



Prince Albert and Area Teachers' Association

NEWSLETTER

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

! 2009

... from the President's desk

As I write this, the temperature is again hovering near the 0 mark. It has certainly been an up and down month for the weather. It hardly seems possible that January has come and gone. It seems like I just got back from the Christmas break. Before we know it, February break will be here and gone as well.

During the February break, I will be attending the Saskatoon Teachers' Association Convention. They are hoping to bring together convention chairs from across the province to share ideas and perhaps share bookings of keynote speakers. I'm looking forward to the opportunity to exchange ideas with other convention organizers and hopefully coming back with some great tips to make the job a little easier.

I would encourage all of you to take a look at the STF Brief to the Minister. It can be accessed on the STF website. Later in the year we will be asking for comments and input about provincial priorities and local association priorities and member priorities. Your input is always appreciated.

There are a lot of deadlines approaching for different events, registrations, and applications. Make sure you check out the upcoming opportunities and take advantage of the ones you might be interested in. Read the STF Bulletin and visit the STF website. You'd be surprised at all the items you and your children can take advantage of.

The classroom is a very busy, hectic place and often we forget to step out of our spaces and see what's going on around us and for us to take advantage of. If the load is getting you down, pause for a moment, have coffee with your colleagues, yuk it up in the staff room for a few minutes. It's amazing what a lift it can be to your day to step away and take a breath of comraderie.

- *Debbie McPherson*

CONVENTION 09

The committee is busily working on the scheduling of sessions for convention. Thank you to all who put their name forward to lead a workshop. The response has been great. If you offered your expertise you will be contacted with the details of where and when your session will be held.

Our major concern during convention is parking. This is a heads up that adequate parking is an issue. Please plan ahead and make arrangements to car pool or be dropped off at St. Mary's if possible. Don't spend your early morning circling and circling, looking for somewhere to park.

Pre-Retirement Seminar

The Prince Albert Seminar will be held on March 5th. Deadline for registration is February 9th. A registration form has been circulated in the STF Bulletin. If you require a copy of the form, contact the PAATA office - 764-0299. If registration is insufficient, the session may be cancelled.

STF Post-Secondary Education Prizes

The STF provide several prizes for children of STF members who are students at a post-secondary institution. If you are interested, please check the STF web-site for details about the application process.

Applications must arrive at the Saskatoon STF office by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 31, 2009.



2009 STF Short Course Program Planning

The STF is in the process of planning for the 2009 Short Courses. This year courses will be held from **Monday, July 20th to Friday, July 31st** only.

They welcome any suggestions for session topics and presenters. They would appreciate any recommendations, comments or suggestions you can provide so that the course offerings will provide for teacher need and interest.

If you have any questions or would like a form to submit an idea for a short course, please contact Debbie at the PAATA office. (764-0299)

“Inside Out” with Alison Starks

Looking for resources on environmental issues? Interested in creative ways to add global issues to the classroom? Feel passionately about poverty, peace education, water conservation, or similar topics? Just want to get outside? Me too!

I'm a Carlton and Saskatchewan Rivers' Outdoor School graduate. I've continued my love of outdoor learning and teaching at university where I'm in the education program. I'm developing *Inside Out* to work with teachers to **integrate global, environmental and outdoor education into classrooms**. I'd love to share activities, tips, lesson plans, resources and ideas with you. I'm project WILD certified, have extensive summer camp leadership experience, have taken classes in global education and workshops on geocaching and Peace clubs. Intrigued about what I can do for you or what we can come up with together? Please call 764-2130 anytime or email alisonb@ualberta.ca



Call for Research Proposals Dr. Sterling McDowell Foundations for Research Into Teaching

The Foundation provides the opportunity to receive financial support for research aimed at improving teaching and learning in our schools. All are invited to apply for funding for teacher-led research activities that begin after July 1, 2009.

**The deadline for applications is
March 31, 2009**

Assistance in making an application may be obtained from:

McDowell Foundation
2317 Arlington Ave.
Saskatoon, SK S7J 2H8
Toll Free: 1-800-667-7762
Email: mcdowell@stf.sk.ca

DID YOU KNOW???

There are hotels in Regina and Saskatoon who have offered special preferred rates to members of the STF. Go to the STF web-site for a complete list of participating hotels.