



Prince Albert and Area Teachers' Association

# NEWSLETTER

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December  
2007

## ... from the President's desk

Tis the Season, Ho Ho Ho. So, interviews and report cards are a thing of the past. The Roughriders won the Grey Cup. Christmas is just around the corner. Can things get much better than that??

The bus for Showcase '08 is filling quickly. If you want a seat, please contact the office ASAP to get a seat on the bus. This month, details regarding sessions, scheduling, locations, etc. should be on the STF website. Make sure you check it out.

The executive are in the process of meeting with both school boards. We appreciate the input members have given us for both these meetings. It is important to us that you relay your concerns and kudos to us so that we may pass them along on your behalf.

Our association is getting ready to look at possible resolutions to STF Spring Council. If you have any topic you would like considered for resolution, please let your school rep know so that it can be passed along.

I hope that everyone is able to have a relaxing, fun-filled break from their regular routine. The new year will be upon us before we know it. Merry Christmas Everyone.

- Debbie McPherson

## STF Accountability Forum - October 18

(Mel Kelley represented PAATA at this forum. The following is his report of the seminar)

Thank you for the invitation to attend the STF Accountability Forum on behalf of the PAATA on October 18<sup>th</sup> facilitated by Andy Hargreaves.

Mr. Hargreaves spoke of a new model of public management that builds from the bottom and is steered (creating vision) from the top, and that also takes into consideration what he called Lateral Capacity (peer driven change, teachers working with teachers (PLC groups), schools with schools) and Community Engagement (parents, social services, the School Plus concept).

A key concept of the day that I considered very significant was the interchange of the word *accountability* for the word *responsibility*. For me accountability has the feeling that we must be doing something wrong and someone is watching to tell us how to fix it where the term responsibility allows the profession to create its own vision, plan and assessment for student learning.

Mr. Hargreaves outlined the four quadrants of an Accountability Framework. The vertical went from Summative to Formative intersected by the horizontal going from Internal to External. TRUST is a key ingredient. Accountability is about three forms of Trust or Betrayal - Communication (positive, frequent & reciprocal), contract (agreement between people - usually formal; often written) and Competence (trust their capacity to be competent or become competent). If the emphasis is on communication then less time will need to be spent on contract and competence.

To create sustainability one needs a moral purpose which matters and is defensible and clear. We are moving to shorter timelines from long term thinking. Professional Learning Communities allow for the development of leaders from within. PLC's provide the framework for teachers to work with teachers; schools with schools to explore assessment data and a diverse and broad curriculum to improve student learning. Key sources of energy renewal is happiness in their work and the opportunity for life long learning. Build on the BEST of the past.

Although the workshop was an Accountability forum the content covered would also be applicable to a workshop on school effectiveness. Thanks for the opportunity.

- Mel Kelley

## Winter Aquacise Classes

Starting January 8, 2008

Ending: March 20, 2008

Open to all Sask. Rivers employees.

Tuesdays and Thursdays

Frank Dunn Pool

3:45 - 4:30 p.m.

For more information contact Arleen @764-5766

## REMINDER

January Rep meeting is on

Wednesday, January 9

4:45 p.m.

Marlboro Inn

**\*\*\* please contact the office if you are not attending\*\*\***

## Carlton SRC presents

**Graduation Fashion Show 2007**

**December 19, 2007 - 7:00 p.m.**

**Carlton Lecture Theatre**

Tickets in advance

or at door - \$5.00 each.

