



Garden Valley Teachers' Association

The Apple Core

February 2021

Upcoming Events

- Gvc Tec visit- Tues, Feb. 23
- Plum Coulee visit- Wed, Feb. 24
- Fresh Start visit- Thurs, Feb. 25
- Self-care and nutrition- Thurs, Feb. 25
6:30pm
- ECS visit Mon, Mar. 1
- PDS visit Tues, Mar. 2
- PRS visit Wed, Mar. 3
- GVTA Executive Meeting Tues, Mar. 2
- PLS visit Thurs, Mar. 4
- Fab 5 Conference Fri, Mar. 5
- WEL Virtual Symposium, Mar. 5 & 6
- CB Meeting Thurs, Mar. 11
- PD Meeting Tues, Mar. 16
- Applecore published- Mon, Mar. 22

Hello GVTA members,

Over the past couple weeks, I have had the opportunity to connect with some of you folks during some site visits. It has been truly refreshing to be able to share the same physical space as you folks. I always appreciate discussing provincial developments, what local impacts are being felt, and listening to your experiences this school year.

With the legislature resuming on March 3rd, we can anticipate seeing in the months ahead next steps for Bill 45 (provincial bargaining), the Education Modernization Act, specificity on division funding, and the K-12 Education Review. It is shaping up to look like a busy Spring! Be sure to follow MTS (@mbteachers), GVTA (@gvteach and @GardenValleyTA), and to register with MyProfile on mbteach.org to receive the most up to date information.

Since our last Apple Core, education funding has been laid out by the province citing “historic investment in education”. Although technically true when speaking about the amount of dollars, the statement is false when you look at funding per student or the purchasing power of those dollars.

The government has done well to slate additional funds for student mental health. However, we do not see funding beyond mental health to address the lasting impacts of COVID-19. One of these lasting impacts- the need for ongoing recovery learning. Although this year has been difficult to adapt to new routines and ways of teaching, small classes have been great to better identify and provide an individual level of recovery learning. However, without proper funding, our class sizes will not remain this small as we continue to provide recovery learning in the years ahead.

MTS is encouraging us to participate in the #useyourvoice campaign to share what lower funding means for our classes. See the graphic below on how to participate.

Although provincial education funding continues to lag both inflation and student population growth, I am encouraged by what I see in classrooms in our division. Earlier this month, I had the privilege to briefly see the start of a class in one of my site visits. The teacher weaved a story through their activation techniques to spark curiosity while providing necessary physical

and mental warm-ups-- it was a masterful start to a lesson. More noteworthy was seeing this teacher connect personally with each young person in a way that made them feel personally seen and cherished. Just like those students, we all need to be seen and feel cherished. It made me wonder how many teachers are feeling seen this year. Beyond that, how many are feeling cherished?

We have become familiar with the slogans of “choose trust”, “extend grace”, and “take time for yourself.” At the start of the year, there was a strong focus on well-being over the commonly pursued idea of perfection. I believe that we need to re-commit to our focus of well-being. In doing so, I encourage you to recognize the strengths that you see in one another and to appreciate the actions of those around you. Not in the way where we recognize someone else’s strength to identify our own shortcomings, that does not help anyone. I mean that when you have those thoughts where someone is doing something well, let them know— those words can go a long way this year.

Remember that cherishing the people around you is more important than the perfectly worded “next steps” comment.

All the best,

Mike



STEP 1
Click on the MTS posts on Twitter/Facebook/Instagram



STEP 2
Before you share, add your voice to our post. Tell us how your classroom has been affected by underfunding.



STEP 3
Tag it #useyourvoice



Collective Bargaining Update

Pembina Trails Arbitration (from mbteach.org)

On February 15, 2021, the Pembina Trails arbitration board issued a unanimous award. Significant gains were made on the association’s three key proposals of economic protection, defined job expectations, and job security. This award is an unprecedented decision for teachers.

Here are the highlights:

1) Effective Period / Salaries and Allowances

The board awarded a four-year effective period with the following increases:

July 1, 2018: 1.6%

July 1, 2019: 1.4%

July 1, 2020: 0.5%

July 1, 2021: COLA determined as Statistics Canada’s 2021 inflation rate

Garden Valley Teachers’ Association members work on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabe, and the homeland of the Métis nation. GVTA respects the Treaties that were made on this territory.

This award is now the pattern.

The board rejected the division's ability to pay arguments, reaffirmed the Louis Riel pattern in the first two years, and enshrined inflation protection in the third and fourth years.

Enshrining inflation protection in an interest arbitration award through a COLA formula is a breakthrough in Manitoba teacher collective bargaining.

2) Term Contracts

The board awarded the Louis Riel language restricting the division's use of term contracts.

