

# Multilingual Association of Regina APRIL-JUNE 2013 NEWSLETTER



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Apr.-June 2013  
ISSN 1483-9660

## President's Message

April and May were very busy months for everyone at MLAR. The Professional Development Committee hosted their 3<sup>rd</sup> workshop of the year, on April 28<sup>th</sup> to wrap up the topic of curriculum development. The Regina Multilingual School Committee hosted the Annual Heritage Language Teacher Award Night on May 6<sup>th</sup> with over 100 people in attendance.



I had the pleasure of emceeding the event and was very pleased to see the number of schools who had teachers attend this celebration. Above, I am handing over (with some disappointment!) to AJ Venard, guest of Tamara Ruzic of SOHL, the **Mustang Convertible door prize** I had earlier obtained for this event from Capital Ford. As some of you know, I am a dedicated Ford Mustang fan(atic).

With everyone thinking of the summer holidays, the MLAR board and staff will remain quite busy. Emile, our office coordinator, will be busy preparing the classroom assignments for the 2013-2014 school year. Also, if you have not renewed your school's MLAR membership at this time, please do so now.

The MLAR board will be busy doing a review of our Bylaws to ensure that they are up to date and reflect our current mission. We are also hoping to update our website to be more informative than it has been. We are finding that communication with our teachers

regarding upcoming events has been challenging. We all lead very busy lives and with an updated website, checking out MLAR's upcoming events will be much easier. Stay tuned for more information regarding the website.

The 2012-13 school year is coming to an end and I hope that each Heritage Language School has had a successful year. Following are a few pictures of classrooms I visited this school year at Balfour.



Above: Korean Language Class at Balfour



Above: Russian Language Class also at Balfour



Above: 3 Gujarati Language students at Balfour

In conclusion, I hope that you all have a great summer and we will see you at the Principal's Meeting just before the beginning of the new school year, on Monday August 26<sup>th</sup>.

*Dr. J.R. Deskm.*

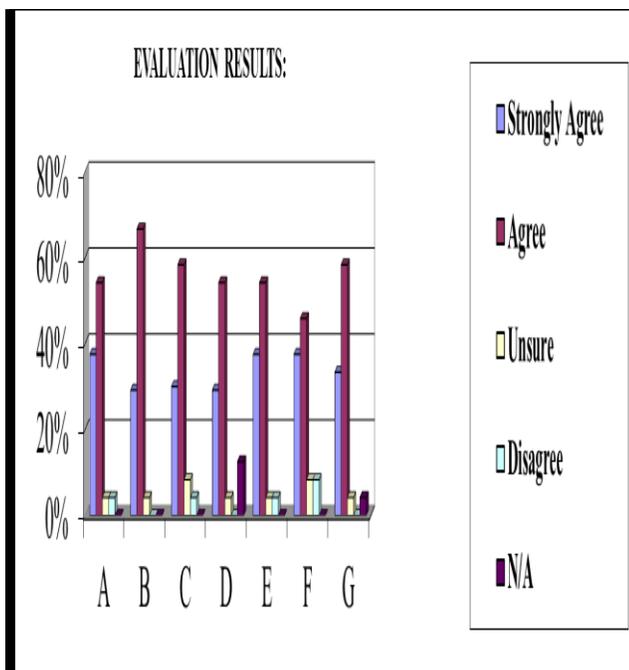
### Curriculum Workshop plus Award Night

The period of April to June is always a busy period for MLAR, and 2013 was even a **bit busier than usual** in part because it involved planning and delivery of a 3<sup>rd</sup> Teacher Workshop on Curriculum Development, plus the work of planning and delivering the annual Teacher Award night event, with these two events separated by only 8 days.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> workshop on Curriculum Development was held on Sunday afternoon, April 28<sup>th</sup>, to reduce the number of Saturdays that language classes had to be cancelled. Following is a summary of the evaluations received from teachers at this 3<sup>rd</sup> curriculum workshop. 24 of the 39 participants who attended the workshop turned in **evaluations** which included their **ratings on the following lettered Criteria:**

- A. Information was presented in an organized fashion?
- B. What I learned will make me more effective?
- C. The session was the right length for the information?
- D. Content was appropriate for my teaching level?
- E. My objectives for attending were achieved?
- F. The facilitator presented a stimulating workshop?
- G. I am interested in attending future workshops?

Percentage responses to each of the above 7 categories (A to G) are as graphed below.



