

The Apple Core

January 2017

Upcoming Events

GVTA Executive meetings:

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

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

Other Events:

- February 1st—ESJ book club at CK's, 4:00
- February 3rd—Professional Development Day K-8
- February 27th—Early and Mid Career Benefits Seminar 4:30-7:00 pm at McMaster House in Winnipeg
- March 3-5th—MTS Bonspiel in Brandon, MB

President's Address

Happy New Year, GVTA-ers!

I hope you found your holidays restful and relaxing, and that the last couple of weeks of school did not erase all the good work that came from spending holiday time with friends and family.

I have just returned today from Presidents' Council in Winnipeg. Here are some takeaways; feel free to ask for more information should you be curious.

Any individual can purchase MTS "Pink Shirt Day/Day of Pink" t-shirts for these two events which happen on February 22nd and April 12th this year respectively. Unisex sizing for S, M, L, & XL shirts are \$7, XXL are \$9, and XXXL are \$11. The t-shirts are also available in French ("Journée Chemise Rose/Journée Rose"). One day is represented on the front, and the other on the back but dates are not used so the shirts can be worn year after year. Let me know if you are interested by January 29th and I will order one for you and you can reimburse GVTA.

MTS's **Young Humanitarian Awards** is taking nominations of students up until the deadline on April 7th. Nominations can be made for individuals or for a group of students who have chosen to make a difference in the world around them. More information is at the mbteach.org website.

The **Women in Education Leadership Commission** is looking for volunteers for focus groups. "Do you aspire to leadership positions or currently hold a leadership position within your school and division or within your local association?"

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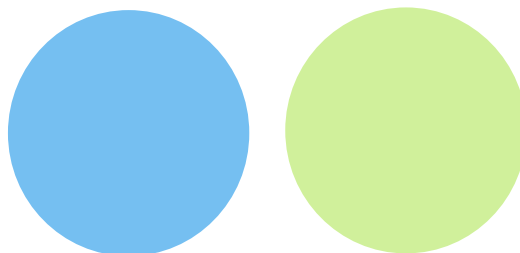
[We are] inviting women members to participate in focus groups designed to explore their experiences, their goals, the barriers, and the support in their careers as leaders or aspiring leaders in education.” A focus group will be held in Carman on Wednesday, March 1st after school. Not all teachers who apply will be selected, but consideration will be made to ensure diversity of age, years of experience, positions and lived experience.

There are 8 positions coming available on the **MTS Provincial Executive** – both one- and two-year terms are coming vacant this spring. Nominations come from local executives, so you should let me know before our February 7th Executive Meeting if you are considering this opportunity to serve Manitoba’s 15,000 teachers. The election will be held at MTS AGM, May 25-27.

On behalf of the GVTA Executive, I wish you a happy and productive 2017. Continue to let us know how we can serve you better in the coming months, and I look forward to meeting with many of you as I once again visit schools at lunch time through February and early March (dates listed in the January Executive Meeting summary).

Cheers,

Joel
204-384-5635
GVTAPresident@gmail.com



K-8 Professional Development Day February 3rd, 2017

For staff attending sessions hosted by the PD committee: All sessions will be held at Winkler Elementary, except for the Play-based session, which will be held at JR Walkof. Morning sessions begin promptly at 9 am. There will be an hour for lunch, beginning at 11:45 am. Afternoon sessions will begin promptly at 12:45. The day will end at 3:30. Snacks and coffee will be provided.

All staff K-8 should either be signed up for the Tanny McGregor session, a CLG that meets on Feb 3, or a morning and afternoon session provided by the PD committee at WES or JRW.

If you have not signed up for a session, please contact your school’s PD Rep as soon as possible.

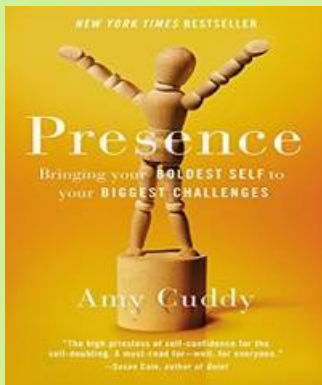
If people are in CLGs, they should coordinate a meeting space. Snack budget is \$4 per person participating in the CLG. Receipts are required for reimbursement. Receipts should be sent to your school’s PD rep.

Those people attending the Tanny McGregor session should carpool to Elm Creek. Mileage will be reimbursed for those who carpool. To find out who is going from your school, contact your PD rep or Raff Bagnulo at NPC.

