
Multilingual Association of Regina

JULY-SEPT 2015 NEWSLETTER



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July.-Sept 2015
ISSN 1483-9660

President's Message



The leaves on the trees are changing color and that can only mean one thing... summer is over for another year. Where did the summer of 2015 go?

Another sign that the summer was coming to an end was the opportunity to meet many of the Heritage Language schools' Coordinators, Principals and Teachers at the annual Heritage Language School Year Kick-off meeting which was held on August 31st, 2015.

The meeting dealt with the expectations, with respect to classroom use and student supervision, at Balfour and Campbell Collegiates. Many of last year's complaints from Balfour and Campbell were due to Heritage Language Schools not following some of these rules. Please review these rules with your students and teachers on a continuous basis. MLAR also identified a security issue at Balfour Collegiate that has been resolved with the hiring of a long-time Heritage Language student, Morgan Morin, who will be the hallway supervisor responsible for unlocking and locking classrooms as required. With Morgan's assistance, I am confident that our Office Coordinator, Emile Carignan, will not spend as much valuable time dealing with complaints at the high schools.

The Professional Development Committee has completed its initial planning of MLAR's 2015

workshop. The workshop, entitled "Student-centered Language Teaching", will be held on November 7th, 2015 in the Oak room at the Ramada Hotel. The workshop will focus on giving our Heritage Language teachers an arsenal of teaching tools to keep their students motivated to learn. I look forward to seeing you all at this workshop!

This fall will be a busy time for elections. There is a Federal election, a Provincial election and a MLAR election! MLAR is holding its Fall AGM on November 30th, 2015 at the Travelodge. Up for election this year are the positions of Treasurer, Secretary and 2 board positions. If you know of a community member who would be an asset to this great organization, please encourage them to submit a nomination form for one of the positions.

The Regina Multilingual Schools Committee is in the planning stages for the 2016 Volunteer Teacher Award night which is scheduled for May 2nd, 2016 and will be held at the Travelodge South. MLAR will be continuing the practice of presenting service pins for those volunteer Heritage Language teachers reaching milestones in their teaching careers. Please mark your calendars with this very important celebration date.

In conclusion, I wish you and your Heritage Language School a very successful 2015-2016 school year.

Respectfully submitted

Dr. Jim Leskun, MLAR President

Photo of those in attendance at the Heritage Language Schools 2015-2016 Kickoff Meeting



A review of the registration sheet prepared at this meeting on August 31 at the Travelodge indicated that there were 41 persons in attendance (pictured above). There were 34 representatives from a total of 19 language schools, so that means that 13 of the current 32 language schools did not attend this important meeting.

President Jim Leskun acted as Chairman and kept the meeting interesting, keeping everyone involved, giving all an opportunity to introduce themselves, and later to ask questions on various topics on the Agenda. Besides the topics on the agenda, some additional concerns were raised by a few language school representatives. This included a concern about the lack of availability of whiteboards in some classrooms, with a request that Collegiates be asked to make sure that at least 1 whiteboard was made available for use of language school classes.

For the information of language schools not represented at this meeting (there were 13 language schools using Balfour Collegiate that were not represented), following is a summary of main topics covered:

1. Full schedule of classes held at Balfour
2. Full schedule of classes held at Campbell
3. Currently known Days when classes will not be available at Balfour.

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5. Where to go in case of emergencies at either Balfour or at Campbell
6. Rules that language schools must follow when using Balfour or Campbell classrooms, to avoid complaints.
7. Other Regina Multilingual School (RMS) committee responsibilities including the Award Night planned for May 2 2016; school visits by MLAR Board Members; and Student Certificate new procedures.

The following matters were also covered

Professional Development Committee Co-Chair Olatundun Adebogun mentioned that the next teacher workshop will be held on November 7, 2015. The topic selected is "Student-centered Language Teaching". The Facilitator for the workshop will be Danielle Maley who currently is a Language Teacher at Hawrylak School. She plans to have a very hands-on workshop and asks that participants bring their laptop computers, Tablets, smartphones as she will make extensive use of digital resources.

The workshop will be held this year at a different venue as the Travelodge was not available. It will be held at the Ramada Plaza, corner of Victoria Avenue and Broad Street. More information will be sent before long to all language schools.

Concern was expressed about the fact that holding Teacher Workshops on Saturdays resulted in additional loss of teaching time, making it more difficult for language schools to meet SOHL/Ministry of Education requirements of a minimum of 70 hours of teaching time per school year. However, it was stressed that it is a requirement of the Ministry of Education that at least 1 teacher workshop be sponsored each school year, especially because most heritage language teachers are not professionally trained, certificated teachers. It was also added that time spent at teacher workshops can be counted as classroom time. However, according to SOHL, only 2 hours spent at teacher workshops can be counted, as most language classes are only 2-hour classes.

