



MAPC Newsletter

Winter 2012

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

President's Report

MAPC is entering one of its busiest and most exciting times.

We have launched our first *Parental Engagement Survey* which we hope will provide us with valuable information to better our programs and services and give us a clear picture of parental involvement in school communities across Manitoba.

The *Best Practice Guide* for our PACs is in its final stages of development with input expected from our educational stakeholders for the final draft. Our target launch date is September 2012 for all of our members to receive a copy.

Add to the fact that the *provincial internal audit* has resulted in very positive outcomes for our organization and you can see that we are extremely excited about the future of MAPC to have strengthened our organization in so many ways!

Our upcoming *Annual General Meeting and Conference* on April 27 and 28, 2012 will be the jumping off point for a year long celebration of *100 years of a parental involvement in education*.

Please join us as we embark on a journey that has culminated in a strong, vibrant and respected MAPC.

Judith Cameron
President MAPC

Chairpersons' Breakfast 2012 a Success!

The Chairperson's Breakfast took place on January 21, 2012 and the near-capacity group in attendance actively participated in the morning's events.

Evergreen School Division Superintendent, Paul Cuthbert, joined MAPC members to discuss the importance of parental engagement and shared what is being done in his division to engage parents. I encourage you to check out the YouTube video he showed called *What Really Matters by Dr Debbie Pushor*, which illustrates the difference between being an involved parent and an engaged one. I'm sure this got a lot of us thinking about our activities in our own schools and divisions.

Attendees at the breakfast had an opportunity to learn more about *What is MAPC?* and to take part in a networking session where groups worked on solutions to problems faced by PACs. The results of that session will be posted on the MAPC website.

Thanks to everyone who attended; you helped make our morning productive and enjoyable!

Marilyn Kolody
Chairperson's Breakfast Committee Chair

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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Judith Cameron
President, MAPC

Dates to Remember

February is National Heart, National Eating Disorder, Black History, and Junior Achievement Month

February 02—Groundhog Day
February 02—World Wetland Day
February 12—18—Teacher Staff Appreciation Week (can vary)
February 14—Valentine's Day
February 15—National Flag of Canada Day
February 20—Louis Riel Day

March is Colorectal Cancer Awareness, Kidney Disease, Help Fight Liver Disease, Nutrition Month, Red Cross, and Learning Disabilities Awareness Month

March 08—International Women's Day
March 08—United Nations Day for Women's Rights and International Peace
March 12—Commonwealth Day
March 17—St. Patrick's Day
March 21—International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
March 22—World Water Day
March 23—World Metrological Day
March 27—World Theatre Day

April is Cancer Awareness, Autism Awareness, Stay Alert—Stay Safe, Dental Health, and Parkinson's Disease Month, Music Month in Manitoba Schools

April 07—World Health Day
April 08 - Easter Sunday
April 22—Earth Day Canada
April 23—Canadian Writers' Day
April 28—National Day of Mourning
April 28—Day of Mourning for Canadians Killed on the Job
April 29—International Dance Day

April is Music Month: Celebrating Music in Manitoba Schools!

Music surrounds our daily activities from infancy to adulthood, and contributes to our lives on personal, social, and creative levels. While music is an important part of the Manitoba school curriculum throughout the year, its role in education will be highlighted in April 2012 through school and community events that celebrate the skills and accomplishments of young musicians throughout the province. Visit www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/cur/arts/music_month.html for more information.

Quote for the day...

"To be in your children's memories tomorrow, you have to be in their lives today"

- Anonymous

MAPC Annual General Meeting and Conference is April 27 & 28, 2012!

**Featuring Keynote Speaker,
Barbara Coloroso,
Internationally recognized speaker
and best-selling author.**

**Register early and take advantage of
reduced conference fees.**

Manitoba Council for Exceptional Children Conference 2012

MCEC is hosting a conference on February 23rd and 24th, 2012 at the Victoria Inn and Conference Centre, Winnipeg.
Visit <http://www.manitobacec.ca/conferences.html> for all the details and to check out the line-up of presenters on the agenda.

\$500 Scholarships for Exceptional Children!

The Metro Winnipeg Council for Exceptional Children offers 2 Scholarships in the amount of \$500 each to students with Exceptionalities. The application deadline is **March 23, 2012**. These Scholarships are intended to support the Exceptional students who will continue their studies at a Manitoban Post-Secondary School (such as Red River College, the Campus Life Program at the University of Manitoba, and many more). Please view the Scholarship application on the Manitoba Council for Exceptional Children website: <http://www.manitobacec.ca/awards.html> for more information.

Did You Know?

The Manitoba Association of Parent Councils has a resource available to parents providing support on issues experienced within the school setting. "The Advocacy Project" helps parents navigate their way through the educational system which can at times, seem complex and intimidating. Visit the MAPC website at www.mapc.mb.ca or call the office for more information.

Youth Encouraging Sustainability - Showcase

The Science Council Manitoba is inviting students to participate in the Y.E.S. Showcase by submitting a project connected to sustainability in one of the following areas: Human Health, Animal Health, Social Welfare, Social Justice, Ecology, Environmental Science, Culture Geographic Issues, Economics, Philosophy, Education and Use of Resources. The Showcase takes place on May 12, 2012 at the Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre. Registration forms can be found at www.scmb.mb.ca.

Presentations Available from
MAPC for MAPC Membership!

- Roles and Responsibilities of the PAC
- Volunteerism
- Effective Meetings
- What is MAPC?

Also available, but scheduled for updating is:

- The MAPC Advocacy Project

Presentations scheduled for creation and release
within the next year:

- Conflict Resolution and your PAC
- The Role of the Parent in Education

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 school 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?

Are *you* considering the possibility of becoming a volunteer Board Director for MAPC?

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!

The Manitoba School Boards Association Convention 2012

The MSBA Convention is planned for March 15th - 17th, 2012 at the Delta Winnipeg. This year's theme is *Leadership for 21st Century Learning*. The agenda includes keynote speakers, **Craig Kielburger**, Co-Founder of *Free The Children* and **Marc Kuly**, who uses a story-telling approach to bring together diverse groups of students. Visit the MSBA website for more conference information - www.mbschoolboards.ca/index.php.

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.
Registration packages have been included with this mail out and are also available on our website at www.mapc.mb.ca.
Voting packages for members will be sent out the first week of March 2012.



MAPC has a new Facebook page and Twitter profile, giving *you* an easier way to keep up with what's going on with parents and education in Manitoba.

Check us out at
www.facebook.com/mapcmb
www.twitter.com/mapcmb

MAPC MEMBERSHIP CONTINUES TO GROW!

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

To date, we have membership representation from
27 school divisions and over
325 schools throughout the province!

Call the MAPC office if you are unsure of your membership status and to find out more about the benefits of membership!

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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