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President's Message

In an effort to heed my own advice, what you are reading was written at the beginning of the winter break; I then took a break. By the time you read this, you will be back at school ready to dive into what is traditionally the heart of the school year: the January to March run. One of my roles as president is to act as a conduit between teachers and the school division. As much I possible, I communicate to you what is going on at the division level, and I convey to division staff, what is going on at the school level. I do not pretend to be the only such conduit, but I am the only one whose primary job description is to look out for the welfare of teachers. It is for this reason I visit schools and welcome your phone calls, texts, and emails. I cannot communicate what I don't know. More fluid communication allows problems to be stopped early and misunderstandings to be minimized. All teachers may seek the advice of the president on any topic in complete confidence. I will never move forward with any information without a teacher's express permission. So, as you head into the winter term, feel free to call me (204-467-5845), text me (same number) or email me (interlaketeachers@live.ca) if you want advice, have a problem you want solve, or just wish to chat. Have a great start to the new calendar year; I hope to see you all at Quiz night.

Quiz Night is February 2

The ITA Quiz Night will be held at 7:00pm on Thursday, February 2 at the Parochial Hall in Stonewall. Cost is \$10.00 per person. You may register as a team or come as an individual; we will find you a team. The event is open to all employees of the Interlake School Division, so feel free to team up with, or encourage non-ITA members to attend. Send your registration information to Cheryl Kooning. Each year we are asked for hints as to what will be on the quizzes; this year I have decided to give in; here is what you can expect:

We will have some table games, one of which will test your knowledge of sports. The annual cover song quiz will return with William Shatner singing Rascal Flatts. Animal lovers will have a quiz to like, as will aficionados of the very popular show. You absolutely will want to brush up on major topics surrounding issues such as the environment. So, come out and find out whether you are smarter than a 5th grader. Join us on Feb. 2 – what is it about that day?



Our Human Rights Journey

MTS and MASS are joining forces to bring you *Educating for ACTion: Our Human Rights Journey*. This is a two-day conference on human rights that, in addition to many workshops, will feature keynote speakers such as John Ralston Saul, Raheel Raza, Chief Wilton Littlechild, and Dr. Cindy Blackstock. Some of the many workshop topics include Human Trafficking, Decolonizing Education, 60s Scoop, Youth Against Mental Illness Stigma, Stress Management, Teaching about Gender, Religious Rights, Down's Syndrome, and Children in Care. If you are part of a school-based human rights group or you simply find these topics interesting, talk to your principal about attending. Registration is open now; the conference fee is \$350.00. Register through MyProfile.

More MTS PD

Decolonizing Education as an Act of Reconciliation

Introducing educators to historical and contemporary understandings of colonization, decolonization, and anti-oppressive education and how these concepts can lead to addressing reconciliation.

Topics: colonization; decolonization, anti-oppressive education; meritocracy; relationality and relational accountability; TRC Calls to Action; Reconciliation, including critical analysis of the concept of reconciliation.

March 9 & 10 – 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Fee: \$150. Register through MyProfile.

Curling (from BTA)

The Brandon Teachers' Association will be hosting the 2017 Manitoba Teachers' Society Bonspiel March 3, 4 & 5 2017. This is a great event for all skill level of curlers. First timers or seasoned champions you are all welcome to come out and enjoy the weekend! The bonspiel will again be an open format this year. Teams can be made up of any arrangement of male or female curlers. However, at least three members of each team must belong to the same local association of MTS. Curling will begin Friday evening, we will accommodate the draw for teams traveling to join us. Saturday curling continues all day with a social evening to follow. Teams are invited to join us Saturday night for supper and stay for the live band "The Clubbing Fraggles" The supper and social is all included in your entry fee. For entry forms, contact your local president.

