

Multilingual Association of Regina

JANUARY-MARCH 2010 NEWSLETTER



2144 Cornwall Street, Regina, SK. S4P 2K7
Tel: (306) 757-3171 Fax: (306) 757-3172
E-mail: mlar@accesscomm.ca Website: mlar.ca

Jan. - Mar. 2010
ISSN 1483-9660

Indu Jaiswal: President's Message



Greetings to all involved with the Regina Heritage Language Program. In the picture above you see me trying out a magic pen that was introduced by Facilitator Sarah Scarff at the Teachers' Workshop held on March 6, 2010. You will see a more detailed report on this workshop below. The topic was "Involving Parents/Family for Effective Language Learning". On behalf of MLAR I would like to thank Sarah for a very well planned and well delivered workshop on a difficult topic. I would also like to thank all those who gave up a good portion of their Saturday to take part in the workshop.

Events such as the above workshop do not just happen on their own. Many hours of planning and preparation are required. In this regard I would like to also thank the following MLAR Board Members for their contribution: Professional Development Co-chairs Mary Kolitsas and Nasim Ahmed; Ved Arora and Raphael Hwang for taking care of arrangements with the Travelodge Hotel; Toshiko Charrier and Rebecca Otitoju for taking care of registration; Girma Sahlu and Nasim for looking after the Door Prizes. I would also like to thank the Heritage Language School Principals who took the time to contact their Teachers and arrange for them to attend the workshop, and Office Coordinator Emile Carignan for his work in communications and workshop arrangements.

This was the second workshop during school year 2009-2010 and both workshops were well attended and well received. MLAR also wishes to recognize Mike Walter of the Regina Public School System for his help in identifying excellent Facilitators for these workshops, and of course a sincere thank you to Sarah Scarff for her many hours of work in preparing material for and delivering what was an excellent workshop.

Another successful event was the International Heritage Language Day Celebration on February 21 2010 at Balfour Collegiate Auditorium. This is an annual event sponsored jointly by the Saskatchewan Organization for Heritage Languages (SOHL) and MLAR. This year most of the credit for the success of this event goes to Tamara Ruzic and Leah Perlett of SOHL. There were more than 200 in attendance. Several groups displayed their talents and elements of their culture on stage, and the food represented a variety of cultures and was well received. Thank you Tamara and Leah for organizing this successful event.



Tony Harras who is a Board Member of SOHL acted as the Master of Ceremonies for the event. Tony is also a past President of MLAR and a Board Member of the Saskatchewan Multicultural Centre Association responsible for the management of the property housing SOHL, MLAR and RMC.



Sue Amundrud brought greetings on behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan, Ministry of Education and made reference to the importance of Heritage Languages and related Cultural Groups to the fabric of Saskatchewan.

The Heritage Language Day Celebration included on-stage performances by a number of groups including the ICA Hindi Language School; Greek Language School; Yoruba Language School; and Bengali Language School. There was also some colorful Pow-Wow dance performances.



ICA-Hindi Language School Group



Greek Dancers



Yoruba Language School Dancers



More than 200 attended Celebrations February 21st



One of Several Pow-wow Dancers who performed

Teachers' Workshop held on March 6, 2010

As mentioned above, the workshop was well attended and was well received, based on an analysis of the responses to the evaluation sheets turned in. The **27 Evaluation sheets** turned in indicated the following summary information:

Number of Teachers who provided an evaluation: 16
 Number of Volunteers who provided an evaluation 11

Evaluation responses by participants are summarized below:

Evaluation Item	strongly agree	agree	unsure	disagree	n/a
Information presented in organized fashion	67%	33%			
What I learned will make me more effective in teaching	48%	48%	4%		
Session was right length for information	48%	30%	11%	7%	4%
Content was appropriate for my teaching level	48%	48%	4%		
My objectives for attending workshop were achieved	52%	48%			
Facilitator presented a stimulating workshop	63%	33%	4%		
I am interested in future MLAR/SOHL Workshops	70%	30%			



