



MAPC Newsletter



Fall 2011

Phone: 956-1770 Toll Free: 1-877-290-4702 Website: www.mapc.mb.ca Email: info@mapc.mb.ca

President's Report

How quickly the summer has passed!

A tremendous amount of work has been done on the draft of the *MAPC Best Practice Guide for Parent Advisory Councils*. This document will soon be ready for piloting with select Parent Advisory Councils across the province with an anticipated release to all our voting members by the 2012 Annual General Meeting. We are very excited about the feedback and discussion that the guide will generate!

MAPC is also preparing to launch a *Parental Engagement Survey* that will give us crucial information on *how* and *why* parents are participating in the school system. The survey results will identify the challenges or barriers parents and PACs are facing to contribute in a meaningful manner, as well as demonstrate the successes and opportunities they enjoy as they continue working in partnership with their school communities.

Lastly, we had planned to share an update on the *Organizational Review and Audit* that was conducted earlier this year, but there has been no release of information as yet to Manitoba Education. We have been working closely with our funding partners and have already considered and made some minor changes which have stemmed from those initial discussions. As indicated previously, we will inform our membership about the results as soon as the audit recommendations are made known to us.

This is going to be an exciting year for MAPC as we kick off our 100th Anniversary, *Celebrating Parental Involvement in Manitoba*. More information will be coming on how we plan to honour all parents who came before us. It was their strength and intent to be an involved partner in their child's education which brought us to where we are today. We will keep you apprised of ways to contribute to our celebrations!

Have a great new school year!

Judith Cameron
President MAPC

MAPC Advocacy Project

Are you experiencing a challenge with your school or division that you don't know how to resolve?

Do you need help in clarifying a policy or legislation to better understand your child's school experience?

The MAPC Advocacy Project is dedicated to helping parents resolve their challenges in the education system by helping to achieve resolution that makes sense.

If you would like to more about the MAPC Advocacy Project, or would like to learn about ways that you can help, please contact the Advocacy Project Coordinator, Naomi Kruse at the MAPC office at 956-1770 or toll free at 1-877-290-4702 or visit our website at www.mapc.mb.ca

The Manitoba Association of Parent Councils is dedicated to supporting, promoting, and enhancing meaningful involvement and participation of parents in order to improve the education and well-being of children in Manitoba.

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"...identify the challenges or barriers parents and PACs are facing to contribute in a meaningful manner, well as demonstrate the successes and opportunities they enjoy as they continue working in partnership with their school communities."

Judith Cameron
President, MAPC

Dates to Remember

September is Country Music Month, Arthritis Awareness Month, Big Brothers Big Sisters Month, Muscular Dystrophy Month, Breakfast for Learning Month, and Healthy Communities Month

September 8—International Literacy Day
September 9—Fetal Alcohol Awareness Day
September 10—World Suicide Prevention Day
September 17—Sports Day in Canada
September 21—International Day of Peace, World Alzheimer's Day

October is Women's History Month, National Child Abuse Prevention Month, Community Living Month, Seniors' and Elders' Month, International Philanthropy Month, Lupus Awareness Month, Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and Autism Awareness Month

October 4—10—National Family Week
October 5—International Walk to School Day
October 9—15—Fire Safety Week
October 10—Thanksgiving, World Mental Health Day
October 12—International Day for natural Disaster Reduction
October 14—World Sight Day
October 16—World Food Day
October 17—International Day for the Eradication of Poverty
October 18—Persons Day
October 24—United Nations Day
October 27—World Day for Audiovisual Heritage
October 31—National UNICEF Day, Halloween

November is Family Violence Awareness month, Adoption Awareness month, National Community Safety and Crime Prevention Campaign, CPR Awareness Month, and Diabetes Awareness Month

