

President's Message

Education from the earliest school years should be directed to the all-round development of the human personality and to the spiritual, moral, social, cultural and economic progress of the community, as well as to the inculcation of deep respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms; within the framework of these values the utmost importance should be attached to the contribution to be made by education to peace and to understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations and among racial or religious groups. It should be recognized that advance in education depends largely on the qualifications and ability of the teaching staff in general and on the human, pedagogical and technical qualities of the individual teachers. The status of teachers should be commensurate with the needs of education as assessed in the light of educational aims and objectives; it should be recognized that the proper status of teachers and due public regard for the profession of teaching are of major importance for the full realization of these aims and objectives.

The preceding paragraph comes from the guiding principles of the joint UNESCO/ILO *Recommendation Concerning the Status of Teachers*. World Teacher's Day is on October 5 to commemorate the Joint Recommendation which was published 50 years ago, tomorrow. Many of the articles in the Joint Recommendation are now part of labour law and collective agreements, and this is progress. But underlying all that progress is the recognition and fundamental belief by one of the world's foremost advocates of human rights, that teaching is not primarily about fabricating the next generation of workers, it is about cultivating the next generation of citizens. Our profession is, at its core, about fostering a more tolerant, inclusive, prosperous and peaceful society. That can't be done by standardized tests, by computer assisted instruction, or by any common core; that takes real people, and real people who care. You have chosen a profession that matters, happy World Teachers' Day.

What's in your personal leave bank?

For those that carried over a personal day from last year, you now have three personal days in the bank. Please remember that our collective agreement stipulates: **"No more than two (2) personal leave days may be used consecutively without the approval of the Superintendent or designate."** Therefore, if you are planning an event which will require you to take three, consecutive personal days, please make sure you seek prior approval of the superintendent before finalizing plans, buying tickets etc. As with all such requests, the more lead time you can give the better. Also note that this applies only to personal days; days earned through extra-curricular activities have no such restriction. Please direct any questions about this article to ITA president, John Bock.



Interlaketeachers.ca

The [ITA website](#) is decidedly Web 1.0 – the links are blue, underlined words which turn colour when you click them; there are no menus. Even so, there is information to be had on the site. I would specifically point your attention to the aptly named “Useful Information” section on the home page. The Useful Information section has the maternity/parental leave guide, Blue Cross coverage brochures, MTS discounts, and the Beginning Teacher Handbook to name a few. If you wander off of the homepage you can find newsletter archives, a list of executive members, and a calendar of events. The calendar has ITA events and the ISD days of the cycle. For those of you who want one and know how to use one, I have an ICS file encoded with the days of the cycle. This file can be used to import the days of the cycle into your calendar. Finally, there is the contact page which goes directly and only to me, so use it if you have forgotten my email and want to get in touch. The website isn’t pretty, it isn’t expansive, but it is useful; give it a try the next time you need a bit of information.

Orange Shirt Day

Orange Shirt Day is over for this year, but that doesn’t mean we should stop learning and teaching about indigenous issues. The Manitoba Teachers’ Society has prepared a number of activities and lesson plans to be used in conjunction with Orange Shirt Day, but they are equally useful at any time of year. The lessons can be found by following the links on the MTS website or by clicking [here](#). As we continue to learn and teach about the history of indigenous peoples in our country, we add to the fabric of reconciliation.



MTS PD Day

The Manitoba Teachers’ Society Professional Development day (aka SAGE day) is coming up quickly. As many of you have discovered, a number of SAGE groups have gone to online registration through the MTS MyProfile site. If you choose not to attend an official SAGE event, make sure to complete the appropriate divisional paperwork to attend an alternative to SAGE. Last year MTS ran the successful “Stay the Day” campaign on MTSPD day, which saw teachers enjoy a full day of professional development opportunities at SAGE sites around the city. This year MTS is sponsoring an evening after MTSPD day. The gathering, entitled GLOW (Gay, Lesbian, Or Whatever), promises an “enjoyable and informative opportunity to network. You’ll hear from us about our plans and we want to hear from you about your needs.” The event is on Friday, October 21, 2016, 4:30 PM TO 6:30 PM with a Wine & Cheese reception in the McMaster House Auditorium 191 Harcourt Street,



Register at www.mbteach.org through [My Profile](#).