

President's Message

If you listened closely to the speeches at the on opening day, you will have noticed no announcements of major initiatives from the division. The new assessment practices, restitution, initial assessments, learner engagement, inclusion, and other recent innovations can all improve our practice. The primary concern raised by members was too much too fast. Teachers are, for the most part, independent contractors. If there are 250 members of the ITA, then there are 250 teaching styles. It takes time, effort and due consideration to incorporate new practices into an already successful teaching style. The ITA has long been advocating for a pause in major divisional initiatives in order to allow teachers to gain some proficiency in those projects already started. Well, this is that year. This year, there are numerous opportunities for professional learning either through division run workshops, MRLC, specialty learning grants, or school based PD funds. Let's use this year and those PD opportunities to refine our craft. There were useful strategies in those divisional initiatives, perhaps it is time to dust off those folders from PD session gone by and find a few nuggets and blend them into all the excellent work already being done.

When writing these newsletters, I occasionally look back at previous issues to see what was transpiring in the past; it offers gives good perspective into the progress we are making. In September 2013 we read that Ross Metcalf was announcing his retirement and fibre connectivity was coming soon to the ISD. After many trials and technical hurdles, that fibre has finally arrived and with it new opportunities for education in the Interlake. The ISD board, senior admin, and technical team deserve congratulations on their persistence on seeing this through to the end.

Professional Development Opportunities

Here are some upcoming opportunities for professional development offered by MTS.

Help! I've Been Asked to Present: Now What? – September 17, 2016

Topics: Adult learning; brain-friendly teaching; 4C's of workshop design; the learning stance; shifting paradigms; powerful PowerPoints; and skills and goals for facilitation.

Fee: Member \$75; Non-Member \$90

Supporting EAL Learners: Informing Practices and Programming – October 6 & 7, 2016

Changes in Family Status: The 90 Day Rule

Topics: responsive classroom practices, examples from the field, programming at the school level; and development of action plans.

Fee: Member \$150; Non-Member \$180

marital status, or children who are no longer dependants must be reported within

90 days of the change to the ISD payroll department through your agent as appropriate. The 90 day rule also applies to changes in the 90 day rule specifically. Some of you might have been using a self-employed plan. However, all plans of changes similar to those. Make plan to report a change in your spouse's employment you might now wish to switch to the ITA plan. If your spouse's plan is eliminated or changes significantly, you have 90 days from that change to sign up with the ITA plan(s). Again, ISD payroll will have the appropriate forms.

New Members Event

The annual ITA New Members' Event will take place in the division conference room (room 107 at SCI) from 4:30PM to 6:00PM on September 28 and 29. The seminar on both dates is identical; pick the date that works best for you. This event is for teachers new to the profession and/or new to the division. If you joined the division part-way through the previous school year or are just starting now, you are welcome to attend. In fact, even if you have been with us for a few years, but missed the session in your first year, feel free to join us. To register simply send an email to interlaketeachers@live.ca indicating your name and the date on which you wish to attend. There will be food and prizes, so plan to attend to better understand what your association can do for you.