



MAPC Newsletter

Fall 2007

Phone: 956-1770 Toll Free: 1-877-290-4702 Website: www.mapc.mb.ca Email: mapc1@mts.net

President's Message

On behalf of the MAPC Board of Directors, I welcome you back to the school environment. As usual, there is much to be done.

Plans are underway for the 2008 AGM and Conference on May 2-3, 2008. I'm very excited to announce that *Barbara Coloroso* is our Keynote Speaker. Watch your newsletters and our website for more details.

MAPC is the only provincial voice for parent councils in Manitoba. It is only through the support of our members that we can continue to be this voice for *you*. If you know of other parent councils in our province who are not members of MAPC, please encourage them to join so they can enjoy the benefits of a strong provincial voice for parents.

I look forward to meeting as many of you as I can in the upcoming year.

Paul Croft
MAPC President

What is Advocacy?

The Manitoba Association of Parent Councils Advocacy Project (MAPCAP) defines advocacy as "speaking up for yourself or others". Advocacy is a process used to resolve an issue which involves a student, a student's parents or a group of parents, and the school.

Some examples of instances when you may need advocacy are:

- Bullying or harassment concerns
- Decision made about your child without consulting you
- A change in how you are treated because you questioned a staff member about their actions
- An unfair punishment
- How a teacher is treating your child
- A policy at your school that you feel is unfair

To learn more about MAPCAP, call the MAPC office at 956-1770 or 1-877-290-4702, or visit the website at www.mapc.mb.ca

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Quote for the day...

"We make a living by what we get, but we make a *life* by what we give."

-Sir Winston Churchill

The Anti-Bullying Video Challenge

As part of Manitoba's Safe and Caring Schools Initiative, Education, Citizenship and Youth Minister Peter Bjornson is encouraging students to participate in Manitoba's first *Not in My School!* bullying awareness video challenge this fall.

Students and teachers are asked to work together to create 30 second videotaped messages which promote safe school climates in a realistic and age appropriate manner.

Each video will be previewed by a panel of experts. The top ten finalists will then be transferred to DVD format and distributed to schools throughout the province for students to review. Students will then vote to select the top three entries. Schools associated with the top three videos will each receive a plaque and \$1000 prize. Students participating in the Review and Rate process will also have their ballots entered in a draw to win one of ten iPod Shuffles.

A new website is being launched to support the video challenge where parents, teachers, and youth can get more information, online links, and safety tips. The top three videos will be posted on this website.

For more information about *Not in my School!* please visit:

www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12safe_schools/index.html

Scholarships for Young Volunteers

Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth Minister Peter Bjornson recently announced that up to 200 young volunteers will benefit from an investment of \$100,000 to continue the Youth Leadership Scholarship Program for Grade 12 students planning to pursue a post-secondary education.

To be eligible for a Youth Leadership Scholarship, students must volunteer their time outside of school hours on projects that involve global concerns, human rights, physical activity, preventing injuries through education, and preventing disease by making healthy lifestyle choices.

Those who meet the criteria will each receive a \$500 scholarship. The number of scholarships available in each school division is determined by Grade 12 enrolment.

Youth Leadership Scholarship Program application forms are available through schools. The deadline for applications is Feb. 29, 2008. For more information, please visit <http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/youth/initiatives/youthleadershipscholarship.html> or call 945-2568 in Winnipeg or 1-800-282-8069 ext. 2568.

Time to Brag about *your* school!

If you have stories or ideas about creative things your school is doing to help student learning or parental involvement, we'd love to hear from you. Please keep stories to 100-200 words and include your name and return contact information.

Mail your contribution to:
MAPC office: Newsletter: School Innovation Challenge
1005-401 York Ave, Winnipeg MB, R3C 0P8

Volunteering

What Did I Just Sign On For??

Why do we volunteer? That is a question that generates very personal responses. We all volunteer for different reasons. Volunteering is rewarding and self-fulfilling, it helps us to connect and strengthen our community, it improves family connections when parents volunteer with their children. Volunteering teaches our kids values like kindness, respect, and tolerance. Volunteering can change lives, both our own and someone else's. It can build self esteem and create ownership. Volunteering can help to round out a resume and enhance your own personal skills which translate into the work place. It will help you meet people and make life long friendships at the same time.

