

Multilingual Association of Regina

JULY-SEPTEMBER 2009 NEWSLETTER



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Indu Jaiswal: President's Message



Indu with Ved Arora

Hello friends of MLAR. This is perhaps the Multilingual Association of Regina (MLAR)'s last issue to be released during 2009. As one sits back and thinks about what has been achieved during this year, it brings satisfaction in realizing what we have accomplished together.

As a group, those involved in the Heritage Language programs offered in the Regina area can be proud of their work. At our various meetings some good suggestions have come forth for future improvements to the program, some of which I will mention below.

The MLAR/SOHL Workshop held in March 2009 with Dave Gorrie as Facilitator resulted in the best workshop attendance ever. His presentations on how to improve Classroom Management were very well received, and we are following up on his introduction of a Video Series entitled "The Effective Teacher". In addition, Schools with representatives at the workshop were given copies of the new Heritage Language Teacher Daybooks.

The MLAR Semi-AGM combined with the Teachers Award Night was another highlight of 2009 at which a New Teacher award was given to Nelida Ramirez and a Long Term Teacher award to Varvara Georgoulis, and an Honorary Membership award to Armand Martin.

Heritage Language School visitations by MLAR/SOHL for the 1st semester were almost completed by the end of September. This is a requirement of SOHL and of the Saskatchewan Ministry of Education as part of the funding provided to MLAR.

To begin the new 2009-2010 school year a Principals' Meeting was held on August 31st. There was a wide variety of topics on the agenda and important information was provided in the handout package. The meeting was attended by Sharon Yuzdepski from the Ministry of Education and the important topic of Funding for Heritage Language Schools available from Saskatchewan Education was well covered thanks to her participation.

On another note, the property at 2144 Cornwall Street which MLAR shares with SOHL and RMC is managed by a volunteer Board known as the Saskatchewan Multicultural Centre Association (SMCA). SMCA has had a busy year dealing with repairs to the building and a general cleanup of the available space in the building.

Looking at the future, the MLAR Board and Committees have been working to prepare for the following events.

A Teacher Workshop is planned for November 21, 2009 this year instead of in March, in response to recommendations from previous workshop evaluation comments. More details will follow.

MLAR's Annual General Meeting (AGM) is planned for November 30th, 7:00 p.m., Travelodge South Albert. The 2-year term for 4 Board Members expires this year. A nomination committee has been formed to receive nominations for positions for the next 2-year term. More information on this will be sent out to all MLAR members.

The Annual SOHL Conference was held this year in Saskatoon on October 3 and 4 at the Best Western Harvest Inn. The conference was very well attended and was a great success.

The SaskCulture Conference will be held in Regina on October 23-25 at the Ramada Hotel. If interested in attending contact SaskCulture for more information.

Welcome to 2 new groups to MLAR: the Bengali Language School and the Ukrainian National Federation School. This brings the total number of schools under the MLAR umbrella to 29 for school year 2009-2010. A very recent request for a classroom for teaching the Korean language is being processed and once this school is in operation, this will bring the total to 30 Language schools.

I would like to thank all Heritage Language Principals, Teachers, volunteers, students and MLAR Board Members and staff for their cooperation and dedicated work this past year. I look forward to working with all of you for the new school year. Thanks also to our funding agencies: SOHL, SaskCulture and Saskatchewan Ministry of Education. Without your help we could not do the important work of promoting the preservation of our many languages and cultures.

The Annual Principals' Meeting to plan the new Heritage Language School year was held on August 31st 2009 at the Travelodge Hotel.

As in past years the agenda included a wide range of topics which included the following:

1. A report by Ved Arora, Chair of the Regina Multilingual School Committee. He reported on the Teachers' Award Night which was held on May 11th 2009, and encouraged all school groups to review documents and to start thinking of who they might nominate for the Award Night 2009-2010 which will be held on May 10th, 2010 at the Travelodge.
2. A report by Nasim Ahmed and Mary Kolitsas, joint chair of the Professional Development Committee dealt with the following:
 - a. Plans for Teacher Workshops for the coming school year. A first workshop was planned for November 21st 2009 in response to comments from the last workshop that it would be best to have the workshop earlier than March so new teachers could use what they learn early in the new school year. More information will be provided later. A second workshop will be planned in 2010.
 - b. Plans for previewing the Video series on "The Effective Teacher". Based on recommendations from Principals at the meeting, the date was moved up to September 9th, 7:00 pm at the MLAR Boardroom. See below for a report on the first preview session.
 - c. Computer training: SIAST has been approached in regard to provision of training on computers for Heritage Language personnel and possibly for interested MLAR Board Members. If interested in taking this training please contact MLAR Office.
3. School Visitations will continue again this year. It was mentioned that this is a requirement of SOHL and of the Saskatchewan Ministry of Education in order to continue to qualify for funding for MLAR's Heritage Language Programs.
4. Funding from Saskatchewan Education: Heritage Language Schools can apply for funding from Saskatchewan Education. Principals were able to ask questions about the application procedures and requirements from Sharon Yuzdepski who is in charge of this program with the Ministry of Education. Sharon mentioned she is aware that different Heritage Language groups carry on cultural activities and take in workshops to improve their skills, and she is willing to allow flexibility in terms of the funding criteria related to the number of teaching hours per school year.
5. Important Dates to Remember: The handout to those in attendance included a listing of important dates to keep in mind for the 2009-2010 school year. Some are mentioned below.
6. Use of Balfour and Campbell Collegiates: Handouts also indicated the Classrooms that have been allocated to the different Language Groups at the above 2 Collegiates. Handouts also stated the conditions that the Collegiates expect of the Heritage Language groups using their facilities. Principals were asked to inform MLAR Office as soon as possible what their first class date would be this year, and if possible their planned last day of teaching, so arrangements could be finalized with the 2 Collegiates, and so the required permits could be obtained from the City of Regina for use of public school facilities.
7. Lists of Teachers and of Students: Handouts included forms for all Heritage Language schools to submit to MLAR Office lists of teachers and of students for the new school year.
8. MLAR Membership Renewals for 2009-2010: Handouts included the Application for MLAR Membership for 2009-2010 for those who have not yet renewed their membership. The form requests names and contact information which should be completed and submitted to MLAR Office as soon as possible together with the annual membership fee of \$ 20.00. MLAR Membership must be renewed annually to qualify for services such as use of school facilities and participation in workshops and other benefits available through the efforts of the Multilingual Association of Regina.
9. Conferences: Principals were encouraged to consider having representation at the SOHL Annual Conference to be held in Saskatoon on October 3 and 4, 2009, registration fee of \$ 50.00 per person attending. It was also mentioned that the annual SaskCulture Conference will be held this year in Regina October 23, 24, 25.

Reports from Schools

The following reports were submitted for inclusion in this edition of the Newsletter:



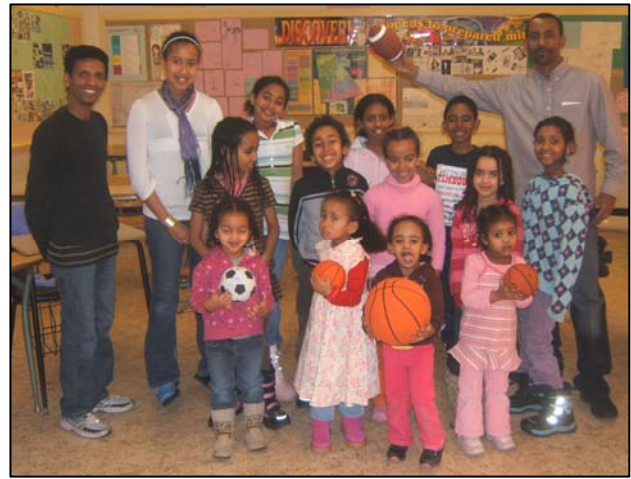
The Regina School of Chinese Studies

On June 4 through 6, 2009 the whole Yoyo Group composed of students from the Regina School of Chinese Studies performed at the Chinese pavilion as part of the Regina Mosaic.

On the afternoon of July 11, our instructors and four students, sponsored by the Moose Jaw International Association, performed at the Moose Jaw Motif in a natural outdoor setting. This is a multicultural festival with 13 pavilions organized by the Moose Jaw Multicultural Council.



Also, at noon on August 15, instructors and six students performed at the annual Dragon Boat race celebration at the south end of Regina Wascana park. (Submitted by Raphael Hwang).



This picture of the principal, teacher and students of the “**Tigrinya-Eritrean** Community in the Prairies” Language School was submitted by Maskel Minni. All Heritage Language Schools with MLAR Membership are encouraged to submit articles and pictures for inclusion in the quarterly editions of the MLAR Newsletters. Thank you Raphael and Maskel, for submitting the above.