**Featuring Fashions by:**

< Craft Haven Unique Weddings

< Tux and Tails

**Sponsoring: Relay for Life**

For further info contact:

Mrs. Wendy Murray 922-3115 ext. 219

**Convention Meeting - Monday, January 21<sup>st</sup>  
- 4:15 p.m. John Diefenbaker School.**

We would like to clarify what this committee is for and doing this year. This is NOT a Showcase '08 information committee. This committee is our local convention committee. Since we don't have a convention to prepare for this year, we are taking this opportunity to look at our convention, make needed changes to committees, time-line and responsibilities. Each school has an appointed Convention rep. We need to have some of these reps attend these meetings and help with the work of this committee. Our hope that with restructuring some of the committee responsibilities we can more evenly spread out the work amongst the committees, making the work each person has to take on a little less daunting. It is imperative that we have participation from BOTH school divisions. We are looking at a change of venue for the 2009 convention. We are also trying to look at booking keynotes as soon as possible and input from our members would be helpful. Any suggestions/ changes that you might think should be considered should be presented at this January meeting. We hope to see more people at this meeting.

**Showcase Bus**

A bus has been booked to travel to Showcase each day. The cost is \$38 and will buy a seat for both days. We are not selling single day seats. If you are only attending one day, you might want to buddy up with someone who is going the second day. Even still, the price is right no matter what. The bus is almost half full so if you are interested you need to contact the office ASAP. [paata@sasktel.net](mailto:paata@sasktel.net) Payment is due by February 6 or your seat will be sold to someone else.

If there is enough interest for a second bus (56 people) we will attempt to book a second bus.

**Substitute Teachers**

Last call to pick up a copy of this year's PATA telephone directory. Unclaimed copies will be commandeered to other members. Call 764-0299 to make arrangement for pick-up.

**STF Spring Council**

**Hospitality Room Door Prizes**

Once again we are asking that the crafters and artisans amongst us, keep in mind that our councilors are looking for donations for Spring Council.

*The Equity Committee would like to thank all of those who participated in the White Ribbon campaign to recognize the Elimination of Violence Against Women.*

**Call for Resolutions**

**What changes in STF procedures would you like?  
Consider drafting a resolution!**

Resolutions fall under the following categories:

- < Social and Political Advocacy - resolutions usually involve lobbying the Government or making changes to STF Bylaws.
- < Professional Stewardship and Responsibilities - resolutions usually involve issues with the Code of Ethics or Code of Conduct and their procedures.
- < Economic Services - resolutions regarding provincial bargaining (salary and teacher classification, etc.) and member benefits (retirement plans, health plan, income continuance plan, dental plan, etc.)
- < Governance and Administration - resolutions involving changes to STF policy and/or bylaws or the appointment of ad hoc committees to study certain issues.

Please e-mail your resolution to [a.gareau@sasktel.net](mailto:a.gareau@sasktel.net) or fax 764-2947 by January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2008. If you need assistance drafting your resolution do not hesitate to contact Andrea Gareau at Wesmor Community High School. Thank you for your assistance.

**Showcase 08 Info**

- < Names of all break-out/small group sessions facilitators, title names of break-out/small group sessions will be up on the website mid-December. Please take note of which block they will be offered in.
- < Individuals will be responsible for pulling down the program info relevant to them to bring with them to the conference.
- < Arrangements are being made at TCU Place and Prairieland to offer a light breakfast and a light lunch for pay. This could be an alternative to finding a restaurant for these meals.
- < Both the For-Profit and Not-For-Profit tradeshow will run each day; 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. including the noon hours. All are encouraged to go to both tradeshow. There will be a wealth of material and info available.
- < A shuttle bus service will be available between venues.
- < Free parking will be available at Prairieland. You can use the shuttle to get downtown.

**3M** members  
miscellaneous  
messages

**For Sale**

- 1) Large heated doghouse - \$100
- 2) Change Table - \$30
- 3) Crib - \$25
- 4) 20" TV with stand - \$65

Call: 764-3386

**Found**

1 pair clip-on sunglasses, rectangular shape, left at September PAATA rep meeting. Please contact the office to claim..

**Deadlines**

**SRSD - Ed Leave**

- < January 15 is the deadline for applications for Education Leave.
- < A copy of guidelines and application form is on the school division website - Staff Room - Employee Forms and Manuals - HR Department - STF.