

President's Message – Holiday Medley

'Tis the day before, the last day of school, and teachers all over, are preparing for yule.
I hear many a teacher exclaim with a shout, "I can not believe, that of time we've run out."
You have "jingled-bell rocked", your way through concerts and open houses,
And are hoping to soon spend, well earned time with family and spouses.

You have helped shape for your students, the first four months of this year,
Which many may have entered, with trepidation and fear.
You've given so much, in these still early days,
And your classes are now trained, in your awesome teacher ways.

So as you pack up for home tomorrow, for a short winter nap,
Remember to enjoy it, as it will fly by in a snap.
Your students will miss you, but your classroom will be fine,
So please leave behind the marking, as there's always a long line.

Your job will rekindle, after some time to yourself.
Please embrace the joys of the season, and your inner holiday elf.
We thank you for making, for all parents and each community to see,
That in Interlake classrooms, it is warm and inclusive to be.

It is with my sincere best wishes, on behalf of the ITA executive, that you take some time to regenerate and enjoy the season with family and friends. Your students need you at your best; the giving, energetic and unique role-model in their lives, who makes school an inviting and safe place to learn and be themselves. As a wise person once told me; the inbox will always be full.

We thank you so much, for everything you do for your students. Glad tidings to all and we wish you some well-earned, silent nights! Which ever image you feel describes you today... be well.



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I tried some fun with the 12 days of Christmas Song, for those of you who need a little humour. To save space, here is the last verse only. Enjoy!

On the twelfth day of Christmas, public education gave to me,
 Twelve months of Education Review,
 Eleven new cups for coffee,
 Ten days of PD,
 Nine exams to yet mark,
 Eight scarves to still tie,
 Seven classes of marking,
 Six shiny textbooks,
 Five... golden-rod... sheets,
 Four runny noses,
 Three preps a cycle,
 Two white boards, and
 The teacher version with the answer key.

News Items:

- The MB Teacher Magazine interview with Education Minister Kelvin Goertzen, [LINK](#) If you are given the opportunity to comment as part of the review, please share your story.
- Have a New Year's resolution of trying new PD opportunities? See the MTS workshop list [HERE](#).
- Spend some time outdoors with MTS during its centennial in the New Year. The Society has designed a warming hut on the Red River Mutual Trail at the Forks. See [HERE](#) for details.
- The holiday season may have different meaning for some of us. The MTS Educator Assistance Program (EAP) is a phone call away, if your well-being should need it throughout the year. The office reopens on Jan 2. [LINK](#) Winnipeg Office: **Phone: 204-837-5801 or Toll-free:1-800-378-8811.**

Upcoming Important Dates:

- **ITA QUIZ NIGHT** – Thursday January 31st, 2019. \$10 per player in teams of 8 or sign up as an individual and we can add you to a team where needed.
Who: Open to all Interlake School Division staff and significant others.
Location: Parochial Hall, 310 1st St. W, Stonewall
Time: Quizzes start at 7 pm, Doors open at 6:30pm
 Bring your own snacks. Make it fun and theme it up for your team! Refreshments available.

