



Garden Valley Teachers' Association

# The Apple Core

April 2021

## Upcoming Events

Ed Finance Seminar- Wednesday, Apr. 28  
4pm

South Central Binder Meeting- Thursday,  
April 29

Bowling Bash RSVP deadline- Tuesday, May  
4

GVTA Executive Meeting- Tuesday, May. 4  
4:15pm

Winkler Golf Club RSVP deadline- Monday,  
May 10

Indigenous Education reflection deadline-  
Wednesday, May 12

CB Committee Meeting- Thursday, May. 13  
4pm

MTS Provincial Council, May 13-15

Nominations deadline at noon, May 14

PD Committee Meeting- Tuesday, May. 18  
4pm

GVTA AGM- Tuesday- May. 25 4:15pm

Hello GVTA members,

One of the largest topics of conversation currently filling the news in the education world is Bill 64 – and for good reason. As proposed, it would be an historic change to our education system by bringing about one of the largest consolidations of government power in Manitoba.

Advocates from the world of education (principals, teachers, policy analysts, retirees, EAs, parents, trustees, and more) have been filling the pages of newspapers and online publishers with their takes on Bill 64; all their editorials intent on engaging and educating the public on the gravity of this proposed legislation. As educators, I believe that each of us is well-equipped with the skills necessary to engage and advocate for improvements on this legislation.

This past month, I watched a few government committee hearings regarding different legislation and presented at one pertaining to education. I wanted to take a moment to share with you some of my insights.

1. We have incredible advocates here in Manitoba who are extremely skilled and knowledgeable.
2. The stories, experiences, and impassioned pleas of the public are sometimes more persuasive than the researched perspectives.

MTS has been supporting and recommending members to #RaiseYourVoice. I want to echo that recommendation and, more specifically, I encourage each of you to register as a private citizen to speak to Bill 64 in committee. **Signing up to speak to the committee is the most impactful thing that we can do in opposition to or in favour of Bill 64. So, I implore you to sign up to speak.**

Even though Bill 64 will not reach committee until the Fall, you can register today by phoning the Office of the Clerk at (204) 945-3636. When you phone, you will be asked for the following registration information:

1. the presenter's name, address, contact information;

2. whether the presenter is a private citizen or is speaking on behalf of an organization; and the name and number of the bill.

Each presenter is allowed a maximum of 10 minutes to make an oral presentation, and an additional five minutes to respond to questions from members of the committee.

Presenting is a valuable experience where simply listening to other presenters broadens one's own perspective and understanding. If you register today and find out that the committee times in the Fall do not work for you, you can simply not show up and you will be moved to the bottom of the speakers list (being absent a second time would remove you from the list-- which would be okay, too).

When considering whether you should raise your voice, do not let "perfect" be the enemy of the "good". I have submitted my own letter to the Winkler-Morden Voice for this upcoming week. It does the good work of pointing out some of the negative impacts that would be allowed by the passage of Bill 64. However, like all things, it is imperfect. I have also registered to speak to the government committee for we must do all that we can to ensure Manitoba's Education system is the best that it can possibly be.

As we head into May, I wish you all the energy to keep pushing through to the end of this year. For those applying for positions or heading to a new role, I wish you all the best as those transitional details are clarified. Take your mental health days when you need them, remember not to make "perfect" the enemy of the "good" in your daily lives, and extend yourself and others grace as we continue along this journey together.

I hope to see you at the online AGM for GVTA at 4:15pm on May 25.

All the best,

Mike

## **GVTA Executive 2021-2022**

Joel Swaan Chair, GVTA Nomination Committee

The nomination period for the 2021-22 GVTA Executive remains open until noon on May 14th. Please find the list of current nominations later in this Apple Core.

There are currently no nominations for the following roles:

Position descriptions are also listed later in this issue.

- Treasurer
- Education Finance Chair
- Employee Benefits Co-Chair
- Public Relations Co-Chair
- Social & Teacher Wellness Co-Chair

As stated previously, there is no need for prior experience, only a desire to learn more about the role of the Manitoba Teachers' Society and our local Association as well as a willingness to serve for the greater good of your colleagues.