Combining responses of **STRONGLY AGREE** and **AGREE** as compared to the other 3 response options (Unsure, Disagree, N/A) indicated that the workshop was well received, as the percentage of combined “**STRONGLY AGREE + AGREE**” represents **90%** of responses, while other options represent only **10%**.

**Juanita Tuharsky** who is a regular teacher at Balfour Collegiate was the facilitator at all 3 workshops on Curriculum Development (pictured below reviewing the group work session flipcharts).



### Heritage Language Teacher Award Night 2013



This annual MLAR event was again very well attended, 104 in all including representatives from all levels of Government and other supporters of the Multilingual, Multicultural Community. The following brought greetings from their respective organizations:

#### Senator Pana Merchant

brought greetings on behalf of Canada, and congratulated MLAR for the dedication and work done in support of the multilingual community



#### Kevin Kleisinger

brought greetings on behalf of Saskatchewan, (as arranged by **Hali Burt** of the Sask. Ministry of Education.) Photographers somehow were not able to provide MLAR Office with a photo of Kevin, so Kevin, we hope you are not too disappointed that Hali’s photo appears here instead of yours!



**Councilor John Findura** brought greetings on behalf of the City of Regina and emphasized the importance of the work done by MLAR in support of the many language and cultural groups that now make Regina their home.



**Ved Arora** was the last to bring greetings, on behalf of the Saskatchewan Organization of Heritage Languages (SOHL) as President. Below he is pictured with **Nadia Prokopchuk** who received MLAR's **Honorary Life Membership Award**.



Pictured above, Juanita Tuharsky with **Reginald Newkirk**, Past President of SaskCulture, who brought greetings on behalf of SaskCulture and at the same time acknowledged the presence of the current SaskCulture President **James Ingold**, who was one of the 3 Judges for selection of nominees for Teacher Awards this year.



Pictured below: **Mike Walter** who brought greetings on behalf of the **Regina Public School Board**. Here, as a former teacher, he is demonstrating his people and presentation skills by capturing the attention of Judith Kocks and Manju Leskun at registration desk.



**Other Award Recipients**

The recipient of this year's **Youth Teacher Award** seen here with MC's Jim Leskun and Mary Kolitsas is **Dilpreet Bajwa** of the ICA Hindi Language School, nominated by Principal Chanchal Sethi. Dilpreet has been helping with language classes now for two years, and has been a student of the ICA Hindi language school for six years.



**Eriko Parker** was this year's recipient of the **New Teacher Award**. She was nominated by the Principal of the Queen City Japanese School, Madoka Otani. Eriko lives in Fort Qu'Appelle and travels to Regina to teach a Japanese class at Campbell Collegiate weekly.



**Honourable Mention**



The 3 judges who selected nominees for awards, Seema Saroj, Sask Ministry of Education, James Ingold SaskCulture President, and Juanita Tuharsky Facilitator for 3Curriculum Development Workshops earlier this year, recommended that 2 other nominees for the New Teacher Award should be given recognition. Pictured above are Krishna Rasali of the Nepali school and Chanchal Sethi of the ICA Hindi school. Each received a bouquet of flowers.

**ENTERTAINMENT**

Following the Buffet, on-stage entertainment was provided by the following dance groups:



**“Orpheus” dance group – Greek Language School**



**Tibetan Folk Dance, Regina School of Chinese Studies**



**Bollywood Dance, Natya Sudha Dance Group**

**ANOUNCEMENTS**

Regarding allocation of classrooms for heritage language teaching for school year 2013-2014, language school principals have been asked to provide MLAR office with a response regarding the classrooms and schedule each school had at the end of school year 2012-2013 so that MLAR can arrange schedules with collegiates to confirm availability, and so the required permit request can be made to the City of Regina.

Once all of the above has been taken care of, schools will be informed of classroom(s) approved for their school, with day and time period schedules. This will be further announced at the Principals’ meeting, on Monday August 26, 7:00 pm at Travelodge Hotel on Regina’s Albert Street South.

**MLAR MEMBERSHIPS 2013-2014**

Memberships are to be renewed each school year. Membership application forms have been emailed to all school principals before the end of June 2013 for completion and return to MLAR Office. The annual membership fee is not changed: \$ 20.00 per school.

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

- SaskCulture Inc., Saskatchewan Lotteries,
- Saskatchewan Organization for Heritage Languages, (SOHL)
- Saskatchewan Education.



**Saskatchewan  
Ministry of  
Education**