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# Multilingual Association of Regina

## JANUARY-MARCH 2009

### NEWSLETTER

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#### **Indu Jaiswal: President's Message**



At the beginning of New Year 2009, the entire newly-elected Board of Directors and various committees began to work hard in their effort to accomplish the goals of MLAR.

On March 13 and 14 2009, we had a most successful record-breaking attendance at the SOHL/MLAR joint workshop. We are still hearing positive comments about that workshop and how well it was received.

The launching of the Teachers' Daybook was also a part of the workshop. All teachers and principals of Heritage Language Schools in attendance received their copies. This project was a continuation of the celebration of MLAR's 30<sup>th</sup> Year of service. Thanks to the Special Project Committee, its Chair Ved Arora, Board Member Mary Kolitsas and Office Coordinator Emile Carignan and their countless hours of work, and thanks also to Greek Language Principal Petros Aiginitis and German Language School Teacher Kris Rubrecht for their contribution to the Daybook, the end product was well received by Heritage Language Teachers.

On May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2009 MLAR will hold its Teacher Award Night celebration, including MLAR's semi-annual General Meeting together with continuation of events to celebrate MLAR's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Please mark your calendar as this is a must attend event. Information about this evening is being mailed out to all Heritage Language Schools and volunteers.



MLAR's Special Project Committee, Professional Development Committee and the Regina Multilingual School Committee (RMS) chaired by Ved Arora are working very hard to bring loads of fun-filled activities to promote Heritage Language Teaching. Please review their

reports in detail and keep in touch by sending us your school's success stories for inclusion in the quarterly newsletters, thereby sharing your experiences with other Heritage Language Schools and volunteers.

The end of school year 2008-2009 is fast approaching. Best wishes to your schools on your future Graduation Day celebrations. Please get certificates from MLAR office for your school to complete for your students. The office is open from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm weekdays except on Thursdays.

Thanks to our funding agencies Sask Education, Sask Culture, Sask Lotteries and SOHL, and thanks also to the help we get from the Regina Public School Board and from staff of Balfour and Campbell Collegiates; thanks also to the volunteer Heritage Language principals and teachers, parents and students; finally, thanks also to Tito Roman, Toshiko Charrier and Cornelia Taschow-Graupe who retired from the MLAR Board in December 2008, and to our Office Coordinator Emile Carignan: were it not for the cooperation of all of the above and your dedicated work, MLAR could not achieve its important objectives of ensuring the preservation of the many Heritage Languages that are taught under the umbrella of MLAR and SOHL in the Regina area.

On February 21<sup>st</sup>, SOHL and MLAR Jointly sponsored an Open House to celebrate International Heritage (Mother) Language Day. The program included a welcome address by **Audrey Roadhouse**, the Deputy Minister of Education, on behalf of the Saskatchewan Government.



Others who brought greetings and paid tribute in recognition of the value of ensuring that one's mother language is preserved included **Tony Harras** who is a Past President of both SOHL and of MLAR and who brought greetings on behalf of SOHL, the umbrella organization for Heritage languages in Saskatchewan.



**Michael Cassano** who is the President of the Regina Multicultural Council also brought greetings on behalf of the Council (RMC) and reminded the audience of the upcoming MOSAIC, an annual celebration of various languages and cultures in Regina and area.



Greetings also came from **Rhonda Rosenberg** who is the President of SAME. She emphasized the value of retaining one's mother language and culture, both of which enrich our society here in Saskatchewan.



**Raphael Hwang**, Vice President of MLAR brought greetings on behalf of MLAR and encouraged people in the audience to start learning another language this year, so they could communicate in one more language when we celebrate Heritage Language day next year in 2010.



Other highlights of the Open House included a variety of entertainment provided by some of the Heritage Language Schools. Some of the photos taken of the entertainers can be seen to the right:



**Juan Daisy Gui** pictured here with Raphael Hwang of the Regina School of Chinese Studies performed a Chinese Dance entitled "KaiMenHong" (Open Door Red) which is a very popular dance in China.



Other entertainment well received included 2 songs by a group of 3 who represented the **Salvador Allende Latin American Spanish School**. The songs were identified as Warrior songs, including a drum, guitar, a flute-like instrument and strong lyrics.



A number of songs and dances were performed by the group of students on the left, representing the **IGBO** Language School.



Students from the **Bahr el Ghazal** (Sudanese) Language School provided a dance and song in both of the languages taught in their school, one in the Dinka language, and one in the Arabic language.



Above, members of the newest school to join MLAR this year, the **Yoruba** Language School, provided 3 song and dance combinations in their native language.



The **Greek Language School** presented 3 thrilling dances by the dancing group called Mythos, who will also be performing as part of the Regina MOSAIC celebrations later this year.



Other highlights of the Heritage Language Day Open House held at the Balfour Auditorium on February 21<sup>st</sup> included displays by various language groups, including the Latinamerican School (Left) and the Regina School of Chinese Studies pictured above.

The other major event sponsored jointly by MLAR and by SOHL was the annual Heritage Language Teachers' Workshop held on March 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>.

Shown to the right is **Dave Gorrie** of the Regina Public School system, who was the Facilitator for the Workshop entitled "Structuring Learning Environments for Language Learning". A main message was that it was important for the teacher to establish clear "Procedures" for the students.