This is the time of year when we start another round of volunteering for our schools, our communities or other interest groups we want to become involved with. It's important for parent volunteers to understand the actual commitment they are making to their parent councils or organizations when they choose to volunteer. Here are some areas that become a board members' responsibility when they join a volunteer board in their school or in their community.

- Board members must make every effort to attend all meetings of the board and ensure they are prepared to discuss all items being presented at that meeting.
- Board members must conduct themselves in an ethical and businesslike manner for the good of the organization.
- Discussions should be kept respectful and inclusive so that everyone has an opportunity to speak.
- Members of the board should publicly support a position taken by the board.
- Board members acknowledge that the president or chair is the spokesperson for the board.
- Board members recognize that the authority of the board is vested in the whole and not in one individual.
- When volunteering to sit on a committee board members will honor their commitment, endeavoring to complete the tasks they volunteered for, or that were assigned to them.
- Board members will be aware of policies, procedures, constitutional requirements, and all other governing documents for their organization.

Volunteering is an integral part of a thriving community. Volunteerism trains and inspires leaders to take ownership of and tackle social problems in our communities through personal, hands on service. Each day, by volunteering, you are making a difference in your school and where you live. We are all greater for that effort.

Judith Cameron
Board Of Directors, MAPC

Parenting the Net Generation

Parenting the Net Generation is an excellent workshop for parents, but especially those who have kids who are connected to the Internet.

This workshop was developed by the Media Awareness Network and has been presented throughout Manitoba. This presentation is visually appealing as well as interesting. Each workshop has enjoyed great reviews. The workshop highlights the pros and cons of the Internet and its effects on our children. Parents learn what to watch for and how to develop healthy Internet habits with their children. It also teaches parents how to work in co-operation with their Internet-savvy teens so everyone can enjoy a safe Internet experience.

Parenting the Net Generation is approximately 1.5 hours in length with time allowed for questions and answers. MAPC Board members have recently completed a training session on *Parenting the Net Generation* and now have more presenters available in your area.

You can book a presentation by contacting the MAPC office at 956-1770 or 1-877-290-4702, or by email mapc1@mts.net.

Paul Croft
President, MAPC

Upcoming Events

Did you know... Barbara Coloroso is the Keynote Speaker for the MAPC 2008 Conference at the Victoria Inn in Winnipeg on Saturday, May 3, 2008.

Attention! Parents of Grades 7-12!
Help your child to discover a successful career
Opening Doors Parent Forum
Saturday, November 3, 2007
Tec Voc High School, 1555 Wall Street, Winnipeg

MAPC Board of Directors

Executive Board

Paul Croft, President
Alanna Rawluk, Vice-President
Linda Meads, Treasurer
Eva Cameron, Secretary

Directors

Judith Cameron
Khalid Mahmood
Ethel Raine
Judy Seib
Martin Simmons
Doug Zintel

Winnipeg Staff

Naomi Kruse, Administrative Officer
Tara Traynor, Administrative Assistant

MAPC Committee Involvement

Congratulations to MAPC Board Directors, Paul Croft and Eva Cameron in their new roles with the Canadian Home and School Federation (CHSF). Eva has recently been appointed as the Manitoba Representative for CHSF, replacing Paul Croft. Paul has accepted a new appointment as Treasurer for CHSF.

Minister's Teaching Awards—Eva Cameron

Most of us remember at least one teacher who stood out among the many who influenced our lives – a teacher who encouraged, guided and inspired us to do our best. The Minister's Teaching Awards recognize innovative and exemplary teaching practices in the province of Manitoba for three categories: Teaching Excellence, Outstanding new Teacher, and Team Collaboration.

Nomination packages will be sent to your school soon.

Prime Minister's Teaching Award for Excellence—Linda Meads

This is a national program set up to recognize outstanding teachers who instil in their students a deep love of learning and help them to excel. It promotes what they have achieved and shares their innovative and successful teaching practices. Certificates of Excellence, with cash awards are awarded to the fifteen recipient's schools, and Certificates of Achievement are also awarded to another fifty. The deadline for nominations is Dec. 15, 2007. The nomination package can be downloaded at www.pma-ppm.gc.ca.

Have you sent in your registration?

It's not too late to register your membership with MAPC!

Don't forget, we are offering a one time rebate of \$10 off your membership to say *Thank You* for your support!

Visit our website at www.mapc.mb.ca to download your form!