Please e-mail all nominations and inquiries to <[joel.swaan@gvtd.ca](mailto:joel.swaan@gvtd.ca)>. Nominations should be received by noon on Friday, May 14th, 2021. Elections, should there be a need, will be held on or by the GVTA AGM on Tuesday, May 25th.

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.

# Collective Agreement

On March 30, 2021 GVTA ratified what might be its final local collective agreement. Our next agreement is almost certain to be a provincial agreement as Bill 45 (Provincial Teacher Collective Bargaining) is moving to 3rd reading and is scheduled to pass before the end of the school year.

This past bargaining round has been complicated and atypical due to continued provincial government interference. This round has involved court challenges, many meetings, and protests. In the end we have been able to sign an agreement that provides the following:

- Grid & allowance salary 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 backpay estimated to be paid out in May
- 1 compassionate leave day per year for people not currently defined in our past clause
- Increased flexibility in determining GVTA release time
- Removal of the restriction of using personal and extra-curricular in conjunction with each other
- Substitute teachers will receive backpay from September 1, 2020 with rates of \$158 per day for teachers with a degree and \$135 per day for teachers without a degree.
- Subs will also receive a COLA increase in the 2021-22 school year.
- You can read the full wording of the agreement

None of this would have been achievable without the work of MTS throughout the province, GVTA's collective bargaining committee, and our table team. The work of regional representation and consultation within provincial bargaining is work that will continue after the passage of Bill 45. However, I wanted to take a moment to recognize all the representatives who served on the committee this past round (since roughly 2016):

<b>Mike Urichuk*</b>	<b>Anny Froese*</b>	Dale Martens
<b>Jessica Riddell*</b>	<b>Tammy MacDonald</b>	Terri Hill (MTS)
<b>Joel Swaan*</b>	<b>Arlyn Filewich (MTS)*</b>	Sarah Coates
<b>Jessica Askin</b>	<b>Alison MacKinnon-Seymour</b>	Roxanne Baraniski
<b>Mary-Anna Aaldyk-Doerksen</b>	<b>Jim Parry-Hill</b>	Val Van Der Vlugt
<b>Kirsten Carman*</b>	<b>Joanne Unrau</b>	Curtis Harms
<b>Joanne Litchie</b>	Moyra Valletly	Melanie Howe

\* Table team member

**Current Collective Bargaining Committee Member**

Thank you for all the work you have done on behalf of members and for your contributions to the journey that has brought us to our final local collective agreement in Garden Valley. It is not always the most exciting work day-to-day but thank you for doing the work so that we could achieve this goal.

The new collective agreement is in effect and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact [gvtapresident@gmail.com](mailto:gvtapresident@gmail.com).

# Social & Teacher Wellness

Brenda Richer

**If you think you are too small to make a difference, try sleeping with a mosquito.**

~ Dalai Lama

This school year is coming to an end, and summer will be here before you know it! Relax your mind with a few breathing exercises or a go for a walk. Relax your body with a few yoga poses or bathe with essential oils.

The committee has brought you a variety of events, in the hopes of sparking creativity or prepping your dinner, just to mention a few recent events. Please send ideas for next year or events you would like to see again to [Brenda.richer@gvsd.ca](mailto:Brenda.richer@gvsd.ca)

I have included a few posters below of the next events, as always, spaces are limited and are for GVTA members.

## Food Talk: Pickle-Brined Baked Chicken Tenders

These juicy, flavorful chicken tenders are marinated in pickle juice then breaded and baked in the oven or air fryer!

**Prep Time:** 10 minutes

**Total Time:** 25 minutes



### Ingredients

- 12 (1 & 1/4 lbs) chicken tenders or skinless breasts cut into strips
- 1- 1/4 cup dill pickle juice (enough to cover the chicken)
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt and black pepper (to taste)
- 1 large egg (beaten)
- 1 large egg white
- 1/2 cup seasoned breadcrumbs
- 1/2 cup seasoned panko
- cooking spray

### Instructions

- Place chicken in a shallow bowl and cover with pickle juice (enough to cover completely). Marinate in the refrigerator 8 hours.
- After 8 hours, drain and dry the chicken completely on paper towels; discard marinade.
- Preheat oven to 425F. Spray a large baking sheet with generously with oil.
- Combine egg, egg white, salt and pepper in a medium bowl. In a shallow bowl, combine the breadcrumbs and panko.
- Dip chicken in the egg wash, then into the breadcrumb mixture and shake off excess.
- Place the chicken onto the prepared baking sheet and spray the top generously. Bake in the lower third of the oven until the bottom is golden, 8 to 10 minutes. Turn and bake 6 minutes, until golden.
- freezer (up to 1 month). They can be stored at room temperature, but if too warm, the glaze can melt.

