belief for all stakeholders participating in education. Concerns, issues and successes in ESJ issues are a constant in our work experiences. As your GVTA reps we can help shed light to issues and current events and issues affecting teachers all over the country. James Driedger is our Aboriginal Education contact for the school division as well. Feel free to contact him for any resource ideas you may be looking for.

We look forward to serving you in our capacity as Equity and Social Justice contacts and wish you all a successful and smooth school year.



SUMMARY GVTA BENEFIT DEDUCTIONS as of SEPT. 1, 2016

Look for these deductions on your pay cheque in September...

Extended Health Benefits (including \$300 Vision): Single \$61.75/month
Family \$128.75/month

Dental: Single \$38.50/month
Couple \$77.25/month
Family \$118.75/month

Note: The above premiums are deducted from gross (before income tax) earnings.

Short Term Disability: 0.17% of all salaries and allowances

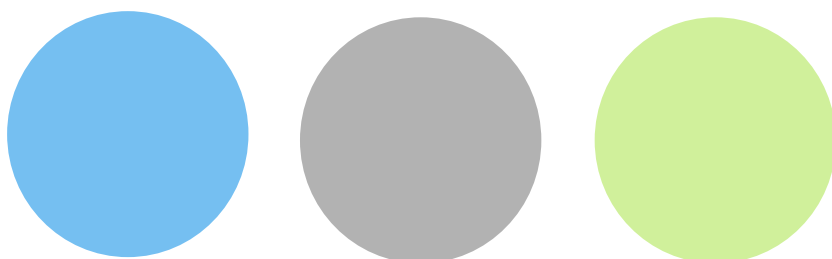
Long Term Disability: 1.34% of all salaries and allowances

Group Life Insurance: \$0.10/month per \$1000 coverage (You are automatically covered for twice your salary; your employer pays for half of this. You can choose to increase your coverage to any multiple of your annual salary up to 7. Your employer will not pay for any increase.)

Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance: Single \$0.50/month per \$18,000 coverage
Family \$0.75/month per \$18,000 coverage
(This coverage is completely optional.)

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For more details go to: <https://www.mbteach.org/health-benefits/group-benefits.html>





Present:

Joel Swaan (PKD) - President, CB Chair	Rick Schroeder (NPC) - VP, Ed Finance Chair
Mary Eberling-Penner (PCS) - Secretary	Rhonda Peters (NPC) - Treasurer
Raffaele Bagnulo (NPC) - PD Chair	Josh Neufeld (JRW) - Member-at-Large
James Driedger (NPC) - ESJ Co-Chair	Caitlin Parr (GVC) - Social/Wellness Chair
Anny Froese (PDS) - Ed Finance Co-Chair	Sarah Quickfall (GVC) - Benefits Chair; CB Co-Chair
Gwen Heinrichs (DO) - Member-at-Large	Wes Reimer (BVS) - Member-at-Large
Jacqui Kusnick (ECS) - PD Co-Chair	Karla Rootsart (SWD) - PR Chair
Joe Lindhorst (NPC) - ESJ Chair	Laura Unger (WES) - Member-at-Large
Dale Martens (NPC) - Benefits Co-Chair	Joanne Unrau (SWD) - PR Co-Chair
Jacque Mitchell (SUB) - WS&H Liaison	Mike Urichuk (ECS) - Social/Wellness Co-Chair

1. **2016-17 GVTA Executive** - The following members were added to the executive: Gwen Heinrichs (DO; Member-at-Large), Wes Reimer (BVS; Member-at-Large), Anny Froese (PDS; Ed Finance Co-Chair), Joanne Unrau (SWD; PR Co-chair). Outgoing GVTA Executive Members since June 2016 - Walter Fehr (BVS), Margaret Reimer (SUB), Jessica Askin (DO)
2. **First Year Teacher BBQ** - Teachers who are new to the division are invited to a BBQ on Sept. 22 after their TOTS PD to meet the GVTA Executive
3. **GVTA Scholarship Committee** - In June 2016, the committee selected Taya Wiebe (GVC) and Haley Ens (NPC) to each receive \$1,500 GVTA Education Scholarships.
4. **GVSD Board Meeting Observers** - Each GVSD Board Meeting will be attended by two GVTA Executive members, on a rotational basis
5. **“Every Child Matters” Campaign, Sept 30** - The executive passed a motion to purchase MTS Orange Shirts for executive members, to honour and raise awareness for Residential School survivors.
6. **GVTA Picnic** -GVTA pays the costs associated with this division-wide event, but schools take turns hosting. Southwood is planning the event this year.
7. **GVTA Executive Retreat** - The GVTA Executive will have their annual “retreat” - a day for teambuilding, PD, and training - on Tuesday, November 1st
8. **Fall GVTA General Meeting** - Tuesday, November 1st @ 4:30pm, Location TBA
9. **ESJ Book Club** - Finalizing a list of Book Club members by Monday, September 12, then ordering books, and putting together a meeting schedule.
10. **Social Committee** - Celebration of First Cycle, First Full Week, First New Pay-day, and New President free chips and salsa at Flavours of Mexico on Friday, September 16.
11. **GVSD-GVTA K-8 Prep Time Committee** - Next Meeting is September 27th @ 4pm
12. **Next GVTA Executive Meeting** - Tuesday, October 04, 2016 - NPC - 4:15 pm; all members welcome