

Multilingual Association of Regina

JANUARY-MARCH 2013 NEWSLETTER



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President's Message



While writing this message, I am gazing outside at the slowly melting mounds of snow, a sure sign that Spring is just around the corner. It is the time of year when our Heritage Language Schools

are in the final half of their school year and everyone preparing for the multicultural festival season.

I have had the privilege of attending a number of Multicultural Celebrations over the past few months. On December 15th, I attended the Jamhuri Day Celebration which was hosted by the Kenyan Community Association. On the afternoon of January 26th, I brought greetings on behalf of MLAR to those in attendance at the India Canada Association's Republic Day. On the afternoon of February 23rd, I brought greetings from MLAR to the Heritage Language Day Celebration which was co-hosted by Saskatchewan Organization of Heritage Languages & Multilingual Association of Regina. The next evening, I attended the Chinese Language School's Lantern Festival Celebration 2013.

Throughout these celebrations, I was touched when the hosts thanked me for the great support that MLAR has provided to each of their organizations. Upon reflection, I am equally thankful & proud of our member organizations who have taken the initiative to establish a heritage language school and to pass on their language and culture to the next generation of Canadians.

In the upcoming months, MLAR may hold its third teacher's workshop of the school year, tentatively scheduled for the latter half of April. In addition, MLAR is planning its Annual Teachers Award Night to be held on Monday, May 6th. The Heritage Language Schools will have received nomination forms in early March for nominating their teachers for one of three awards, Youth Teacher, New Teacher & Long Term Teacher Award. Please take the time to recognize your volunteer teachers. I hope to see everyone at the Annual Teachers Award Night!

Dr. J.R. Deskm.

Below are photos taken while visiting some of the Heritage Language classrooms in late 2012.



Nepali Bhasa class Glen Elm Library, December 2012



Latinamerican Spanish class, Balfour December 2012



Swahili class at Balfour, December 2012



Nepali class at Balfour, December 2012



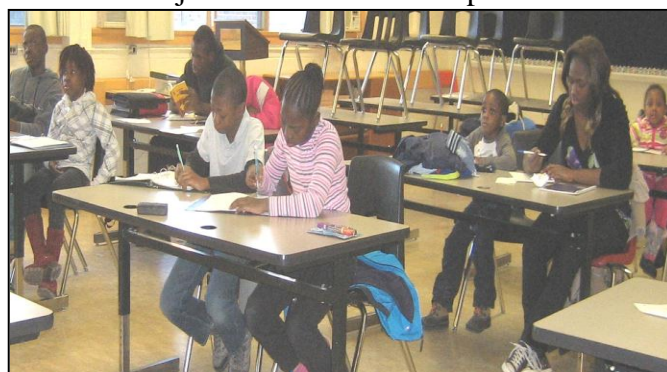
ICA Hindi Language Class, Balfour, December 2012



Somali classes at Balfour, December 2012



Punjabi Class at Sikh Temple



Yoruba class at Balfour, December 2012

While providing assistance to more than 30 Heritage Language Schools is no doubt MLAR's primary preoccupation, arranging for in-service training of teachers is also of high priority. So far two workshops were held this school year, both on Curriculum Development. The first or introductory workshop was held on November 3rd as reported in the October-December 2012 Newsletter.

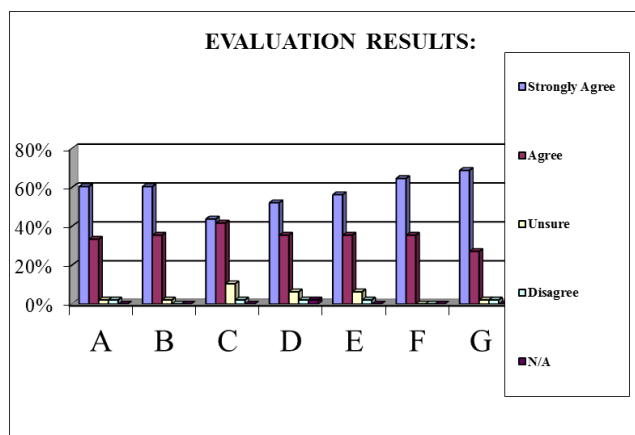
A second workshop was held on February 9th, 2013 presented by the same Facilitator, Juanita Tuharsky who has put in a lot of work, meeting several times with the Professional Development Committee to plan each workshop. As per the photo below, the workshop was very well attended. It was also very, very well received, based on the evaluation sheets turned in.



48 Workshop participants at the February 9th 2013 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 questions are as graphed below based on ratings of STRONGLY AGREE, AGREE, UNSURE, DISAGREE, and N/A (not applicable).

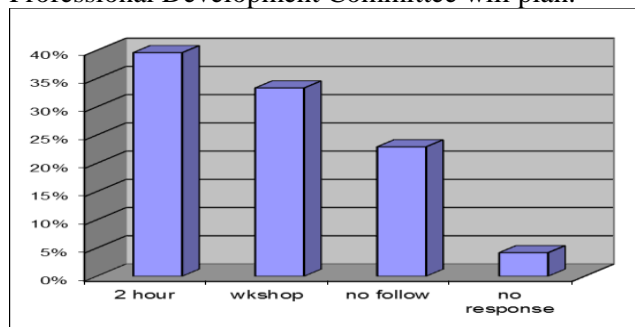


Combining responses of STRONGLY AGREE and AGREE as compared to the other 3 response options (Unsure, Disagree, N/A) indicated that the workshop was very well received, as the percentage of combined “STRONGLY AGREE + AGREE” represents **93%** of responses, while the other three options represent only 7%.