### Air Fryer Directions:

- Preheat the air fryer to 400F. Spray the chicken on both sides with oil. Cook in batches in a single layer 5 to 6 minutes on each side.

## Indigenous Education

Submitted by Ashly Dyck and Roxanne Baraniski

As Indigenous Education chairs, we hope we have challenged you to consider the perspective of Indigenous peoples on a few educational issues over the course of the year.

Change is on the horizon for stakeholders in Manitoba education. Bill 64, The Education Modernization Act, was introduced at the Manitoba Legislature. Perhaps you have considered how this bill could impact your students, your practice, our schools or our community if it is passed as written.

We challenge you to consider the impact of Bill 64 on Manitoba's Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour (BIPOC) in the public school system if it is made law. Follow the link at the end of this article to read Elizabeth Braul's submission to the Canadian Center for Policy Alternatives. Braul, a Winnipeg teacher, shares how she sees the proposed legislation impacting Manitoba's Black, Indigenous and People of Colour.

As you read the submission, consider the balance of power, representation, and voice. Share your observations, thoughts, feelings, ideas and opinions on this piece with us. If you email your reflection to [ashly.dyck@gvzd.ca](mailto:ashly.dyck@gvzd.ca) and [roxanne.baraniski@gvzd.ca](mailto:roxanne.baraniski@gvzd.ca) by Wednesday, May 12 at 4 pm, you will be entered to win a gift card to Charlie B's and a beaded pin.

Below is a picture of previous winners, Val Harder and Delaney Appleyard.



Find Elizabeth Braul's submission to the Canadian Center for Policy Alternatives [here](#)

GVTA members are encouraged to #raiseyourvoice. Follow @mbteach on Instagram, use the links in their bio to learn more about bill 64. Use their toolkit to share your own thoughts, feelings and ideas on the impact of this bill.

## 2021-2022 GVTA EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS

GVTA positions do not have term limits so, while some persons will be letting their names stand, the following positions are annually open for nominees (including self-nominations) and subject to any subsequent election:

Position		Nominee & School		
<b>Acclaimed</b> 4:00pm, Thursday, March 11 <sup>th</sup> at 4pm	<b>President</b>	Mike Urichuk (ECS)		
	Vice-President	James Driedger (NPC)		
<b>Nominees by:</b> 12:00pm, Friday May 14, 2021	Treasurer	<i>Nominations needed - Incumbent not returning</i>		
	Secretary	Mary Eberling-Penner (PCS/EDW)		
	Collective Bargaining	Chair	Jessica Riddell (ECS)	
		Co-Chair	Mike Urichuk (ECS)	
	Education Finance	Chair	<i>Nominations needed - Incumbent not returning</i>	
		Co-Chair	Raffaele Bagnulo (NPC)	
	Employee Benefits	Chair	Kirsten Carman (GVC)	
		Co-Chair	<i>Nominations needed - No current incumbent</i>	
	Equity & Social Justice	Chair	Donna McCausland (NPC)	
		Co-Chair	Val Harder (DO)	
	Indigenous Education	Chair	Ashly Dyck (PRS)	
		Co-Chair	James Driedger (NPC)	
	Professional Development	Chair	Alyssa Friesen (PRS)	
		Co-Chair	Jennifer-Laura Heide (DO)	
	Public Relations	Chair	Jonathan Cullen (NPC)	
		Co-Chair	<i>Nominations needed - Incumbent not returning</i>	
	Social & Teacher Wellness	Chair	Brenda Richer (NPC)	
		Co-Chair	<i>Nominations needed - No current incumbent</i>	
	Social Media Coordinator	Sarah Waldner (NPC)		
	Workplace Safety & Health Liaison	Mary Eberling-Penner (PCS/EDW)		
<b>Appointed</b>	Past-President	Joel Swaan (PLS)		
	MTS Provincial Executive			
<b>To be elected by the members they represent:</b>	COSL MAL	<i>To be elected by COSL members</i>		
	School Reps for any Administrative Units that are not represented after a successful election. Currently, there are no nominees from BVS/BES, JRW, PDS, SUB, SWD/HES, or WES			

