



MAPC Newsletter

Summer 2009

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President's Message—Judith Cameron

It's hard to believe that another school year has passed and summer is coming—despite the many challenges we are facing with the weather!

The past two months have been extremely busy. We have completed our Northern Tour where we met with both parents and administrators of *Kelsey* and *Flin Flon* School Divisions, as well as creating new friendships with parents of *Joe A. Ross School* in The Pas.

This tour was closely followed by our *Annual General Meeting and Conference* where our members were captivated by our *Keynote Speaker, J. Kevin Cameron* as he spoke about *Threat Assessment* policies and the importance of parental understanding and how we can work together to help build safe and supportive environments for our kids. The conference evaluations indicated that parents were intrigued by the topic and inspired to become more involved in their school communities as a result.

We would like to thank our Proud Supporters of this year's AGM and Conference; *Louis Riel School Division, Mountain View School Division, and Seven Oaks School Division*, as well as Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth for their ongoing support of this event.

Although we were disappointed at not receiving any nominations for the *Judy Aiken Memorial Award* promoting volunteerism by parents in Manitoba schools, we were very pleased with the response for MAPC's first *Recognition Award* of an outstanding parent council in Manitoba. School administrators and divisions were encouraged to recognize their local PAC's achievements by nominating them for this award. Congratulations to *Ecole Dieppe in Pembina Trails School Division* for being chosen as this year's recipient!

The *MAPC Advocacy Project* was invited to *Mystery Lake School District* immediately following our AGM and Conference, to meet with parents and administrators to speak about the barriers parents face when navigating the school system and how we can support each other to provide the best learning environment for both students and their families.

We have also completed our *Annual MAPC Board Directors' Retreat*, where planning for the upcoming school year took place. During this time, we welcomed our newest Board Director, *Marilyn Kolody from Sunrise School Division* as well as each of the returning Board Directors. We would also like to acknowledge the departure of two of our long term Board Directors, *Paul Croft* and *Judy Seib*, and thank them for the dedication they have shown to MAPC and for their passion for parental involvement in education.

Finally, at the recent *Canadian Home and School Federation Annual General Meeting and Conference*, held in Winnipeg last week, I was honoured to be elected as the Western Vice-President of CHSF, representing Manitoba for the upcoming year. I will make a full report to both the MAPC Board of Directors and our membership about the parental role in education as a national discussion topic and the benefits of membership with CHSF. Watch for more information in upcoming e-bulletins and newsletters!

We look forward to continuing to increase the services and supports offered to our members, promoting and enhancing the MAPC Advocacy Project, and furthering the message of the importance and benefit of meaningful parental involvement in all of our school communities. With your continued support we know we can accomplish great things together!

Have a safe and enjoyable summer!

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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

2008 MAPC Conference Networking Sessions

At the MAPC Annual Conference held on Saturday, May 2, 2009, participants were asked to discuss different topics relating to education in Manitoba. Some very lively and intelligent conversation was enjoyed by the conference delegates as a result of this session.

When asked, "*What are your opinions on combining school divisions?*" parents expressed support towards decreasing administration expenses to increase funding for programming and resources as well as providing more equality among schools in diverse demographic areas. However, concern was expressed about the possibility of divisions becoming impersonal and unable to balance the ideals which make each division "unique". Other concerns presented during the discussion included bussing , geographic consistency (I.e. Weather concerns), and school closures.

Concern was also expressed over the idea of making the combination of school divisions mandatory in Manitoba and resulted in a resulting "No" by the MAPC membership.

Delegates also discussed the playing of the National Anthem in public schools and agreed that it was an agreeable avenue for students to be taught identity, pride, and respect for Canadian heritage and culture

The final discussion saw participants explore their opinions on having the Lord's Prayer recited in public schools. The opinions were varied but generally recognized the need to acknowledge that each school community is unique and should address the topic in accordance with its local population.

If you are interested in the complete list of responses to our networking session, please visit the MAPC website at www.mapc.mb.ca

Meet the 2009-2010 MAPC Board of Directors

Judith Cameron, President —Evergreen School Division
Alanna Rawluk, Vice President—Lakeshore School Division
Linda Meads, Treasurer —Lakeshore School Division
Khalid Mahmood, Secretary —Independent

Marilyn Kolody—Sunrise School Division
Sharon Machinski—Winnipeg School Division
Ethel Raine—Prairie Spirit School Division
Martin Simmons—Independent
Doug Zintel—Louis Riel School Division

Winnipeg Office:

Naomi Kruse—Executive Director, Advocacy Project
Coordinator
Jill Miner—Administrative Assistant

Nutrition Corner

Wind-Up Party

Treat your school with these nutritious ideas for canteens, concessions, cafeterias and classrooms.

Quick and easy snacks

Apple Slices
Banana
Watermelon
Mini Carrots
Popcorn
Frozen Yogurt Tubes

If you are serving hot dogs, pair it with a nutritious choice ...

Whole Wheat Bun
Cheese Stick
Grapes
Sliced Cucumber
Fruit Cup
Pudding Made with Milk
Orange Slices
Chocolate Milk
Fruit Kabobs
Water

BBQ menu

Beef Burger on Whole Wheat Bun
Yogurt Cup
100% Fruit Juice

Canteen Recipe

Simple Fruit Smoothie

1 cup frozen strawberries
2 cups orange juice
1 banana, cut in pieces
½ cup milk
2 tablespoons sugar

Add ingredients together in blender and blend until smooth.