ESJ Book Club Report

Our last book, [The Inconvenient Indian](#) was a very informative and eye opening experience for myself personally and I would encourage all educators to take the time to read this well written and entertaining account of the history of Indigenous and white relations since Cartier got stranded on the St. Lawrence with his crew, (maybe even earlier).... I find its importance in the details of the dealings with Indigenous nations, the large diverse group of different tribes (over 600) and the incredible resilience that Indigenous nations and peoples have had over the past 2-3 centuries. It brings a sobering and refreshing awareness of a part of Canadian history not well known throughout the general population of North America, and a clearer respect and understanding of a people that were and still are so involved with our North American society. This is just one social justice issue that is percolating around us, and something as we as educators can consider to infuse into our curriculum deliveries...there is always room for Social Justice content in our classrooms.

Going forward our book club is currently reading a new book from professor Amy Cuddy titled 'Presence' which is proving to be another solid read in our series. Personal self-examining books that help us better understand our personal perspectives through a researchers eyes, can only help improve our navigation skills in dealing with work and life scenarios. Personal PD!



Thank you for taking the time to read our report, it is a pleasure to serve you our GVTA members in this way! Remember that book club is open to all members any time throughout the year—we welcome you to join!

Email me at joe.lindhorst@gvsd.ca

Thanks ,

Joe Lindhorst ESJ Committee Chair and

James Driedger ESJ Co-chair and Aboriginal Liaison Representative

Treaty Education Kits

The ESJ chair and co-chair attended a Treaty Education Workshop and received 2 Classroom teacher resource kits to use in our division. The K-12 kit will go into the ESJ library located at Emerado Centennial school library, which will be available for all members to use, while the 7-12 kit will go to the NPC library for all to use. The intended goal of the commission is to have a kit in every school in Manitoba for teachers to use. If you're planning or thinking of possibly adding some aboriginal content into your already existing curriculum schedule these kits have a wealth of activities, lesson plans, books, posters and related materials for all grade levels. The intent is to infuse Treaty Ed content into your already existing and running program, not as an add-on unit.

Please take a look at the website for more information: <http://www.trcm.ca/treaty-education-initiative/what-is-the-treaty-education-initiative>

Kit resources are listed here: <http://www.trcm.ca/treaty-education-initiative/kit-resources/>

Dental and Vision Plans

This article is a quick reminder about what our dental and vision insurances can provide to GVTA members. It is by no means a complete picture; the most detailed information is available on the Manitoba Teacher Society website. Simply go to mbteach.org and choose *Group Benefits* from the *Health and Benefits* drop down menu. You'll come to a page with the link you want: *Extended health plans, group dental plans...*

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Dental Plan

Dental benefits are subject to a combined maximum of \$1,500 per person per calendar year. In other words, if you subscribe to a family plan, each person in the family can receive \$1500 worth of benefits per year.

Reimbursements can be summarized as follows:

- 80% of eligible expenses for basic services like exams, X-rays, cleanings, simple extractions, and fillings.
- 50% of eligible expenses for major services like in/onlays, crowns, bridges, jackets, and dentures.
- 50% of eligible expenses for orthodontics for dependent children up to the age of 21 (25 if a student).

Vision Plan

This is actually just part of our Extended Health Plan.

Reimbursements can be summarized as follows:

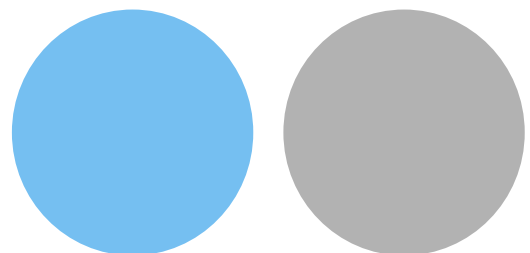
- 100% for glasses, lenses, repairs, contacts and laser eye surgery up to a maximum of \$300 per person in a 24 month period.
- 80% for a single eye exam up to a maximum of \$100 per person in a 24 month period.

As with any insurance, there are limitations and exclusions to both the dental and vision plans. Please consult the MTS website as described above for complete details.

Both the dental and vision plans are administered by Manitoba Blue Cross. Most providers will bill the plans directly. If a provider doesn't, claim forms are available on the Manitoba Blue Cross website. As well, you can also register for a *My Blue Cross* account and have reimbursements deposited directly into your chequing account.

If you have any questions please contact Sarah Quickfall (GVTA Benefits Chairperson) or Dale Martens (GVTA Benefits Co-chairperson).

Submitted by Dale Martens



Print a Class List with Photos

One frequent request I receive from substitute teachers is for teachers to leave them a class list with student photos. This can greatly assist substitute teachers with attendance, as well as with classroom management. It is fairly easy to print these off once, and leave them in your substitute binder, on your desk, or in a plastic sleeve on your white board.

In PowerTeacher, click on the printer icon beside your class.