Teachers were also asked to indicate which of 3 options they would support regarding possible follow-up training on Curriculum Development:

- (1) Another full-day workshop?
- (2) A shorter (2 hour) follow-up workshop?
- (3) No further workshop on Curriculum?

As shown below, **73%** indicated there should be another workshop on this topic so that is what the Professional Development Committee will plan.

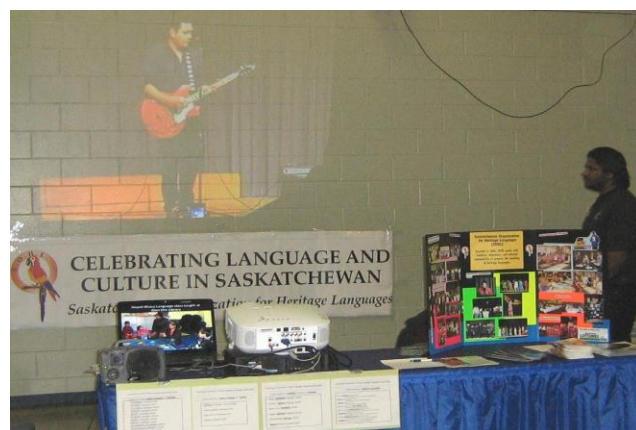
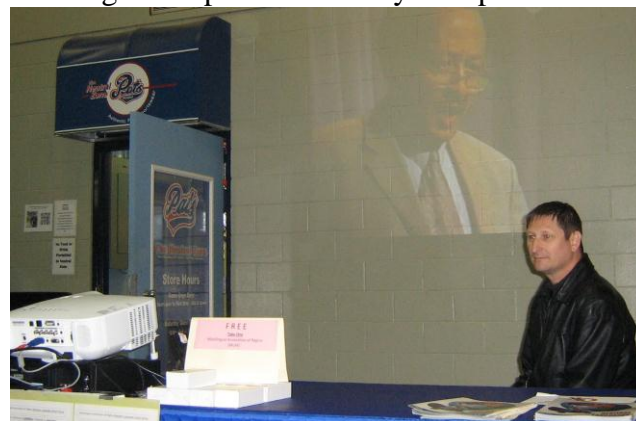


Multilingual Publicity at Pat's Hockey Game



Thanks to an invitation from the Regina Multi-cultural Council, SOHL and MLAR were able to set up a display at the Brandt Centre for a Pat's Hockey game on Sunday March 3rd. This allowed exposure to a variety of people who were not even aware that MLAR and SOHL existed, and did not know of MLAR's involvement with more than 30 Heritage Language Schools offering language classes

mostly on weekends. Both SOHL and MLAR were able to answer a variety of questions and hand out pamphlets, thus providing MLAR and SOHL good exposure to a very new public.



The display included a powerpoint presentation on MLAR Language Schools and a video of the February 23rd International Language Day event.

ANOUNCEMENTS

DAYS when BALFOUR NOT AVAILABLE

A reminder that **Balfour Collegiate** will **NOT BE AVAILABLE** for Heritage classes as follows for the balance of the 2012-2013 school year:

March 29 to April 7 (Spring Break)
May 18 to 20 (Victoria Day holiday)
LAST SCHOOL DAY: June 16, 2013
Balfour not available during Summer Holidays

CAMPBELL NOT AVAILABLE

A reminder that **Campbell Collegiate** will **NOT BE AVAILABLE** for Heritage Language School Usage for the balance of the 2012-2013 school year as follows:

March 29, 2013 to April 7, 2013 inclusive
(Easter Break)

Last School Day: June 16, 2013
Campbell Collegiate is not available
during the Summer Holidays

MLAR MEMBERSHIPS 2013-2014

Memberships are to be renewed each school year. Membership application forms will be 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.

TEACHER WORKSHOP

A Third workshop on Curriculum Development is planned for April 28th, 1:00 pm to 4:30 pm to update section 3 of the Curriculum Binder and provide final direction to language schools so they can develop their own curriculum. Because of concern that too many language classes are being cancelled and holding workshops on Saturdays adds to the problem, the workshop will be on a Sunday. Principals please inform your teachers about what they should prepare to bring to the workshop, and inform MLAR office of who will attend from your school, by April 15th.

Teacher Award Night

As mentioned earlier by President Jim Leskun, MLAR will be holding the annual Teacher Award Night on MAY 6th this year. Teachers, Principals and Coordinators of All Heritage Language Schools with MLAR Memberships can attend this event free of charge, however children are not allowed at this event, and there will be a registration fee for those who bring their spouse or a guest. More information will be sent to all Language Schools shortly.

If your school is nominating a teacher for these awards, nominations must be received by MLAR Office no later than April 22, 2013 to be considered.

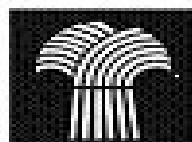
To finalize arrangements with the Travelodge please inform MLAR Office by April 22nd who will be attending from your school.

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 Organization
for Heritage Languages



Saskatchewan
Ministry of
Education