<b><u>GVTA EXECUTIVE POSITIONS</u></b>	<b><u>DESCRIPTIONS IN BRIEF</u></b>
President	Call, preside, provide notice, and create agendas for all Executive meetings and general meetings; attends Association Standing Committee, Garden Valley School Division Board, Society, Presidents' Council, and South Central Region President meetings as necessary; make reports at all Executive and general meetings; act as a liaison between the Association and the Society; deal with personnel issues; attend negotiation sessions between the Association and Garden Valley School Division; work with Treasurer to create the Association budget.
Vice-President	Assist the president as needed; take full charge of the affairs of the Association during the absence of the President.
Treasurer	Keep an accurate record and take charge of all funds collected; prepare a financial report for each Executive and general meeting; meet with the President in budget preparation; prepare all necessary reports for the yearly financial review; present the completed review at a general meeting; be one of the co-signers to access Association accounts.
Secretary	Keep an accurate record of all proceedings of the Association; distribute agendas and minutes of Executive meetings, special meetings, and general meetings.
Collective Bargaining	Negotiate a new collective agreement based on provincial and regional bargaining goals and the needs of the membership; promote knowledge of the collective agreement and/or bargaining procedures amongst the Association.
Education Finance	Track trends in Education Finance; gather information to present to local Executive and General Meetings; present to the Board as a part of the GVSD budget process.
Employee Benefits	Develop awareness and maintain files of all employee benefits; identify and investigate local needs for which the Employee Benefits committee can provide assistance; organize and host Employee Benefits Seminars relevant to GVTA members.
Equity & Social Justice	Develop awareness of social justice and equity issues in classroom materials, teacher attitudes, school policies, and programs; share information and resources; identify local needs for which the committee may provide assistance.
Indigenous Education	Develop awareness of indigenous education and equity issues in classroom materials, teacher attitudes, school policies, and programs; share information and resources; identify local needs for which the committee may provide assistance.
Professional Development	Initiate, organize, and implement a program of in-service training to provide opportunities for the GVTA membership to continue improvement of their educational practices; inform GVTA teachers of PD opportunities; engage such resource persons as are deemed necessary for the in-service program; prepare, administer, and evaluate the GVTA PD budget; work in cooperation with the senior administration office in the planning and implementation of PD programs for the division.
Public Relations	Purchase prizes and food for General Meetings; publish a membership newsletter; promote GVTA events for all committees; purchase and distribute an annual GVTA 'gift' for members.
Social and Teacher Wellness	Promote unity and build morale; plan, budget for, and execute a minimum of three (3) events throughout the school year - at least one (1) of these events will include all GVSD employees; plan, budget and execute a recognition for retiring teachers as needed; purchase prizes for all social and teacher wellness events; develop awareness of wellness issues in teacher attitudes, school policies and programs.
Social Media Coordinator	This position is new this year. There is the opportunity for a person interested in this role to help develop the criteria and position description necessary, with the goal of enhancing and increasing GVTA's on-line media presence.
Workplace Safety & Health Liaison	Promote the aims and objectives of the Association within the GVSD Workplace Safety and Health Committee; inform the Association of the activities of the GVSD WS&H committees; WS&H Liaison shall be an Association member who serves on the GVSD WS&H Committee.

GVTA FREE EVENT FOR MEMBERS



**WINKLER GOLF CLUB**

**9 ROUNDS OF GOLF**

**FREE LIMITED PASSES NOW AVAILABLE**

**\*1 PER MEMBER**

**RSVP [BRENDA.RICHER@GVSD.CA](mailto:BRENDA.RICHER@GVSD.CA)**

**BY MAY 10TH**





GVTA FREE EVENT FOR MEMBERS

# IT'S A BOWLING BASH!

STRIKE, SPARE, JUST BE THERE!

VB's Entertainment  
Center

Gift card

1 per member

RSVP TO [BRENDA.RICHER@GVSD.CA](mailto:BRENDA.RICHER@GVSD.CA)  
RSVP BY MAY 4TH