



Multilingual Association of Regina

NEWSLETTER

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Jan-March.2008
ISSN 1483-9660

President's Message

Indu Jaiswal

The year 2008 marks the 30th anniversary of MLAR. This is a time to reflect back and evaluate our achievements, and as well to look forward into the future. We congratulate our teachers, volunteer board members, and office coordinators, all of whom together make us what we are today.



The other highlight is that 2008 has been chosen as the "Year of International (Heritage) Languages". MLAR with SOHL recently celebrated an event entitled "Open House" to celebrate the year. The event was well attended by over 350 people. There were Heritage Language School display tables, entertainment, food, and a get together at Balfour Collegiate on April 5, 2008.

Welcome to two new schools: (1) Philippine Language School, and (2) Norwegian Language School. We wish you both the best of futures in teaching heritage languages.

Starting from New Year with all our formed committees, the Professional Development Committee (PDC) started working hard in spite of severe cold weather, and met several times to present the annual workshop for Heritage Language Teachers. MLAR and SOHL jointly presented this workshop entitled "*The Use of Games and Activities to Teach Vocabulary and Language in Heritage Language Schools*", held on March 28 and 29 2008 at the Travelodge Hotel on South Albert Street. The workshop had a remarkable turnout. The overall evaluations were positive, indicating the success of the event.

Immediately following the above workshop, the RMC Committee began to work planning the annual Teachers' Award Night celebration. As in past years, we will have

two categories of awards: one for new teachers (up to 5 years), and one for long-term teachers. Information needed for this event has already gone out to all schools. We wish all teachers good luck and express our appreciation to all heritage language teachers. Please remember the award night date, time and place: May 12th, 2008, starting at 6:30 P.M. at the Travelodge Hotel, South Albert Street, and make it one of your priorities to attend.

With the earlier resignation of MLAR'S volunteer office coordinator Jeanette Pageot, we undertook the process of hiring a new coordinator. There were 28 applicants, and Mr. Emile Carignan was hired in April 2008. Emile brings a wealth of experience to MLAR. Please help me in extending our warmest welcome to Emile. His office hours are 10:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. Monday to Wednesday, plus Friday.

MLAR and SOHL conducted Heritage Language School visitations during the winter semester, and we are planning to continue such visitations.

We urge all Heritage Language Schools to send us their success stories, articles, special celebrations, student and teacher photographs, or whatever you would like to share with everyone through our Newsletter. Next issue will be in August/September 2008. Also, feel free to ask for any help MLAR could provide to your school.

In closing, I would like to thank our funding organizations, supports and partners: SOHL, SaskCulture, Saskatchewan Education, School Boards, RMC, Canadian Heritage, Sask Lotteries, Balfour and Campbell Collegiates. Thanks also to MLAR board and committee members, and to principals and teachers of Heritage Language Schools, parents, students and all volunteers. Last but not least, to Mrs. Jeanette Pageot for providing "service with a smile", and for extending her stay with MLAR until we found a new office coordinator, and again, welcome Emile to MLAR.

Stay safe, enjoy spring with families & friends

Heritage Teachers' Workshop



A very well attended and very successful Heritage Language Teachers' Workshop was held at the Travelodge Hotel, South Albert Street on March 28-29, 2008. The Workshop Facilitator was Cathy Bettschen pictured to the right. 35 participants submitted an evaluation of the workshop. Responses are summarized below.



Respondents by Category	
Number of Volunteers	5
Number of School Coordinators	7
Number of Language Teachers	26
Number of Parents	1
(Some respondents indicated 2 categories)	39

Summary of some Positive Comments:

Presenter was well organized and personable
Lots of activity ideas, great workshop
Good variety of activities, games, very entertaining
Included material for all ages
Information sharing, actual materials displayed
Many new ideas, clear examples.
Information was presented in an organized fashion
What I learned will make me more effective in my work.
My objectives for attending this workshop ere achieved
The session was the right length for the information.
The session content was appropriate to my teaching level.
Many ways to teach children language with entertainment
Many new ideas, clear examples, wonderful facilitator.

Summary of How Workshop could be Improved:

Great workshop - no need to improve
Could have more materials, more presenters
Could have more group work, more examples
Could have more games/activities for high school kids
Could have an Adult 1-hour workshop for some
Could make use of Powerpoint presentations

Heritage Languages Open House

On April 5 2008, SOHL and MLAR jointly sponsored the Annual Open House at Balfour Collegiate, attended by more than 350 people. Below are photos taken during this event.



RMS Chairman Ved Arora addressing the audience



Photos of some of the Entertainment provided



Can you **recognize** anyone in these photos? Were you There?

MLAR Office Coordinator Changes

As many of you are already aware, Jeanette Pageot resigned as Office Coordinator at the end of December 2007. However, she agreed to continue to provide services to MLAR until a replacement could be found. We greatly appreciate her willingness to help us out in this way for the months of January, February and March, and we wish her the best in any new endeavors.