Class	Icons
P1(1) P2(2,5) FRENCH	[Icons: Chair, Grid, Book, X, Photo, Printer]
P1(2,4,6) PREPARATION	[Icons: Chair, Grid, Book, X, Photo, Printer]
P1(3,5) P3(1) MUSIC	[Icons: Chair, Grid, Book, X, Photo, Printer]
P2(1) P3(3,5) BAND	[Icons: Chair, Grid, Book, X, Photo, Printer]
P2(3-4) P4(5) MUSIC	[Icons: Chair, Grid, Book, X, Photo, Printer]
P2(6) P4(1,3) BAND	[Icons: Chair, Grid, Book, X, Photo, Printer]
P3(2,4,6) BAND	[Icons: Chair, Grid, Book, X, Photo, Printer]
P4(2,4,6) BAND	[Icons: Chair, Grid, Book, X, Photo, Printer]

Select “Class Roster with Photos” from the dropdown. (Mine says “Parkland – Class Roster with Photos”)

Which report would you like to print?

For which students?

Test print?

Watermark Text

Watermark Mode

When to print

Report Output Locale

Submit

Legend

Icons [Photo] - Time Entry (5 minute interval) | [Calendar] - Date Entry

After clicking “Submit”, click “Refresh” on the next screen. Once your list is Completed, click “View”, and the Print your new document! You will need to repeat these steps for each unique group of children you teach.

GUTA WELLNESS

Keeping fit in 2017

Drop-in to GVC's fitness room

Every **Monday** and **Thursday**

From **4:30-5:30**

Workouts begin Jan. 23rd are self-guided

Equipment available: aerobic steps, two ellipticals, several stationary bikes, a variety of weightlifting machines, dumbbells and benches, jump ropes, exercise balls, mats, etc.



Questions?

E-mail caitlin.parr@gvsa.ca for more information

Workload Survey

All MTS members, regardless of their position in schools, are highly encouraged to fill out their workload survey, which will be mailed out to schools during the month of February 2017. The purpose of the survey is to provide objective data, collected from members like yourself, to help inform your association's collective bargaining committee about your workload pressures (ie. Time, class or case size, exceptional students, and stressors). This data is used by your local teachers' association in two ways. It provides information which assists:

1. Collective bargaining by providing data which is useful in preparation of your association's opening negotiations package (note: associations will generally start negotiations in the fall of 2018); and
2. In the event of a bargaining impasse, this information can be used at interest arbitration.

The bottom line is that this information is used to help improve your collective agreement and obtaining as many responses as possible from your association is extremely important to ensure reliable results.

The survey is paper based and should take about 20 minutes of your time to complete. The surveys are completed anonymously as your association only requires aggregate research data. If you have further questions about the survey, please do not hesitate to call your association president for clarification or additional information.

MTS and your local association executive thank you in advance for participation in this very important activity!

GVTA Staff and Families

**Come and Go
Bowling Night!**

**Feb. 24th
5-8pm**

**Winkler Bowling Lanes
Pizza, snacks and pop provided**



Cash Bar



Interested in Facilitating Workshops? Join the Teacher-Led Learning Team (TLLT)

Passion, lifelong learning, experience, leadership, and creativity: What do these words have in common? They describe the work of the Teacher-Led Learning Team (TLLT). The Manitoba Teachers' Society is seeking outstanding classroom teachers, principals, resource teachers, counsellors, clinicians, coaches, and consultants representing all grade levels and subject areas from across the province to design and deliver workshops for school and divisional professional development days.

OVERVIEW OF THE COMMITMENT

TLLT is a two-year appointment, renewable to a maximum of six consecutive years. Successful candidates will deliver up to three workshops per year for which the Society covers leave time and associated expenses. TLLT members are required to attend training seminars and design days at McMaster House. Release time (for school days) and associated expenses are paid.

Summer Seminar: August 29, 20 & 31, 2017

Fall Seminar: October 13 & 14, 2017

Winter Seminar: November 24 & 25, 2017

Deployment Debrief & Reflection Day: May 12, 2018

CRITERIA FOR TLLT CANDIDATE RECRUITMENT

MTS members who:

- are in good standing, actively working in the public school system;
- have a variety of teaching experiences;
- have demonstrated leadership and communication skills;
- have training and/or experience in the professional development of adult learners;
- have the ability to commit to a minimum two-year term, including training & design days; and
- are willing to travel within Manitoba for deployments.