Workshop Facilitator Sarah Scarff of the Regina Public School System provided Workshop participants with a wealth of practical information, including a number of good **Internet Websites** that could be accessed for more ideas. Included were the following:

The **Dual Language Showcase** with this address: <http://thornwood.peelschools.org/dual/index.htm>

Languages available in the above include: Arabic, Albanian, Bengali, Bulgarian, Chinese, French, Hindi, Italian, Japanese, Kannada, Korean, Marathi, Russian, Swahili, Telugu, Urdu and Vietnamese.

Mantra Lingua books which can be accessed as follows: <http://www.mantralingua.com/home.php> which includes Bilingual Books, Recordings to listen and record, and Dictionaries. The following languages are included:

Arabic, Bengali, Cantonese, Chinese, Croatian, Czech, English, French, German, Greek, Haitian-Creole, Hindi, Hungarian, Irish, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Kurdish, Mandarin, Polish, Russian, Croatian, Slovakian, Somali, Spanish, Swahili, Tamil, Thai, Turkish, Twi, Urdu, Welsh, Vietnamese and Yoruba.

Bilingual Websites which include Bilingual Vocabulary Quizzes: <http://iteslj.org/v/> There are some 5 vocabulary quizzes for each of 45 languages, English being the other language, for example: Arabic-English, Chinese-English, German-English, Greek-English, Korean-English, etc.

For Heritage Language Schools interested in making use of resources available from the Internet, the following may be worth checking out, all starting with http://www.uel.ac.uk/education/research/duallanguagebooks/publisher_s.htm to access various dual language resources; www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/practice/eshop/folktales.htm and http://www.milet.com/home_us.asp?RemoveAll=, has books in 25 languages. A website that lets teachers create lists for Parents to sign up and volunteer is the following: <http://www.signupgenius.com/backtoschool>
Thank you Sarah Scarff for doing all that research for us!



Registration by Toshiko Charrier & Rebecca Otitoju



Greek School (back) + Young Kwag-Korean (front)



Front: Japanese School; Back: Mary K, Girma Sahlu



B-Left: Latinamerican; Front: Chinese Language Rep.



Enjoying the Food at Lunch Time...

Other Events: Olympic Torch Relay

The **Regina Multicultural Council** was a partner with the City of Regina for the 2010 Olympic Torch Relay host community event on Saturday, January 9th, 2010. City Police, Sask. Rough Riders and RMC took part in the Torch Procession started at Mosaic Stadium through Taylor Field to the Sportsplex where the cauldron was lit, with participants dressed in traditional colorful costume and holding flags. There were a few RMC members who came for the procession. (Submitted by Raphael Hwang)



ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Annual **Teacher Award Night** and AGM will be held this year at the Travelodge on **May 10th** 2010. Documents for nominating Teachers will be sent to all schools by the first week of April. These must be in to MLAR Office by the **April 26th Deadline** in order to be considered. If more details are required, contact MLAR Office, or Committee Chairman Ved Arora.

COLLEGIATES NOT AVAILABLE

A reminder that **Balfour Collegiate** will **NOT BE AVAILABLE** for Heritage Language Group Usage on the following days:

1. April 2 through to April 11, 2010
2. May 21 through to May 24, 2010
3. Last Day of School is June 13, 2010

COLLEGIATES NOT AVAILABLE

A reminder that **Campbell Collegiate** will **NOT BE AVAILABLE** for Heritage Language Group Usage on the following days:

1. Saturday April 3 2010
2. Saturday April 10 2010

Heritage Language Student Certificates are available from MLAR Office. Principals should request copies for students and identify the school each student attends. Deadline to submit them to MLAR for Indu's Signature is the **Last week of May** so they can be forwarded to regular schools for their Academic year-end Award program.

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 Organization
for Heritage Languages



Saskatchewan
Ministry of
Education