



# MAPC Newsletter

Spring 2008

Phone: 956-1770 Toll Free: 1-877-290-4702 Website: [www.mapc.mb.ca](http://www.mapc.mb.ca) Email: [mapc1@mts.net](mailto:mapc1@mts.net)

## Physical Education/Health Education Update

At our AGM in May 2007, our members passed a position statement requesting the government to reconsider its decision to designate Grade 11 and 12 Physical Education courses as compulsory and listen carefully to the concerns raised by all stakeholders prior to their implementation.

We wrote to the Minister of Education on May 25, 2007, informing him about the position statements which were passed at our AGM. The topics of the three position statements were:

- Effective Consultation with Parents
- Grade 11 and 12 Compulsory Physical Education/Health Education
- Graduation Requirements – Number of Credits

Normally, we meet with the Minister of Education twice a year to discuss issues of concern indicated by the parents in our province. In November 2007 five members of the MAPC Board of Directors met with the Minister. We discussed our concerns about the logistics of the implementation of these two additional high school courses.

On October 23, 2007 our President, Paul Croft, wrote to Premier Gary Doer, expressing our concerns and requesting a meeting with him. We received a reply acknowledging receipt of our letter. We wrote to the Premier again requesting a response and the opportunity to meet with him. To date, there has been no reply.

*Continued on page 3.*

## Services Available to MAPC Members

*Did you know...* Several members of our volunteer Board of Directors are able to offer our members information covering topics such as board governance, policy, bylaw, and constitution creation, and many other topics of interest and relevance to your parent council?

*Did you know...* MAPC offers our members a charitable tax receipt service to assist our members with their fundraising efforts? Charitable tax receipts are available free of charge for up to 10 receipts per group per school year. Requests above the 10 are charged 1.75 per receipt issued.

*Call the MAPC office to learn more about how we can help meet your parent councils' needs!*

### Inside this issue:

#### Page 1

- PE/HE Update
- Services Available to MAPC Members

#### Page 2

- The Secret About Career Education

#### Page 3

- PE/HE Update *cont'd*
- AGM and Conference Update

#### Page 4

- MAPC Committee Involvement
- MAPC Board of Directors

### Quote for the day...

*"If you want things to stay as they are, things will have to change."*

*- Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa*

## SSHHHHH!! It's a secret.....

Nobody's supposed to know – especially students and parents – but the SECRET is out!

The Guidance Department in your child's high school has TONS of information about careers for *your* kids. You probably knew they had information about universities and colleges from across Canada – but that's only helpful when a teenager has decided that they want to continue with post secondary schooling.

The Department of Education has created a variety of publications aimed specifically at helping young people decide what to do after high school.

Check out some of these publications:

- Focus on the Future: Career Planning Begins at Home
- Focus on the Future: Your Grad Planner
- A Self-Managed Career Portfolio Guide
- Canada Prospects – Find the Work You Love
- Manitoba Prospects – Career Information for Earthlings

They're written in a format that is easy for students and parents to understand – and help them figure out what careers may be of interest to them.

The Department of Education distributes these documents to schools and they're usually found in the guidance counsellor's office. But let's face it, sometimes teenagers have other priorities during their free time at school. Remember what it was like to be a teenager? During lunch break, were you thinking, *"I'm so glad it's break – now I can rush down to the guidance counsellor's office to get a book to tell me what job I may want after high school!"* Or were you thinking, *"How am I going to get that cute guy from science class to notice me?"*

So... it's our job as parents to help our kids get this information. We'll make it easy for you by giving you three choices:

- Phone or visit your school and talk to the guidance counsellor about what information they have available in their office.
- Check out the Department's website, [www.educ.gov.mb.ca/k12](http://www.educ.gov.mb.ca/k12) and look under *Families and Communities* to see what's available.
- Ask your son or daughter to pick up the information from their school and bring it home to read together.

The choice is yours. *Remember* – your kids have more choices after high school than hanging out in your basement watching movies until they're 25 years old.

