

Prince Albert and Area Teachers' Association

NEWSLETTER

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November 2003

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

... from the President's desk



Many of you are in the middle of report card and parent-teacher-student interview season in your school. Please remember to offer your assistance to the new members on staff and ensure that they understand the procedures that have been developed in your school for dealing with this important time. It is so easy to forget that it took each of you some effort and possibly some frustration to get comfortable with that new report card and that 'integrate' computer program while dealing with the 'anticipation' of overseeing the first set of interviews where you had to 'fly solo'.

This past month included attendance at Fall Council for our 11 councillors as well as attendance at our very successful Honorary Members and Induction Banquet. The provincial bargaining surveys have been summarized and sent off to the STF. Provincial bargaining will be the main topic of discussion at the December 6th Special Meeting of Council where the asking package will be finalized. Thank you to those of you who took the time to complete the surveys and submit them. Each councillor has a copy of the summarized results from our area.

This newsletter will be provided to school reps on the day of the Provincial Election. I hope that many of you found the information circulated in the special election of the Bulletin helpful.

A wreath will be laid on behalf of the P.A.A.T.A. at the Remembrance Day Ceremony on November 11th.

As a member of the staff at Carlton I would like to thank all of you who provided us with your support over these last few weeks. Thank you for the flowers, cards, food and prayers at our time of loss. Terry and Janet will be sorely missed. I encourage you to sign the petition that will be circulating soon that requests that highway #11 between Prince Albert and Saskatoon be twinned. I also encourage each of you to write a letter to your MLA asking them to make the twinning of this portion of highway #11 a priority. Thank you for your anticipated support.

- Andrea Gareau

Convention 2003 Workshops

Your convention committee has been met and is in the process of planning Day 2 of our March convention. Do you have an idea for a session and/or presenter? We welcome your input! **Next meeting - Thursday, November 13th - 4:00 p.m. - Carlton. New members are welcome!**

Contact Marilyn Young (myoung@carlton.paschools.pa.sk.ca) or fax: 764-1770.)



Convention 2004

“Learn Together - Make A Difference”

Day 1 - March 15th

**Dr. Richard DuFour and
Rebecca DuFour (SIAST)**

“Understanding Professional Learning Communities”

The convention committee is collaborating with the Sask. Rivers School Division to bring this popular but expensive speaker to ALL of our members. The convention committee is helping to fund the event but, much of the planning is being looked after by Sask. Rivers. In order to bring this high quality speaker to Prince Albert at a reasonable rate for all of us, this event has been advertised provincially and participants from outside our divisions are being charged \$120 for EACH day.

Day 2 - March 16th

Small Group Workshops (Carlton)

For the General Membership of the P.A.A.T.A.

March 16th - Dr. Richard DuFour and Rebecca DuFour (Arts Centre) “Action Plan: First Steps to Becoming a Professional Learning Community” - For Administrators from both Sask. Rivers and P.A. Catholic (and individuals from other school divisions who are attending).

Dr. Richard DuFour

Richard DuFour is one of the foremost authorities on applying the principles of *Professional Learning Communities* in the real world of schools. His leadership of Adlai Stevenson High School over two decades helped Stevenson garner national recognition. The United States Department of Education has described Stevenson as one of the most recognized and celebrated schools in America - a four-time recipient of the USDE's Blue Ribbon Award, one of the first comprehensive high schools presented with USDE's New American High School award, and one of the top schools in North America in the Advanced Placement Program. Dr. DuFour has received his state's highest award as both a principal and superintendent and has authored books, videos, featured columns, and over forty articles on practical strategies to improve schools.

Rebecca DuFour

As the principal of Bonnes Mill Elementary School in Franklin County, Virginia, Rebecca DuFour helped her school win the Governors Award of Excellence and recognition as a model professional learning community -- despite the fact that per pupil expenditures in her county ranked in the bottom ten percent of the state. Rebecca is one of the featured principals in two Video Journal programs: *Effective Leadership in an Era of High Standards* and *Elementary Principals as Leaders of Learning*. She is co-author of *Getting Started: Reculturing Schools to Become Professional Learning Communities* and has presented at national conferences and for school districts, universities, and state departments of education throughout North America. She was selected by that National Association of Elementary School Principals to develop and conduct its summer institute program to train principals to lead learning communities.

Thank you!

Many compliments have been received regarding the beautiful Honorary Members and Induction Banquet held at the Marlboro on Tuesday, October 21st. Thank you to the members of the planning committee:

Marie Keir (chairperson)
Jack Sander
Bev Scheirer

Elaine Beres
Louise Phaneuf
Andrea Gareau

Karen Walliser
Sheila Brown
Shannon Fiddler

How Much Do You Know About Your Benefit Plans?

To Learn More About Your Plans Visit: The Saskatchewan Teachers' Superannuation Commission Site: www.stsc.gov.sk.ca. The Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation Site: www.stf.sk.ca.

Within these sites are valuable information regarding your Life/Disability Insurance, Pension plans and Health and Dental plans.

Did You Know . . . If you have not assigned a beneficiary, your life insurance benefits will be paid to your estate and benefits **are therefore taxable and subject to probate charges?** [Beneficiary forms are available on-line at the Teachers' Superannuation Commission Site - Click on "Forms for Group Life Insurance Plan"]

Did You Know . . . When a teacher dies and leaves no surviving spouse or dependents, the teacher's pension contributions and interest are refunded to the teacher's estate and **are therefore added to any probate costs of administering the estate** unless an alternate nominee has been assigned?