MLAR's Annual Membership Meeting (AGM)

It was announced that this meeting will be held on November 30th at the Travelodge on Albert Street South, Regina. The following are up for election: Treasurer, Secretary and 2 Board Members, all for a 2-year term. MLAR members in good standing can identify 2 voting delegates, and can submit nominations for above positions. More information will be sent to all language schools together with nomination documents at least 1 month in advance of the meeting.

Plans for the Teacher Award Night 2016

It was mentioned that the Award Night will be held on May 2nd 2016. Awards will again be in the form of Service Pins: Bronze pin for 3 to 4 years of teaching experience; Silver pin for 5 to 9 years of experience, Gold pin for 10 or more years of experience. However, each pin can only be received once by a given candidate. Principals are asked to start identifying those eligible to receive service pins for May 2nd, 2016. MLAR will be contacting all school principals with a request to submit names of their eligible teachers/coordinators together with years of experience with their language schools. Please provide that information as soon as requested, as planning the Award Night involves considerable work and time to contact everyone and make all

necessary arrangements with dignitaries and with the Travelodge, prepare pins, etc.

Other Matters of Importance

The MLAR Board expressed concern about the growing requests for assistance in obtaining access to Collegiate facilities other than classrooms, for events that are not language teaching functions, but really Cultural Community events, especially requests for use of the Auditorium at both Balfour and Campbell Collegiates. A review of MLAR's mandate clearly indicated that it is to facilitate heritage language learning. The MLAR Board therefore will no longer facilitate language school requests for access to a Collegiate Auditorium for what is not part of heritage language teaching. Community organizations should instead direct their requests to the City of Regina for access to available Leisure Centres for such community functions. Contact information: City of Regina Scheduling Office P.O. Box 1790, Regina, S4P 3C8.

Classroom Security at Balfour on Saturdays

Because of growing complaints from Balfour about the condition of classrooms following allocated use by some language schools especially on Saturdays, MLAR has decided to increase classroom security through use of a University Student who will be responsible for locking and unlocking classroom doors scheduled for use on Saturdays.

MLAR was informed by the Security Agency as well as by the Regina Public School Board, that the Security Guard is responsible only for security of access to the building, not the classrooms. As a result, classrooms are often left unlocked even if a language school does not show up on a given Saturday. Unlocked classrooms could then be accessed by anyone who happens to be in the collegiate that weekend. It is believed that this new classroom security approach will reduce complaints from regular Balfour teachers about unacceptable things that have been taking place in their classrooms when used by heritage language schools, especially on Saturdays.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TEACHER WORKSHOP 2015-2016

MLAR MEMBERSHIPS 2015-2016

To be eligible to access classrooms at Balfour and Campbell, a language school must have renewed and paid its MLAR Membership for 2015-2016. This must be renewed prior to September of each year. This year most language schools have renewed their MLAR membership for 2015-2016 by August 31st. At time of writing only 1 language school out of 32 has not yet taken care of this matter.

MLAR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This meeting will be held on November 30, 2015 and will involve Election of the following:

- Treasurer – 2 year term
- Secretary – 2 year term
- 2 Board Members – 2 year terms

Language schools are allowed to identify 2 voting delegates and if they wish to submit nominations for above positions, nomination documents must be provided to MLAR office by the deadline of November 19 to be accepted. Please note the following:

- Nominations from the floor will NOT be accepted.
- All required nomination documents must be completed and submitted to MLAR Office by the above stated deadline .

Registration at the Travelodge will be from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm with the meeting to start at 7:00 pm.

This year's Teacher Workshop will be held on Saturday November 7, at the RAMADA Plaza, corner of Victoria Avenue and Broad Street.

The topic selected is "Student-centered Language Teaching" to be presented by Danielle Maley. She is a primary level language Teacher at Hawyrlak School in Regina, has an early childhood education major, and is currently working toward her Masters' Degree in Curriculum and Instruction. Please bring your laptop computer, Tablet, Smart phone as this will be a hands-on workshop using this digital technology. Free WiFi:
User Name: ramada
Password: ra11851

The Multilingual Association of Regina (MLAR) gratefully acknowledges funding assistance from
**SaskCulture Inc., Sask. Lotteries,
Saskatchewan Organization for Heritage
Languages, (SOHL)
Saskatchewan Education.**



**Saskatchewan
Ministry of
Education**



**Saskatchewan Organization
for Heritage Languages**