*Now that the secret's out, go get that information!*

Alanna Rawluk  
Vice-President  
MAPC Board of Directors

*The Manitoba Association of Parent Councils  
Annual General Meeting and Conference  
Friday, May 2 and Saturday, May 3, 2008  
The Victoria Inn Hotel  
1808 Wellington Avenue, Winnipeg*

AGM and Conference Registration packages and Board Director Nomination packages have been sent out and we are eagerly awaiting on *your* response and participation!

- Did you know that Barbara Coloroso is our keynote speaker on Saturday, May 3, 2008?
- Are you looking for an opportunity to meet and network with other parents involved in their schools from across Manitoba?
- Do you know someone from your parent council interested in becoming a MAPC Board Director?
- Do you have questions about voting at our Annual General Meeting?

For answers to these questions, or any others you might have about our AGM and Conference, please visit our website or contact the MAPC office.

***Hurry! Space is limited!***

---

### **Physical Education/Health Education Update** *(Continued from page 1)*

Grant McManes, Physical Education/Health Education Consultant for Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth came to our December board meeting to provide us with further details on the government's plans for implementation of these courses. After that meeting we still had concerns about a couple of items, and to date, those concerns remain.

On December 27, 2007 we wrote to the Minister of Education, outlining our remaining concerns, specifically:

- The timelines of implementing these changes in September 2008 prior to the logistics being worked out.
- Timetabling of the additional courses and the resulting reduced selection of other electives including sciences and vocational courses for students.
- The credibility of the sign-off by parents or by students who are 18 or older.
- The burden of two additional credits as a requirement for graduation may mean some students will not graduate in four years.
- Financial implications of these courses for schools and school division. We also asked for consideration for the government to waive the cost of distance education courses for students who could not fit these courses into their timetable without sacrificing other necessary electives.

A response was received on January 22, 2008 addressing these items, however some concern still remains.

We will continue to keep our members informed on this issue. Each school and school division is developing their own strategies to help reach the goals set out by the Department of Education. We encourage you to speak with your principal to see how these changes will affect your child's timetable in the last two years of high school.

# MAPC Committee Involvement

## Agencies for School Health (ASH)

Naomi Kruse Administrative Officer/Advocacy Coordinator

This is a networking committee comprised of several agencies and education partners from around the province, dedicated to sharing information and ideas connected to students physical, emotional, and social health.

Some of the topics discussed this year were the new PhysEd/Health Ed curriculum and new programs being made available to schools and students concerning concerns such as breast cancer awareness.

Currently, we are creating our new terms of reference for the committee.

## Social Justice Committee

Naomi Kruse Administrative Officer/Advocacy Coordinator

This is a committee dedicated to creating and opening a dialogue between several agencies and education partners concerned with social justice issues and concerns in Manitoba.

Some of our sessions have included; discussion surrounding the topic of social justice and how its philosophy can be incorporated into the schools and classrooms, the definition and understanding of social justice, and a meeting with a representative of the Social Planning Council of Winnipeg.

## *Are you interested in participating in a survey research project?*

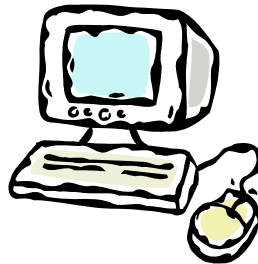
Egale Canada and Dr. Catherine Taylor of the Faculty of Education, University of Winnipeg are requesting students to participate in a confidential survey research project, designed to explore the experiences of homophobia and transphobia of students in Canadian schools. The aim of the project is to document the realities of life of students in Canada with the goal of providing policy makers and educators with information which will help make schools safer and more respectful.

If you would like to participate in or learn more about this survey, please visit [www.climatesurvey.ca](http://www.climatesurvey.ca) or contact Dr. Catherine Taylor at 204-786-9893.

## **Don't Forget!**

**Education Week is  
April 14—18, 2008**

Visit the MAPC website for ideas on how to celebrate!



## *Thank you!*

Thank you to all of our members who submitted a tender to our office for our old computer.

A new home for this equipment has been successfully found and we are now using our new system in the MAPC office.

*Thank you again for your interest!*

## 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 Office**

Naomi Kruse, Administrative Officer  
Tara Traynor, Administrative Assistant

