



# Multilingual Association of Regina NEWSLETTER



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## President's Message Indu Jaiswal



During the months of July and August, the Heritage Language Schools were closed, their teachers and students were on summer holidays, and the MLAR Board and MLAR Office were also able to relax a bit. However, a number of matters still had to be taken care of, especially to make arrangements for the new school year scheduled to start in September.

When I sit back and reflect on the achievements of MLAR during 2008, my heart is filled with gratitude when I think of the many fine people I work with, and the commitment of the entire MLAR Board and its various committees, the principals and teachers of the Heritage Language Schools, and our Office Coordinator Emile Carignan.

The success stories of MLAR will no doubt be covered in more detail by the various committees in their reports, but I would like to highlight the following that required attention in 2008, some of which continue to require more preparation.

- The annual Teachers' Workshop sponsored jointly by SOHL and MLAR earlier in 2008 was attended by a record number of teachers and was extremely successful based on a subsequent review of the evaluation sheets turned in by participants.
- The Teachers' Award and Semi-AGM Night was also very well attended. Award

recipients were reported in the previous newsletter and can still be found on our website [mlar.ca](http://mlar.ca)

- In early September the annual Principals' Teachers' Workshop was held at the South Leisure Centre and was also well attended. At that meeting MLAR mentioned its intention to develop a Heritage Language Teachers' Daybook. The idea was well received, with a recommendation that it should be prepared in loose leaf binder format. This is still work in progress.
- A "Special Project Committee" was set up to plan and deliver an Open House to celebrate MLAR's 30 years of service, to take place on November 22, 2008 in this the "Year of International Heritage Languages"
- Planning has also been under way for the forthcoming MLAR Annual General Meeting (AGM) and election of New Board Members for 2009. This will take place on December 1<sup>st</sup> 2008 at the South Leisure Centre gymnasium. All MLAR Members are urged to make it their priority to attend.

As we approach the end of 2008, I and the entire MLAR Board would like to thank all groups with whom we work: the Regina Multicultural Council, Open Door Society, Immigrant Women, Principals and Coordinators of Balfour and Campbell Collegiates, our funding agencies Saskatchewan Organization for Heritage Languages, SaskCulture, Sask Lotteries, Saskatchewan Education and Canadian Heritage. Without your help we would not have been able to achieve our goals.

## Heritage Language Schools for 2008-2009

Heritage Language Classes typically operate during the months of September through to June, roughly parallel to the operation of Regina's Elementary/Secondary Schools. Classes do not operate on Statutory Holiday weekends, and Collegiates may not be available on other days due to school events. The following table provides general information about schools operating or planned for 2008-2009

Language School	Class Days	Class Hours	Contact Person	Phone	Location of Classes
<b>Afghan School</b> (Pushto & Dari)	Saturday	2:45pm-5:00	Javid Safi	501-2381	At Balfour
<b>Bahr el Ghazal</b> (Arabic & Dinka)	Saturday	1:00pm-3:00	Agwait Majok	359-0499	At Balfour
<b>Regina School of Chinese Studies</b> (Cantonese/Mandarin)	Saturday	2:00pm-4:30pm	Raphael Hwang	787-7720	Chinese church
<b>Chinese School of Regina</b> (Cantonese/Mandarin)	Sunday	1:30pm-4:15	Mary Chan	586-1512	At Balfour
<b>Ethiopian Language School</b> (Ethiopian or Ahmaaric)	Saturday	9:45am-12:00	Girma Sahlu	757-2892	At Balfour
<b>German Language School</b>	Saturday	10:00am-12:00	Calista Meinert	569-7251	At Campbell
<b>Greek Language School</b>	Tuesday Saturday	5:15pm-7:30 10:00am-1:00pm	Petros Aiginitis	584-2129	At Balfour
<b>ICA Hindi Language School</b>	Saturday	3:00pm-5:00	Garima Chopra Rani Bilku	586-0415 359-1641	At Balfour
<b>Balatan Hungarian School</b> (Hungarian)		Contact Sandy For details	Sandy Meszaros-Engel	584-8451	Hungarian club
<b>Igbo School</b>	Sunday	12:30pm-3:30	Chidi Igwe	591-7624	At Balfour
<b>Italian-G.Marconi Sculola Culturale Italiana</b>		Contact Sebastiano For details	Sebastiano Deiana	775-2576	Italian Club
<b>Regina Japanese School</b>	Wednesday Thursday Saturday	6:15pm-8:30 6:15pm-8:30 10:00am-12:00	Madoka Otani	525-5725 787-5337	At Balfour
<b>Regina Nippon School</b>	Saturday Saturday	10:00am-12:00 2:00pm-4:00pm	Toshika Charrier Toshika Charrier	565-3464	At Campbell At Balfour
<b>Luganda Language School</b> (Details To be determined)					(Planned for Balfour)
<b>Persian Community School</b>	Saturday	10:00am-12:00	Majid Abolghasemi	543-0084	Campbell
<b>Punjabi Language School</b>	Sunday	10:00am-12:00	Inderjit Kamboz	352-1001	Sikh Temple
<b>Scandinavian Languages School</b>		Contact Lyla For Details	Lylah Gess	586-0406	Private Homes
<b>Regina Salvadorean Association Spanish School</b>	Saturday	3:00pm-5:00pm	Tito Roman	789-4731	At Balfour
<b>Salvador Allende Latinamerican Spanish School</b>	Wednesday Thursday Saturday	6:15pm-8:30pm 6:15pm-8:30pm 2:00pm-4:00pm	Nelida Ramirez	584-2161 352-3500	At Balfour
<b>Spanish Salvadorean School</b>	Saturday Sunday	10:00am-12:00pm 10:00am-12:00pm	Lucia Garcia	924-5497	At Balfour
<b>Tigrinya-Eritrean/Canadian Community in the Prairies</b>	Saturday	10:00am-12:00pm	Maskel Minni	949-9019 777-1215	At Balfour
<b>Sai Tamil School</b>	Saturday	9:30am-11:00am	K. Karunakaran Senthil Damodharan	584-0697 586-9012	At Balfour
<b>Sadochok Ukrainian Language Pre-School (Ukrainian)</b>		Contact Janet For Details	Janet Lysyk	789-6622	At Selo Gardens
<b>Bazam-E-Faroque Urdu Language School</b> (NOT YET Operating 2008-2009)		Contact Nadeem For Details	Nadeem Naz	584-8407 791-3020	(Planned for Balfour)
<b>Regina Vietnamese Language School</b>	Saturday	10:00am-12:00pm	Tin Nguyen	352-1725 777-4754	At Balfour
<b>Yoruba Language School</b>	Saturday	2:00pm- 4:00pm	David Fadare	781-3304	At Balfour