Following is a list of 2009-2010 Language Schools

Language Group	Contact Person	Location
Afghan School	Javid Saffi	Balfour
Sudanese School	Agwait Majok	Balfour
Hungarian School	Sandy Meszaros	Private
Urdu School	Nadeem Naz	Private
Bengali School	Afroza Akteher	Balfour
Chinese School of Regina	Mary Chan	Balfour
Ethiopian School	Girma Sahlu	Balfour
German School	Brooke Larson	Campbell
Greek (St Paul's) School	Petros Aiginitis	Balfour
Hindi School	Garima Chopra	Balfour
Igbo School	Chidi Igwe	Balfour
Italian School	Sebastiano Deianna	Private
Japanese School	Madoka Otani	Campbell
Korean School	Young Kwag	Balfour
Nippon School	Toshika Charrier	Campbell
Persian School	Mozghan Lapoor	(Campbell)
Philippine School	Nenita Anonas	Balfour
Punjabi School	Inderjit Kamboz	Sikh temple
Sai Tamil School	Kumudhini Karunakaran	Balfour
Salvador Allende Latinamerican Spanish School	Nelida Ramirez	Balfour
Salvadorean Spanish	Tito Roman	Balfour
Salvadorean Spanish	Lucia Garcia	Balfour
School of Chinese Studies	Raphael Hwang	Church
Scandinavian Languages	Lyla Gess	Private
Tigrinya-Eritrian School	Maskel Minni	Balfour
UCAS (Luganda) School	Emmanuel Kayitale	Balfour
Ukrainian Middle School	Wayne Hydeman	Private
Ukrainian Pre-School	Arthur de Leyssac	Private
Vietnamese School	Tin Nguyen	Balfour
Yoruba School	David Fadare	Balfour

Previewing Videos “The Effective Teacher”

To follow up on the March 2009 Workshop, the video series entitled “The Effective Teacher” has been purchased by SOHL and MLAR has organized the previewing of the 8 video series.

The first preview of videos 1 and 2 was held on September 9, 2009 in the MLAR Boardroom. The first video dealt with the 4 stages of teaching which were identified as (1) **Fantasy**, (2) **Survival**, (3) **Mastery**, (4) **Impact**, the main message being that to be an effective teacher, you must be a very good **Classroom Manager**. This preview session was attended by the following: Madoka Otani, Yoko Tanaka, Roger Chen, Mary Chan, Sue Ding, Elsie Liu, Jennifer Luo, Huaging Meng, Lisa Rong, Raphael Hwang, Lucia Garcia. Also present were Indu Jaiswal, Ved Arora, Emile Carignan, and Mary Kolitsas who coordinated the presentation.

On the basis of feedback from those in attendance, it was decided to schedule the preview of videos 3 and 4 for October 5th in the MLAR Boardroom 7:00 pm, and the preview of videos 5 and 6 on November 2 at 7:00 pm in the MLAR Boardroom. Even if you did not attend the first previews, all persons involved in Heritage Language Teaching are welcome to attend, but when email notices go out, please inform MLAR office well ahead of time. If the number indicating they want to attend is greater than 15 we may look at another location for the next previewing sessions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you have not yet submitted your Language Group’s **MLAR Membership** Application form and \$ 20.00 Fee for 2009-2010 please do so as soon as possible as this should be submitted by early September of every new school year.

Language Groups who do not maintain their MLAR Membership could be denied access to Public School Facilities which MLAR must negotiate with the City of Regina, the Public School Board and with the individual Collegiates involved. It is important that you complete the Application Form as it provides MLAR Office with essential contact information.

A first **Teachers’ Workshop** will be held on Saturday November 21, 2009 at the Travelodge on South Albert Street. Initial plans are for Registration to start at 8:00 a.m. with workshop sessions to start at 9:00 am.

Based on suggestions on evaluation sheets from the March 2009 workshop, the topic selected for this workshop is “**Instructional Material Preparation for Student Motivation and Participation**”. Kamille Nech of the Regina Public School System has agreed to be the facilitator for the workshop.

The Saskatchewan Ministry of Education considers in-service and other training of teachers to be very important to ensure that funding they provide to the Heritage Language Program is used effectively. Principals and Teachers are encouraged to take advantage of these training opportunities. More details will follow at a later date in the form of e-mails and mail-outs to schools.

The next previewing of the video series “**The Effective Teacher**” will be held on **November 2nd 7:00 pm** in the MLAR boardroom at 2144 Cornwall Street. Please let MLAR office know via email how many plan to attend from your Language Group.

MLAR’s Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held at the Travelodge on South Albert Street on **Monday November 30, 2009** starting at 7:00 p.m. Four Board positions are open for nominations. For further information contact MLAR Office.

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