[For teachers under the 'old' plan (TSP) forms to appoint nominee(s) are available by phoning the Teachers' Superannuation Commission 1-877-364-8202 or mail@stsc.sk.ca]

[For teachers under the 'new' plan (STRP - if you started teaching after 1980) forms to appoint nominee(s) are available on the STF site - click on the "Forms" hot button]

Thank you!

The October 5th World Teacher's Day walk was attended by a small but enthusiastic group of teachers and family members. It was a beautiful day for an hour long walk followed by a visit over a juice, muffin and fruit.

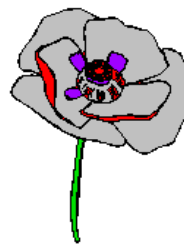
Thank you to the members of the program committee: Linda Bates (chair), Terry Jelinski, Kim Simpson, Cindy Parenteau and Andrea Gareau.

Inductees to the STF

Darcy Arpin	Patricia Kuntz
Tracey Astrope	Traci LaRose
Peter Bain	Dan Lato
Jesse Barlow	Candace Longjohn
Jolene Bast	Lisa Martin
Dean Bernier	Jeremy Mewis
Michelle Blais	Teresa Miller
Ray Cederwall	Jaime Mirtle
Lisa Chernysh	Brent Morton
Dennis Corcoran	Melissa Mushka
Jocelyn Curtis	Nicole Neisz
Jacalyn Elder	Angela Nordstrom
Sharlene Fontaine	Victoria Oldershaw
Taryn Giesbrecht	Sherry Radic
Janelle Gobeil	Natalie Reeder
Patrick Helgason	Jenny Riviere
Kara Helms	Shauna St. Amand
Kelsa Henry	Terri Schrader
Tracy Hill	Carmen Stewart
Elisa Hryniuk	Terra Turgeon
Jennifer Huddleston	Lynnae Wagner
	Samara Worth

Teachers Welcomed To the P.A.A.T.A.

Cathy Anderson	Lori-Anne Bayda
Sherry Boyle	Candace Coderre
Debi Coffin	Chris Dumelie
Jill Helgason	Karen Horsman
Shelly Krammer	Maurice Lemire
Janice McLean	Mark Rolfes



Lest We Forget

Fall Council

Fall Council felt a bit more like summer council with the balmy weather. The predominate topic was the Governance Review. The 92-page document concerning the operations of the federation and council was discussed at length in small groups before being passed with a single amendment. The principles of educational funding was brought up in a brief prepared by the Commission on Financing Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education which is timely considering the upcoming election and bargaining. Related to finances was the issue of changes to ICP to accommodate rising costs.

The Council was educated on the School plus philosophy. Many schools in the province have been moving towards school plus for several years. For others it is a new venture into the partnerships of community, human services, and health care within the school. The topics of assessment, accountability and aboriginal education were also discussed in relation to School plus. Provincial bargaining was touched on briefly but will be dealt with in-depth at a special meeting of the council in December.

As a new councillor I was a bit dazed at the amount of information handled in each session. It was helpful to be sitting with experienced members with long memories to explain the history and background of certain topics. I enjoyed the discussion on the STF issues and current events. I look forward to the camaraderie of the next meeting.

Nicole Charlebois

DR. STIRLING MCDOWELL
Foundations
FOR
RESEARCH INTO TEACHING

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US IN

Learning From Practice

An Exchange of Teacher Knowledge and Research

**Feature Theme:
Creating a Safe Caring Climate**

**THE 9TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE
OF THE MCDOWELL FOUNDATION**

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14 &
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2003
TRAVELODGE HOTEL— SASKATOON, SK**

This year's exchange will have strands focussing on:

- educational issues and ideas explored by McDowell researchers
- how to conduct action research
- opportunities for teachers, administrators and researchers to interact, celebrate and extend knowledge about teaching and learning

Registration is complimentary and some financial support for attendance is available to teachers through local associations. This event is organized through the Saskatchewan Professional Development Unit. To register or receive further information please contact:

Saskatchewan Professional Development Unit
2317 Arlington Avenue, Saskatoon, SK S7J 2H8
Phone: 1-800-667-7762 or (306) 373 1660

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE FOUNDATION AND
TEACHER RESEARCH, VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT:
WWW.MCDOWELLFOUNDATION.CA

**Impact in the
School^{PLUS}
Environment**

EQUITY

A Seminar
Sponsored by the
Equity in
Education Forum

**Thursday &
Friday
November
20-21, 2003**

Multipurpose
Room
Riddell Centre
University of
Regina

**Join us for stimulating thinking and
professional development on educating
for justice in the School^{PLUS} environment!**

Thursday, November 20 (7:00 PM)

- Public lecture by Dr. Verna St. Denis "Rethinking Cultural Revitalization in Aboriginal Education"

Friday, November 21 (8:30 AM - 4:15 PM)

- Panel Presentation and Audience Response "Equity in the School^{PLUS} Environment: What Will It Look Like?"
- Roundtable Sessions include: Racism, The Effects Of Poverty, Minorities And School Law, Work Placement Strategies, Gendered Environments, Supporting Gay And Lesbian Students

Register Today:

Fax: 306.585.4880 (Attention: Meredith Cherland)
Email: meredith.cherland@uregina.ca
Mail: Meredith, Faculty of Education
University of Regina, Regina, SK S4S 0A2

REGISTRATION FEE \$45/person

Registrations and fees should be received by November 14