3) Assignable Time

The board placed new restrictions on the length of the instructional day in the Pembina Trails School Division:

Maximum 5 hours and 50 minutes in each high school

Maximum 5 hours and 45 minutes in all other schools

This is the first time such a clause has been awarded through teacher interest arbitration in Manitoba.

Click [here](#) to read the full award.

Food Talk: Sausage Stuffed Zucchini Boats

By: Brenda Richer



- 1 1/4 cups quick marinara sauce
- 4 medium zucchinis, 31 oz total
- 1 tsp oil
- 1/2 small onion, finely diced
- 3 cloves garlic, crushed
- 1/2 cup diced red bell pepper
- 14 oz lean Italian chicken sausage, removed from casing (Al Fresco)
- 1/2 cup part skim shredded mozzarella, Polly-O
- 8 tsp grated Parmesan cheese

1. Bring a large pot of water to boil.
2. Preheat oven to 400°.
3. Cut zucchini in half lengthwise and using a spoon or melon baller, scoop out flesh, leaving 1/4" thick. Chop the scooped out flesh of the zucchini in small pieces and set aside.
4. Drop zucchini halves in boiling water and cook 1 minute. Remove from water.
5. Place 1/4 cup of sauce in the bottom of a 9 x 12" baking dish, and place zucchini halves cut side up.
6. In a large saute pan, brown sausage, breaking up as it cooks into smaller pieces until browned; set aside.
7. Heat oil and add onion, garlic and bell pepper. Cook on a medium-low heat for about 2-3 minutes, until onions are translucent. Add chopped zucchini, season with salt and pepper and cook about 2-3 minutes.
8. Combine with sausage and cook a few more minutes.
9. Using a spoon, fill each hollowed zucchini with 1/3 cup cooked sausage, pressing firmly.
10. Top each with 2 tablespoons each of sauce, 1 tablespoon each of shredded mozzarella cheese and 1 teaspoon each of parmesan cheese.
11. Cover with foil and bake 35 minutes until cheese is melted and zucchini is cooked through.

Indigenous Education

By: Ashly Dyck

Last month Roxanne and I shared a reflection tool from *Creating Racism-Free Schools through Critical/Courageous Conversations on Race*, written by Manitoba Education and Training, and Indigenous Inclusion Directorate in 2017. This document is a guide for educators as they consider the diverse perspectives represented in classrooms today and as they seek to create safe spaces for all students to grow and learn.

We invited GVTA members to use a self reflection tool found in the appendices for a chance to win a prize. Val Harder, middle years literacy coordinator, was our winner! Val shared her thoughts on the reflection tool. Val also suggested using #ownvoice texts to introduce their students to different perspective through text. I followed the hashtag and have started a list of texts to explore!

Val's suggestion to follow a hashtag on social media got me thinking about the resources I have found on social media. Here is a list of some of my favourite Instagram accounts that share educational resources with an Indigenous lens:

@indigenerdclassroom

@orangeshirtdaygp

@redrisingeducation

@indspire.ca

We want to encourage members to consider Indigenous perspectives so we're having another giveaway! We're giving away a \$20 gift certificate from a local business and another beaded pin! Check out the details for entering our latest giveaway below.

To enter our March giveaway:

Browse through the Instagram feeds listed in this article OR look for others on Instagram or other socials. Send us a post from one the feeds listed above that spoke to you OR send us a feed you think we need to follow.

Email your entry to ashly.dyck@gvsd.ca AND roxanne.baraniski@gvsd.ca

Follow @gvteach on social media!!



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Social & Teacher Wellness

By: Brenda Richer

“Imagine what our real neighborhoods would be like if each of us offered, as a matter of course, just one kind word to another person. “~Mr. Rogers

The second semester has begun, which means Spring Break is around the corner. Take time to relax and recharge!

The Government of Manitoba is providing education, fitness and entertainment **free or at little cost**. Please follow the link to explore [Safe at Home Manitoba \(safeathomemb.ca\)](https://safeathomemb.ca)

For those looking to do something, I have scheduled a few free virtual events for members or the family with limited spaces. All activities will be listed on Instagram and Twitter.

March 23rd @ 6pm Dance Class

March 30th @ 6 pm Paint Night (watercolor, supplies included)

March 31st @ 2pm Dance Class

Email brenda.richer@gvsd.ca spaces are limited

April activities are looking great. Hopefully, we will be able to meet in person. Providing we can meet up, I would like to host a hiking group, anyone interested can email brenda.richer@gvsd.ca. If anyone would like to lead a group in cycling, walking, running, etc. let me know!

A Well Grounded Approach to De-icing

Sprinkling your sidewalk with salt is a must during winter storm season. (Hi, Jonas.) But if you've just run out of salt--and don't want to make a hardware store run--here's a nifty trick.