## Summer Holiday Activities

The Regina School of Chinese Studies reported that every summer they conduct a five-day community-wide Chinese Cultural Camp for participants ages 8 and up. In 2008 this camp was held from July 14 to 18, with programming taking place from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. daily. Registration took place at the Regina School of Chinese Studies at 3010 Arens Road East, Regina. This annual event is sponsored by the Regina Chinese Alliance Church and OCAC of Taiwan. The organizing committee could be contacted at 789-7872 , 789-0877 or via email [rscsinfo@sasktel.net](mailto:rscsinfo@sasktel.net)



Three experienced instructors from Taiwan specialized in Chinese folk dance, arts & crafts, games and martial arts at the camp, and 41 excited students experienced Chinese knots, beads, play dough, Chinese Yoyo, complicated rope skipping, tribal dance and folk dances, completing the curriculum in less than a quarter of the time planned. There were 120 combined parents, relatives, guests, students, teachers and co-workers at the closing ceremony which included a presentation of Certificates and Plaques as Tokens of Appreciation. Plans are to again conduct this Cultural Camp during the summer of 2009.



## The Annual Principals' Meeting

MLAR once again sponsored the Heritage Language School Principals' Annual Meeting on September 2, 2008. The meeting took place at the South Leisure Centre and was well attended by Principals and some Teachers.

The purpose of this meeting as in past years was to update Principals on various preliminary arrangements that have been discussed especially with the City of Regina and with Balfour and Campbell Collegiates for use of their facilities by the various Language Groups. This includes the planned allocation of classroom space and time schedules, and use of other facilities.

Although several Language Groups ask to make the same arrangements from year to year, there are always some that require adjustments as circumstances and personnel changes occur. The annual Principals Meeting is also an opportunity to distribute forms to Principals, and to obtain feedback from the various Language School Groups regarding matters or concerns that they may want MLAR to address. As well MLAR Board Members are available to answer questions and provide additional information on any new initiatives planned. This is viewed as a very important meeting as it sets the tone for the new school year.

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## Professional Development Committee

The Professional Development Committee has held a number of meetings together with the Special Project Committee set up this year to plan events to commemorate MLAR's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2008.

This included planning for the annual Teachers' Workshop to take place in 2009. Dave Gorrie from the Regina Public School Board has agreed to be the workshop facilitator. The workshop will focus on "**Lesson Planning for Effective Classroom Management**".

The above committees have also been working on a design for a Teachers' Day Book to provide all Heritage Language Teachers with a standard tool to assist them in planning their lessons and keeping essential records, reports and contact information. Plans are to have it ready for the March Workshop.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### MLAR 30-Year Commemoration

2008 marks the 30<sup>th</sup> year that MLAR has been in operation, providing support to many Linguistic and Cultural Groups in Regina and area.

To celebrate this milestone, an OPEN HOUSE is planned for Saturday November 22, 2008 starting at 1:00 p.m. at Balfour Collegiate Auditorium.

The event is open to the public. A number of currently operating Heritage Language Groups will display their colors on stage, and each participant will be presented with a 30-year commemorative pin especially designed for this celebration.

Photographs will be taken of each group for mementos. Donuts and drinks will be available at the end of the program.

### Contributions from Language Schools

MLAR has in the past made numerous requests to the Heritage Language Schools regarding a number of matters. Communication has been mostly via e-mails, but there have also been communication via normal mail delivery.

It is realized that many of the personnel involved in the running of the Heritage Language Schools hold permanent full-time jobs and so are very busy people. However, it would be appreciated if in the case of some schools, a more reliable communication would be maintained with MLAR Office. In particular, we would like to receive more contributions to this Newsletter as we would like it to contain more content that comes directly from those who work with students in classrooms. Please help make this newsletter more interesting by submitting articles and pictures we can include in future publications.

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Multilingual Association of Regina (MLAR) will be holding its Annual General Meeting on December 1<sup>st</sup> 2008 starting at 7:00 p.m. in the Gymnasium of the South Leisure Centre located at 170 Sunset Drive in West Regina.

Election of Board Members will take place at this meeting. A Nominations Committee consisting of Ved Arora, Mary Kolitsas and Senthil Damodharan has been busy notifying existing Board and MLAR Members of this important meeting.

Heritage Language School Groups with MLAR Membership may nominate individuals to fill Board positions whose terms expire this year, which includes the following:

- One Board President
- One Board Vice President
- Three Board Directors

The required Nomination documents can be obtained from any of the above Committee Members, or by contacting MLAR Office via email: [mlar@accesscomm.ca](mailto:mlar@accesscomm.ca)

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

