



Prince Albert and Area Teachers' Association

NEWSLETTER

(306) 764-0299 phone

(306) 764-1430 fax

Box 2213

Prince Albert, SK S6V 6Z1

paata@sasktel.net

www.stf.sk.ca/local_assoc/paata/paata.html

February

2008

... from the President's desk

Brrrrrr. . . . How have you managed during this cold snap we've had? Between my car heating going dead and my garage door opener dying, it was a challenge to keep myself going in the cold. Let's hope we don't experience another one of these spells again this winter. I know that I am really looking forward to my Easter vacation south.

Hopefully, you have taken, or will take the time necessary to plan your sessions for showcase. It will make the experience less stress free if you arrive with a plan. There are a few seats still available on the PAATA bus to Showcase if you are interested in leaving the driving to us. Contact the office ASAP.

There are several STF committees looking for members. If you are interested in any of them, please contact me at the office and let me know.

We have started to look at the school calendar for the next 1-3 years. PAATA has been asked for input. The executive and the rep assembly have looked at these calendars. If you have any comments or suggestions, please talk to your staff rep so they can be passed along or to your school administration. The convention committee is anxious to get a speaker booked for convention '09 (yes, we are working on advance planning).

Speaking of convention, we have been having some organizational meetings, using this extra time to look at how our committees are organized and what are everyone's assigned duties. We would like to have equal representation from both school divisions. We need a few more interested teachers from the Catholic Division to join in our work. Perhaps some of the people who submitted their name as their staff convention rep would consider joining us. We would welcome you with open arms. We are also looking for a volunteer who might be interested in working with displays.

Your executive continues to work on your behalf both locally and provincially. There are many meetings and committees with work for them to do. Make sure you thank them when you see them. They have taken on the extra work on our behalf.

- Debbie McPherson

McDowall Foundation for Research into Teaching

Deadline for applications is **March 31, 2008.**

2008 Short Course Planning

The STF is seeking assistance to plan the Short Course Program. This year they are offering the program in a short timeline to assist teachers in making their summer plans.

Courses will take place from Tuesday, August 5 to Tuesday, August 19 only. They are hoping to advertise well in advance so that you can include their program when planning their summer break.

They are looking to us to generate ideas for courses we would like to see offered. Courses can be from 1 to 5 days each and can be offered throughout the province. Topics such as art, computers, general curriculum, equity, instructional strategies, student evaluation and classroom management are a few ideas that have been offered.

If you have any suggestions, comments or recommendations, please contact the PAATA office or the STF directly (Lynn Brown-Member Services). If you might be interested in leading/presenting a course, contact Debbie for a copy of the form. They would like suggestions submitted by **February 15th**.

Collective Bargaining Policy Working Committee

In 2008-2009, the STF will conduct a review of its policy on collective bargaining. To assist in this review a working committee of teachers will be formed to assist staff at 2 sessions scheduled for April 3-5 and May 2-3, 2008. The committee will include 2 association presidents, 2 councillors, 2 present or former LINC chairs or members and 2 teachers/principals/vice-principals at large selected from what is hoped to be a large pool of interested candidates. It will be balanced as much as possible, by gender, geographic area, career stage/experience and position/role.

If this topic interests you please consider serving on this committee. The deadline for applications is February 8, 2008.

Please direct letters of interest to Nora Worby, (STF, 2317 Arlington Avenue, Saskatoon, SK S7J 2H8 or mervices@stf.sk.ca) stating relevant experience. Expenses for subs and travel will be covered by the Federation according to STF Policy.

Calling all Crafters/Artists

We are still looking for donations for our PAATA Hospitality Room @STF spring Council. We would be grateful for any and all donations. Let your school rep know if you have something to contribute. Thanks!

Showcase Bus

Last call for the remaining few seats on the bus to Showcase.

Contact the office ASAP.

SHOWCASE INFO

February 21 and 22, 2008 (Thursday and Friday)

PAATA Bus to Saskatoon

The bus will leave Carlton parking lot at 7:00 a.m. each day. It will drop off at TCU place.

The bus will pick up at TCU Place at 4:00 p.m.

If you are not riding the bus both ways each day, please let us know so that we don't sit waiting for someone who is not going to show

Parking at Prairieland Park

In an effort alleviate the downtown parking congestion, there is ample, free and overnight parking available at Prairieland. The main gates close at 7:00 p.m., however there is access via Lorne Ave. by Sports On Tap (formerly Emerald Casino). Please make sure your vehicle is locked and valuables have been removed.

Shuttle Bus Service at Showcase

A shuttle bus schedule and route will be added to the website closer to the event.

Special Event

U of R Faculty of Education grads are invited to attend a reception held in conjunction with Showcase - February 21 - 5:00 p.m. - Hilton Garden Inn.

Venues

TCU Place

35-22nd Street East

Hilton Garden Inn

90-22nd Street East

Prairieland Park

503 Ruth Street West

Sheraton Cavalier

612 Spadina Crescent East

Odeon Events Centre

241-2nd Avenue South

Radisson Hotel

405-20th Street East

University of Saskatchewan

College Drive

SHOWCASE INFO

February 21 and 22, 2008 (Thursday and Friday)

Session Schedule

Morning Session 9:30 - 11:30

Afternoon Sessions 1:30 - 3:30

Meals

Arrangements are being made to have a breakfast and lunch available at TCU Place and Prairieland. No details are available as yet.

If you are venturing out to a restaurant, reservations are encouraged.

Keynotes

Dr. Michelle Borba
Steve Brinder
Dr. Keith Jeffrey
Stuart McLean
Dr. Charles Ungerleider

All 5 keynotes are available during all 4 sessions.

Make sure you visit the website to choose your sessions in advance. There will not be a formal program available on site. Session availability is on a first come basis. When a session is full, the doors will be closed and you will have to go elsewhere. Plan ahead and know where you want to be so you can arrive in time to take in the sessions you choose.

Trade Shows

The For-Profit trade show will be housed at TCU Place.

The Not-For-Profit trade show will be held at Prairieland Park

Coffee is available on site. Bringing along a travel mug might be a good idea.