- What you need: Leftover coffee grounds from a few morning brews and a freshly-shoveled sidewalk.
- What you do: Sprinkle the grounds along the walkway (as you would with salt).
- Why it works: Like sand and salt, the grounds give you extra footing for safer stepping. Plus, the acid helps ice melt faster.

So? Consider it an excuse to drink more java.





REGISTER NOW!

MARCH 5, 2021

FAB 5 workshops are intended to build capacity, confidence, and practical strategies focused on the mental, emotional, relational and physical aspects of teachers and teaching.

FAB 5 2021 will be a real-time virtual conference on **March 5th** from **9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.** Participants can also access the work on-demand after the live event. This year we will be collaborating with Eventmobi, an online virtual conference platform. Once participants have registered for either the live stream or on-demand, they will have access to the platform for 30 days.

To register for the real-time virtual conference **OR** the On-demand conference please visit our website at **www.mbteach.org**. All conference information will be found on My Profile.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Dr. Joel Westheimer

Joel Westheimer is University Research Chair in Democracy and Education at the University of Ottawa and an education columnist for CBC Radio. Author, speaker, and education advocate, he grew up in New York City where he taught 6th, 7th, and 8th grade in the NYC Public Schools. In addition to researching the role of schools in democratic societies, Westheimer studies, writes, and speaks widely on global school reform, the standards and accountability reform movements, and the politics of education and education research. His latest book is *What Kind of Citizen? Educating Our Children for the Common Good*. Find out more at joelwestheimer.org and follow him on Twitter: [@joelwestheimer](https://twitter.com/joelwestheimer).

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

| | Emotional | Mental | Relationality | Physical |
|------------------------------|---|--|--|--|
| Slot A 9:00-10:00 | Dr. Joel Westheimer: Citizenship in Today's World | | | |
| Slot B 10:15-11:15 | Teacher Resilience and Self-Compassion | Creating Thinking Classrooms | The Anti-Racist Classroom | Your Thinking Influences Your Eating |
| Slot C 11:20-12:20 | Wellness and Coping | Powerful Play: Technology for Learning | Building Community: Working with Students and Families. | FISH! Food For Thought |
| Slot D 1:20-2:20 | Staying Balanced: Indigenous Approaches to Wellness | Inclusion in Pandemic and Beyond | It's All about You: Planning for Teacher and Student Success | Will I Be Eaten by Bear? Teaching in Northern and Rural Settings |
| Slot E 2:30-3:30 | Making Sense of Mindfulness | Learning through Gamification | Building Trust and Synergy | Yoga |

TALKING POINTS

- 1** The government is interfering in the collective bargaining process by mandating what school divisions can negotiate with teachers.
- 2** This is a direct attempt to undermine our ability to replicate the salary increases and other improvements already awarded in Louis Riel and whatever salary increases and other improvements are achieved in the Pembina Trails award.
- 3** If all teachers are not getting fair and reasonable salary increases and contract language improvements, it is because of unprecedented government interference in teacher collective bargaining.
- 4** In 2017, government attempted to undermine our bargaining rights, along with other public sector workers, through Bill 28 and now this government mandate, along with Bill 45, effectively obliterates our right to free collective bargaining. We will respond with whatever legal options are available to us, whether that means filing unfair labour practice complaints against school divisions or filing injunctions and court challenges against the actions of the government.
- 5** MTS is doing our utmost to defend teachers' interests in the face of an unprecedented government attack on teacher collective bargaining. We need to stand together in solidarity to ensure that the rights of our membership are protected.

MTS Women in Educational Leadership Symposium



Alexa
Joy



Dr. Betsy
McGregor

The Manitoba Teachers' Society is proud to host the annual Women in Educational Leadership (WEL) Symposium in advance of International Women's Day.

The **2021 WEL Virtual Symposium** will feature recognized leaders representing a variety of fields including education, law, community activism, business and communications.

Friday Evening March 5, all day Saturday, March 6

This year, the Society has partnered with EventMobi, a virtual conference platform, promising to provide opportunities for video-networking and more!

Information about registration and all of the symposium's speakers and panelists will be updated on the MTS website in February.