APPLICATION COMPONENTS

1. **Cover Letter of Interest** including, at minimum, the following information:

- Current position;
- Reason for applying; and
- Area(s) of interest/experience

2. **Current Resume** including, at minimum, the following information:

- Name, MTS number, and contact information
- Teaching experience (grade levels and subjects taught);
- Leadership experience (this does not have to be in formal positions);
- Languages spoken;
- Academic credentials/Other certifications or highlights;
- Recent professional development (within the last five years); and
- School/Community/Association activities, committees, etc...

see over →



3. **Two Letters of Recommendation** (one of which should be from your principal/vp or superintendent), that speak to your knowledge, skills, and abilities in:

- Communication;
- Collaboration;
- Leadership;
- Facilitation skills; and/or
- Experience/expertise

APPLICATION PROCESS

- Advise your principal and/or superintendent that you are applying to the Teacher-Led Learning Team
- Submit your application by **March 10, 2017 @ 4:00 pm**
- Shortlisted applicants will be contacted to schedule an interview
 - Where possible, interviews occur at your school site at a mutually agreed-upon time
- Successful candidates will be notified by May 2017

Please send your cover letter of interest, resume, and letters of recommendation to:

Dr. Danielle Fullan Kolton

Staff Officer, Professional Issues Department

The Manitoba Teachers' Society

191 Harcourt Street

Winnipeg, MB, R3J 3H2

dfullankolton@mbteach.org

Consideration is given to the appointment of people in such a manner as to reflect the diversity of Manitoba's population. We encourage all qualified individuals to apply.

MTS Bonspiel 2017

Hosted by the Brandon Teachers' Association

When: March 3rd – 5th, 2017

Where: Riverview Curling Club, 420 Maryland Ave. Brandon, MB

\$200 per rink (Includes 4 dinner tickets).

Contact: Cale Dunbar – btabonspiel@gmail.com, 204-483-0301

Deadline: Reserve spot for association by Tuesday, January 31st.

Additional entries from all associations accepted until Monday, February 27th.

Download an entry form at mbteach.org





Garden Valley Teachers' Association

Executive Meeting

SUMMARY

Tuesday, January 10, 2017 @ 4:15am

NPC Room #103

MTS General Secretary – Ms. Bobbi Taillefer brought greetings on behalf of the Manitoba Teachers' Society and outlined some of MTS's current work. Of particular note is the importance of the surveys they send out, and the need for teachers to complete them.

Early & Mid-Career Retirement Seminars: TRAF hosts meetings where you can receive information specific to your retirement plan and options. Registration happens in advance, as TRAF will bring you your own plan details. You can make an appointment to do this anytime with TRAF, and the information is also available on their web portal, but these are opportunities to meet with someone in person. You can also bring your spouse, if that would be helpful for you (I've only attended once, and Mrs. Swaan came with me!). There is an event in Morris on March 6th from 4:30-7pm; registration deadline is February 14th through myProfile. There is also an event in Winnipeg open to all teachers on April 4th from 4:30-7pm; registration deadline is March 29th.

MLA Pre-Budget Consultation Meeting – GVTA was invited to present on November 3, 2016 to MLA Cameron Friesen, and was one of only 7 groups in the Morden-Winkler constituency to present.

School Visits: The President will be touring schools again in February/March over the lunch hour. Of course, you are also able to call or e-mail him any time. If you would like him to set aside for you specifically while he is in your building or otherwise, just let him know.

Tentative dates: Blumenfeld Feb 8; Border Valley Feb 9; Edelweiss Feb 10; Fresh Start Feb 13; GVC Feb 14; GVCTec Feb 15; DO Feb 15 @ 2pm; Hochfeld Feb 16; JRW Feb 21; NPC Feb 22; Parkland Feb 23; Substitutes Feb 23 @ 4:30pm at Parkland MPR (time & location to be confirmed); Plum Coulee Feb 24; Prairie Dale Feb 27; Southwood Feb 28; WES March 1; Emerado March 6.

CAPSLE Conference: GVTA President will be attending Canadian Association of Practical Study of Law in Education conference in Saskatoon on April 30-May 2 as professional development. This will also bump the GVTA May Executive meeting from May 2 to Thursday, May 4

Liaison Meeting with GVSD Board: GVTA has two more meetings with the GVSD Board & Senior Admin on March 23rd & May 11th. If you have a topic that you feel would be appropriate to discuss in this venue, please let Joel know. Topics covered so far include PD, Guidance, and 2017/18 Budget

Social & Teacher Wellness: Beginning January 23rd, teachers are able to use the workout room at GVC on Mondays and Thursdays from 4:30-5:30pm for self-guided fitness activities.

President Release Time: At the November 1st Executive Meeting, the GVTA President was asked to begin tracking his hours. Average workday with 50% release time for Nov/Dec is 3h34m.

ESJ Book Club: Continues to meet at 4pm on the first Wednesday of the month at CK's Lounge. The February/March book is *Presence* by Amy Cuddy.

Treaty Education Kits: GVTA has received two Treaty Education Kits from the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba. The K-12 kit is stored at Emerado Centennial School in the Teacher Resources section of the library, and the 7-12 Kit is in the NPC library. Any teacher in the division can borrow and make use of these excellent resources.

Next GVTA Executive Meeting – Tuesday, February 7th, 2017 – NPC Room #103 @ 4:15pm; all members welcome.