November 2—Take Your Kids to Work Day
November 5—11—Veteran's Week
November 7—National Railway Day
November 11—Remembrance Day
November 14—World Diabetes Day
November 15—National Philanthropy Day
November 16—International Day for Tolerance
November 20—Sir Wilfrid Laurier Day, National Day of the Child
November 20—National Child Day
November 21—World Television Day
November 25—International Day for the Elimination of violence Against Women
November 27—Ukrainian Famine and Genocide memorial Day

December

December 1—World Aids Day
December 2—International Day for the Abolition of Slavery
December 3—International Day of disabled Persons
December 5—International Volunteer Day
December 6—International Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women
December 10—Human Rights Day
December 11—Anniversary of the Statute of Westminster
December 25—Christmas Day
December 26—Boxing Day
December 31—New Year's Eve

Quote for the day...

To bring up a child in the way he should go, travel that way yourself once in a while.

Josh Billings

MAPC NEEDS YOUR FEEDBACK

The Manitoba Association of Parent Councils is committed to its' members and is striving to increase participation at our Annual General Meeting and Conference. Despite our best intentions, we are challenged to get full representation of the majority of our members at this spring event. Do we need to improve communication? Do we need to send out the invitation earlier? Is your Parent Advisory Council struggling?

MAPC is inviting you to share your challenges with us so we can best plan our AGM and Conference and increase attendance. We want to know your thoughts on how we might achieve our goal.

Please call the office at 204-956-1770 (toll free 1-877-290-4702) or email us at info@mapc.mb.ca to give us your thoughts or ideas on how we can improve participation.

Thank you for your assistance!

Premier's Announcement— Limiting K—3 Class Size

AT the MAPC Board of Directors' Meeting in September, directors spent time discussing the recent announcement made by Premier Selinger concerning capping class size for K to 3 to a maximum of twenty students. The following points were raised during this discussion:

- What happens if a class is maxed at 20, and a child moves into the area?
- Class composition needs to be considered especially for at risk and special needs students
- Will this be used for school planning only?
- There may not be adequate space. Will this mean more portables?
- Will this create shortages in teaching staff?
- School of choice requests may be denied in greater numbers
- Combined classes may become more common. Will the teaching staff have the skills and supports to work in combined classrooms?
- Cost is a concern. Is this initiative sustainable?
- Smaller classes have advantages with more individual attention being given to students
- Will the impact on foundational skills be beneficial?
- How will this impact middle and senior year schools?
- Will rural and small schools be penalized with the potential loss of teachers if they cannot meet the cap?

As the group representing the parental voice in Manitoba's education system, MAPC contributes to these discussions at the provincial level on a regular basis.

Help MAPC to ensure we are including and representing your concerns by emailing any additional items for consideration about this topic to info@mapc.mb.ca (please include the subject line: **Limiting K-3 Class Size**).

**Ask MAPC About
Financial Reporting**

"I've recently taken over as Treasurer for our Parent Council and I am terrified that I'm going to make a mistake. Help!"

Many people are intimidated by the thought of responsibility for finances other than their own. The best way to help ease the stress is to familiarize yourself with the process required. First, does your PAC have a job description for the position? Does your school or division have requirements which need to be considered for financial reporting with PACs? Will your PAC support professional development learning opportunities for you? Does your PAC require annual audits for its financials?

Second, if there is a clear reporting system in place—use it! If not—or if it needs updating—develop one in consultation with your PAC, School Administrator, and School Division. (*Your school division contact would most likely be the Secretary-Treasurer or School Business Official*).

Always remember, all governance groups are bound by the Duty of Loyalty, Duty of Care and Duty of Obedience. If you can demonstrate that you have acted in the best interests of all three, you will be fine.

Relax and enjoy the experience! Do your best and contact MAPC with any additional questions you may have.

Do you have a question you would like to see addressed in the newsletter? Would you like to know more about helping your group to become more effective? Please email info@mapc.mb.ca or fax your request to the MAPC office at (204) 956-7780. Specific groups will not be identified within the newsletter.