**WOMEN
IN EDUCATIONAL
LEADERSHIP**

2021-22 SCHOOL DIVISION FUNDING

| School Division | 2021/22 Funding (\$ millions) <small>*includes Special Needs</small> | \$ Change Total (\$ millions) | % Change | Reasons for % Change in Funding of Schools Allocation | Additional Property Tax Offset Grant (\$ millions) |
|------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|-----------------|---|---|
| Beautiful Plains | \$13.0 | \$0.96 | 7.4% | Increase in special needs funding and Equalization support | \$0.2 |
| Border Land | \$16.8 | \$0.03 | 0.2% | Increase in special needs funding which is offset by Equalization support | \$0.4 |
| Brandon | \$55.8 | \$1.27 | 2.3% | Increase in special needs funding and Equalization support | \$0.5 |
| D.S.F.M. | \$57.5 | \$1.05 | 1.8% | Increase in their Special Grant which is slightly offset by Equalization support | \$0.8 |
| Evergreen | \$9.1 | (\$0.07) | -0.7% | Change in Formula Guarantee which is offset by Equalization support | \$0.3 |
| Flin Flon | \$9.9 | \$0.41 | 4.1% | Increase in Equalization support and special needs funding | \$0.05 |
| Fort La Bosse | \$7.9 | \$0.63 | 7.9% | Increase in special needs funding and Equalization support which is offset by the Formula Guarantee | \$0.2 |
| Frontier | \$42.9 | \$0.85 | 2.0% | Increase in Equalization support which is partially offset by their special grant | \$0.03 |
| Garden Valley | \$29.5 | \$0.01 | 0.03% | Increase in special needs funding which is offset by Equalization support | \$0.4 |
| Hanover | \$57.6 | \$1.86 | 3.2% | Increase in Equalization support and special needs funding | \$0.7 |
| Interlake | \$17.2 | (\$0.11) | -0.6% | Change in Equalization support | \$0.4 |

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|----------------------|--------|----------|-------|---|-------|
| Kelsey | \$14.3 | \$0.10 | 0.7% | Increase in special needs funding and Equalization support | \$0.5 |
| Lakeshore | \$9.2 | (\$0.15) | -1.6% | Change in Equalization support and the Formula Guarantee | \$0.1 |
| Lord Selkirk | \$24.4 | (\$0.33) | -1.3% | Change in Equalization support which is offset by the Formula Guarantee | \$0.7 |
| Louis Riel | \$85.7 | \$0.83 | 1.0% | Increase in special needs funding which is offset by Equalization support | \$2.1 |
| Mountain View | \$22.7 | \$0.37 | 1.6% | Increase in special needs funding and Equalization support | \$0.4 |
| Mystery Lake | \$33.3 | \$0.85 | 2.5% | Increase in Equalization support and special needs funding | \$0.1 |
| Park West | \$10.5 | (\$0.15) | -1.5% | Change in the Formula Guarantee which is offset by Equalization support | \$0.2 |
| Pembina Trails | \$62.5 | (\$0.22) | -0.3% | Change in Equalization support | \$2.2 |
| Pine Creek | \$7.2 | (\$0.11) | -1.5% | Change in the Formula Guarantee which is offset by Equalization support | \$0.2 |
| Portage La Prairie | \$18.8 | (\$0.00) | 0.0% | Change in Equalization support | \$0.4 |
| Prairie Rose | \$13.2 | \$0.19 | 1.5% | Increase in special needs funding and Equalization support which is offset by the Formula Guarantee | \$0.4 |
| Prairie Spirit | \$13.7 | (\$0.20) | -1.5% | Change in the Formula Guarantee which is offset by Equalization support | \$0.3 |
| Red River Valley | \$12.9 | \$0.51 | 3.9% | Increase in Equalization support and special needs funding | \$0.4 |
| River East Transcona | \$98.9 | \$0.64 | 0.6% | Increase in special needs funding which is offset by Equalization support | \$1.9 |
| Rolling River | \$10.0 | (\$0.14) | -1.4% | Change in Formula Guarantee which is offset by Equalization support | \$0.3 |

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|----------------------|---------|----------|-------|---|--------|
| Seine River | \$31.8 | \$0.52 | 1.6% | Increase in Equalization support and special needs funding | \$0.5 |
| Seven Oaks | \$82.4 | \$0.97 | 1.2% | Increase in Equalization support and special needs funding | \$1.3 |
| Southwest Horizon | \$9.1 | (\$0.08) | -0.9% | Change in Formula Guarantee which is offset by Equalization support | \$0.3 |
| St. James-Assiniboia | \$39.4 | (\$0.05) | -0.1% | Change in Equalization support | \$1.3 |
| Sunrise | \$27.1 | \$0.09 | 0.3% | Increase in special needs funding which is offset by Equalization support | \$0.8 |
| Swan Valley | \$11.6 | (\$0.17) | -1.5% | Change in Equalization support which is offset by the Formula Guarantee | \$0.3 |
| Turtle Mountain | \$5.5 | (\$0.08) | -1.5% | Change in the Formula Guarantee which is offset by Equalization support | \$0.2 |
| Turtle River | \$7.2 | (\$0.02) | -0.3% | Change in Equalization support | \$0.1 |
| Western | \$12.9 | \$0.98 | 7.6% | Increase in Equalization support and special needs funding | \$0.2 |
| Winnipeg | \$190.2 | (\$2.73) | -1.4% | Change in Equalization support which is offset by the Formula Guarantee | \$4.0 |
| Whiteshell | \$0.8 | (\$0.00) | -0.3% | Change in Formula Guarantee | \$0.04 |