



Manitoba Association of Parent Councils

Math in Schools

A MAPC Forum for Parents

Here's What Attendees Had to Say!

A word about logistics of the MAPC Math Parent Forum

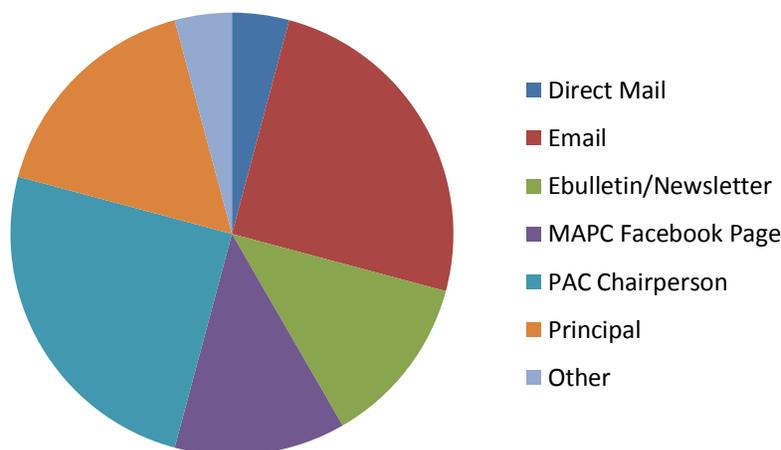
MAPC resources allowed us to plan the Math parent forum for 50 attendees. As a small non-profit with limited resources, registration for this event closed after the goal of 50 parents registered was reached (as pre-determined by the Board of Directors and Planning committee in September).

MAPC's standard registration process includes asking people to confirm that they have children in school and to provide the name of the school community. This ensures that the event serves parents with kids in school and facilitates networking among attendees. Typically, MAPC events are open only to MAPC members. However, the Board of Directors and Planning Committee identified this forum as an opportunity to introduce new parents to MAPC. People wanting to register for this event who did not identify themselves as being a parent were placed on a waiting list.

Attendees for the Math parent forum included representatives from 27 schools (public and independent), 8 school divisions, 5 MAPC board members MAPC staff (2 people), 7 invited guests, the Minister of Education and his assistant, Louis Riel school superintendent and the chair of the school board.

We are currently reviewing our registration process to identify improvement opportunities for future events, thus providing more clarity for individuals wishing to participate.

1. How did you find about the MAPC Math Forum today? Please check all that apply:



2. Was today's forum interesting / helpful?

Yes

Awesome, great panel.

Very interesting. Need more parents at the forum.

It was well done. Few areas which will help work with the kids at home.

Yes, it was interesting and helpful.

Very informative. I'm so glad I attended.

Very interesting and informative.

It was very interesting because I have 2 kids that are at different ages of learning. Getting different ways to access resources.

Yes, informative, engaging, provided both broad and specific information.

Yes. I have children in school and I got some ideas for teaching them math.

Yes – absolutely helpful.

MAPC response: *We're very pleased participants found the forum informative and helpful.*

3. What did you find most useful about today's forum?

Minister Allum's proclamation; Dr. Mason; learning differently; teachers know your child; assessments.

Importance of learning math; parent's responsibility/teacher/school division; how to engage children in math learning

Different ways of using games better for math.

Take home activities to help my child.

Resource material.

Learning about resources and that our stories and opinions will be heard/matter.

I appreciated what all the panel members had to say that explained in a very real and user-friendly manner how to embrace a different way of looking at math than I grew up learning.

The information and tips provided by Martha and Sherri Lynn.

The different resources available.

Knowing about different resources available; getting to know different perspectives.

How best to engage educators and students.

The presentation on the things we can do teach math at home.

What we can do at home; games, etc.

Collaboration of all the info; parents and professionals.

Meet parents with different and similar questions as I have. Hear interesting speeches from our speakers.

Research results; table group; activity and home environment suggestions.

The talk with parents.

MAPC response: *Glad that you found the information relevant and applicable to supporting your child in his or her math learning!*

4. What topics would you like to see discussed at a future parent forum?

Mental health

Early years

Math education is a very hot topic. We need a repeat forum on math.

Reading

Planning for university / college. What courses are needed and how do we know who to speak to; scholarships (how to find/apply).

Continue your emphasis on numeracy

History of math. Do kids learn why we use a base of 10 system? Where did our number symbols come from? Is that helpful for struggling kids to know?

Ways of working with the schools to increase club/extracurricular activities within the school day.

Children learning to use technology in schools. How is it being used and understanding where it is going in the future. Everything from smartboards to iPads to supplemental programs.

Accessing resources.

What parents need to know to build a useful toolbox.

Curriculum development and teacher training / development processes.

I would like a discussion on the math curriculum in elementary school.

More on changes in teaching and learning types. How to recognize what type your child is.

Disabilities – ADHD, Dyslexia support.

English and Science in school.

Celebrating holidays in school with kids of different backgrounds.

How to get info to the lower socio economic group.

MAPC response: *Part of how we plan parent forums and events is soliciting your feedback – thank you for your thoughtful topic ideas! They will be sent to the Board of Directors for future consideration.*

Additional Comments

Great work!

Speakers present their point of view very well – very diverse!

MAPC response: *We thought so as well and feel fortunate the presenters could share their expertise with us.*

I really enjoyed the morning.

I'd like less demonizing technology in learning. It seemed non-interactivity is the problem. Technology does not equal screens or electricity, clocks, calendars, blocks, etc. are technology as well. Also some emphasis that equals or the equal sign (=) doesn't mean "the answer is", it means "the same" $2 + 3 = 5$, but also $2 + 3 = 2 + 2 + 1 = 2 + 1 + 1 + 1 = 4 - 1$ etc. Do kids learn why we use the equal sign, once they are taught about parallel lines?

MAPC response: *We're not sure about how children are taught about parallel lines and the equal sign, but it would be a great conversation to have with your child's classroom teacher!*

I'd also like more Q & A time.

Thank you! (2x)

Excellent forum!

Glad to be part of the conversation.

Very good presentations.

Loved the morning. Unfortunate that more parents didn't show.

These events should be advertised to parents through school email. I don't have time to go on Twitter, Facebook, websites, etc. I want to, but I don't have time. Other schools have found that the most effective way of communication is through email only.

MAPC response: *MAPC is always striving to improve communication to members and utilizes several methods to achieve this. Invitations for this event were **mailed** to all schools in the province and **emailed** to all schools and PAC Chairpersons for which we have email addresses. Additionally, news of the event was published in the MAPC October newsletter , November E-Bulletin, MAPC website, Facebook and Twitter. Please continue to let us know how we can improve our communications with you!*