Dave was assisted by Loise McCullough, also of the Regina Public School system. She dealt with the topic of Effective Lesson Planning, also very important for effective Language Learning.



The workshop was very well attended and was well received, based on an analysis of the responses to the evaluation sheets turned in. The **33 Evaluation sheets** turned in indicate the following summary information:

Number of Teachers who provided an evaluation:	24
Number of Volunteers who provided an evaluation	6
Number of Coordinators who provided an evaluation	3

Evaluation responses by participants are summarized below:

Evaluation Item	strongly agree	agree	unsure	disagree	n/a
Information presented in organized fashion	70%	30%			
What I learned will make me more effective in teaching	58%	36%	6%		
Session was right length for information	52%	39%	15%	3%	
Content was appropriate for my teaching level	42%	39%	15%	0%	3%
My objectives for attending workshop were achieved	55%	39%	3%		3%
Facilitator presented a stimulating workshop	55%	42%	3%		
I am interested in future MLAR/SOHL Workshops	64%	30%			6%

Entertainment was provided by the following groups as part of the Workshop on the Friday evening program:



Dance by students of the ICA-Hindi Language School



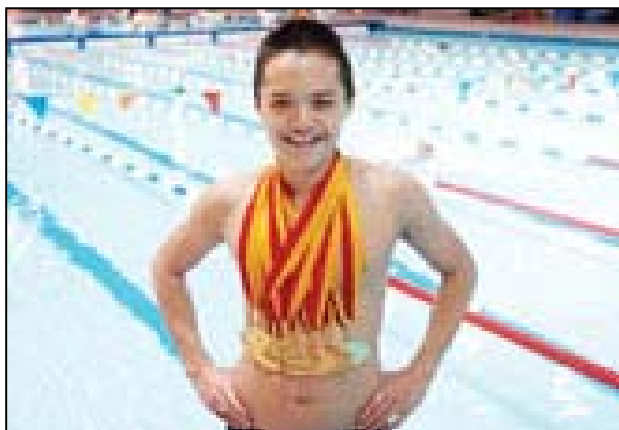
Dance by the Mythos Group on behalf of the Greek Language School



Above, a colorful "KaiMenHong" dance by Regina School of Chinese Studies, this time by a group of 6 dancers.

At the workshop, most of the Heritage Language Teachers' Daybooks produced by MLAR were distributed to those schools with at least one representative in attendance. Schools who did not have anyone in attendance can contact MLAR Office to arrange to pick up Daybooks for their teachers. The entire Daybook is also available in digital format for those who may want to make changes to various pages, renumber pages, or use some of the templates to enter data directly on the templates (forms) using Microsoft Word. Contact MLAR office if interested.

**MLAR plans to have the entire video on Classroom Management Procedures shown by Facilitator Dave Gorrie at the workshop, available for previewing by interested Heritage Language Principals/Teachers. This is planned for September/October 2009 for interested small groups to preview at MLAR's Boardroom. Details will follow later to all Schools.**



Student of Regina School of Chinese Studies (RSCS)  
Won Outstanding Chinese youth by  
Chinese Cultural Center of Greater Vancouver

Michael Qing won seven gold medals with seven new world records at the Down Syndrome International Swimming Organization World Swimming Championships in Portugal in December 2008. Michael also won four gold medals at Special Olympics World Summer Games at Shanghai in 2007. The cultural center awarded Michael the first prize because of his perseverance in overcoming his difficulty, with much more effort than other children. The second prize was to talent artist Li Rou. Third prize was to musician Liu Yen Chi. The chairperson encourages Chinese youth to develop their talents, to get involved in their communities with their energy and services. The ceremony of award presentation was on February 8, Sunday afternoon at the Chinese Cultural Center in Chinatown Vancouver. On behalf of Michael Qing, the principal of RSCS Raphael Hwang was in Vancouver to receive the award. (Source: Regina Leader Post)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

The annual Heritage Language School Teachers' Award Night will be held this year on May 11, 2009 at the Travelodge Hotel on South Albert Street starting at 6:30 pm.

There will be an award for New teachers who have from 1 to 4 years of Heritage Language Teaching experience, and an award for Long Term teachers with 5 or more years of Heritage Language Teaching experience.

Criteria and Nomination forms have been mailed out to all Principals. The deadline for sending in all required nomination documents to MLAR office is April 25<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions please contact RMS Chairperson Ved Arora at 586-4746.

The video of the **Open House** sponsored jointly by SOHL and MLAR on February 21<sup>st</sup> to celebrate the International Heritage (Mother) Language Day is **now available on SaskTel's Max TV Channel 48** (on demand). It was made available starting on March 10th and will be available until the end of April, as long as there is demand for it. This allows viewers to see the video **at their convenience** as this is a "Community Programming" channel. Viewers access the video by selecting Channel 48 on Max TV, selecting either Events, Just Added, or Your Videos, and then selecting the option for the SOHL/MLAR Heritage Language Day event. Availability of this video on SaskTel Max TV is thanks to the cooperation of Mike Cassano, President of the Regina Multicultural Council (RMC).

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

**SaskCulture Inc., Saskatchewan Lotteries, Saskatchewan Organization for Heritage Languages, Saskatchewan Education.**



**Saskatchewan  
Ministry of  
Education**