**** Reprinted from the MAPC Newsletter in January 2011 *****

**Presentations Available from
MAPC for MAPC Membership!**

- Roles and Responsibilities of the PAC
- Volunteerism
- Effective Meetings

Also available, but scheduled for updating are:

- The MAPC Advocacy Project
- What is MAPC?

Presentations scheduled for creation and release later this year:

- Conflict Resolution and your PAC

If you have any questions—or would like to suggest a topic for future consideration - please contact the MAPC office.

Are You a Leader in Your School Community?

Are *you* looking for ways to increase *your* experience and knowledge of parental involvement in your community?

Are *you* looking for ways to increase your experience with Manitoba Association of Parent Councils?

Are *you* ready to take it to the next level?

If you answered “yes” to any of these questions, contact the MAPC office to speak with Executive Director, Naomi Kruse, or to make contact with any of the members of our volunteer Board of Directors, to learn more about opportunities for you to work more closely with MAPC!

Farm 2 School Fundraiser

School fundraising groups now have the option of selling healthy, Manitoba grown veggies at great rates to help them reach their fundraising goals.

The first step is to enroll your school in the program by visiting www.farmtoschoolmanitoba.ca/enroll.

Schools have from September 14, 2011 (when the first order will be accepted) until December 14, 2011 (when the last order will be accepted) to take advantage of this program.

For more information, please contact:

Farm to School Manitoba Healthy Choice Fundraiser

Phone: (204) 885-0718, Toll free: 1-866-261-0707

E-mail: info@farmtoschoolmanitoba.ca

Web: www.farmtoschoolmanitoba.ca

Upcoming Events

Remember

Save the date for Manitoba Association of Parent Councils
Annual General Meeting and Conference on April 27 and 28, 2012 at
the Victoria Inn and Conference Centre in Winnipeg.
Barbara Coloroso will be joining us as this year's Keynote Speaker, to share advice on
"Parenting With Wit and Wisdom"



MAPC has a new Facebook page,
giving *you* an easier way to keep
up with what's going on with
parents and education in Manitoba.
Check us out at
<http://www.facebook.com/mapc>
and like us today!

MAPC MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION

Thank you to the schools/divisions that have sent in your
completed registration forms.

If your school has not yet done so, visit our website at
www.mapc.mb.ca to download your copy.

Completed registration forms can be faxed to the MAPC office at 956-7780.

If you are unsure about the status of your membership,
please call the office at 204-956-1770.

*Please note, that in order to have voting privileges at our
Annual General Meeting 2012
your membership registration must be received no later than
January 27, 2012*

MAPC Board of Directors

Executive Board

Judith Cameron - President
Alanna Rawluk—Vice-President
Linda Meads—Treasurer
Marilyn Kolody—Secretary

Directors

Milli Khan
Khalid Mahmood
Lynn Nolden
Martin Simmons
Ethel Raine

Winnipeg Office

Naomi Kruse—Executive Director and Advocacy
Project Coordinator
Renee Ritchot—Administrative Assistant

Why Does Membership With MAPC Matter?

By registering as a member of Manitoba Association of Parent Councils (MAPC), you continue to ensure that the parental voice in Manitoba's education system is carried to the government and other provincial education organizations.

Membership benefits also include:

- Workshops and professional development opportunities for parent councils
- Seasonal newsletters and semi-monthly e-bulletins
- Reduced fees to attend the Annual Spring Conference
- Participation at the Annual General Meeting where *you* have the opportunity to vote on behalf of *your* parent council about matters concerning parents involved in the education system in Manitoba.

Call the MAPC office at (204) 956-1770 or toll free at 1-877-290-4702, or visit our website at www.mapc.mb.ca, to learn more about *your* membership with Manitoba Association of Parent Councils.

Contacting MAPC

If your parent group is considering booking a presentation - or is looking for some support and resources to help run your group more effectively - please contact the MAPC office and we will put you in touch with your local representative or another director who would be more than happy to assist you!

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