On April 1, 2008, Emile Carignan took on the tasks of Office Coordinator. Emile hails originally from Ponteix Saskatchewan where he completed his Grade 12, then obtained his Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Education Degrees from the University of Ottawa. He and his wife of 48 years, Leona, have 3 children (Robert, Joanne, Denis), 6 grandsons, 2 granddaughters and 1 great grandson. He is a former High School teacher and Principal (14 years), has worked as a Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, Instructor of Computer Applications for office staff, Community Planner, Director of Programs and Services, finishing his career as an Economic Development Planner and Project Manager. He brings to MLAR significant computer and audio-visual skills, as well as a broad experience in the field of Education. We appreciate his dedication and strong work ethics and welcome him to our Volunteer Heritage Language Program.



REMINDERS:

Dates when BALFOUR will be unavailable:

Balfour Collegiate regular student classes will end on June 15, 2008. Balfour Collegiate will not be available for Heritage Language Classes after that date.

(Please mark your calendar)

Dates when CAMPBELL will be unavailable:

Last day of classes at Campbell is June 13, 2008. The Collegiate will not be available for Heritage Language classes after that date.

(Please mark your calendars)

MLAR Board of Directors for 2008



Left to right standing: Cornelia Taschow-Graupe, Tin Nguyen, Ved Arora, Mary Kolitsas, Tito Roman
Seated: Raphael Whang, Toshiko Charrier, Jeanette Pageot and Indu Jaiswal (President) (Office Coordinator)
Missing: Senthil Damodharan, Nasim Ahmed and Past President Girma Sahlu

There have been no changes to the MLAR Board since the last edition of the Newsletter. For the year 2008, the MLAR Board consists of the following:

President:	Indu Jaiswal
Vice-President:	Manuel Tito Roman
Secretary:	Senthil Damodharan
Treasurer:	Ved Arora
Directors:	Nasim Ahmed
	Raphael Hwang
	Toshiko Charrier
	Cornelia Taschow-Graupe
	Mary Kolitsas
	Tin Nguyen
Past President:	Girma Sahlu



MLAR WORKSHOP

The date for the next Language Teachers' Workshop has not yet been decided. Further information will be sent to all schools later this year when dates have been decided.

The following article by the Principal of the Greek Language School was submitted for inclusion in our MLAR Newsletter.
The article is entitled

Greek Independence Day

Long Live Freedom! Long Live the 25th of March

On the 25th of March 1821 – the Hellenes revolted for their freedom. For 400 years, they were enslaved by the Turks/Ottoman Empire. Our religion was taken away, our churches and schools seized, burned and destroyed. The Greek people suffered and endured many, many atrocities. And on this day, our ancestors picked up their weapons and fought for freedom.

They fought courageously. Many brave people took part in this war: Kolokotronis, Karaiskakis, Androutsos, Kanaris, Miaoulis and many more heroes fought with faith, courage and passion – and many brave young men and women were killed in the process. Soon after the cruel war, freedom was restored to our country. With God's help and the courageous struggles of our brave soldiers our Homeland saw its freedom once again.

On Sunday, March 30th, St. Paul's Greek Heritage Language School honoured the heroes and fighters of 1821, along with all of our Greek Orthodox communities around the world. We honoured them and our Liberty by having our Greek School students recite poetry written during their era. We decorated our school with our flag. We sang songs and we lay wreaths on the monuments of our fallen heroes. A group of adults and Greek School students from our Greek Community also put on a play to celebrate this historic day.

Submitted by Soula Lowry, Principal

Notices received from Schools

An e-mail received has informed MLAR that the **Philippine Language School** classes will end at Balfour Collegiate before June 19th, 2008

Another e-mail received from Scott and Soula identified the following important dates regarding the **Greek Heritage Language School**:

1. Classes will end on May 10th.
2. The Report Card Ceremony will take place on Tuesday May 12th at St. Paul's Greek Orthodox Church.
3. The Greek School Windup will be held outside of Balfour Collegiate on May 17th.

Congratulations to the following who have been selected to receive the Heritage Language Teachers Awards for 2007-2008:

New Teachers' Awards:

1. Yolanda Szeto, Cantonese Language Teacher
2. Durga Chilka, Hindi Language Teacher

Long Term Teacher Award:

Inderjit Kamboz, Punjabi Language Teacher

MLAR would like to thank the following for their gracious **donations** to serve as door prizes for the Annual Heritage Language Teachers' Award Night of May 12, 2008:

SaskEnergy, SOHL, Ved Arora, SaskCulture, Access Communications, RBC Royal Bank

The Multilingual Association of Regina (MLAR) gratefully acknowledges **funding assistance** from the following:

SaskCulture Inc., Saskatchewan Lotteries, Saskatchewan Organization for Heritage Languages, Saskatchewan Learning

