

# Multilingual Association of Regina

## JULY-SEPT 2014 NEWSLETTER



2144 Cornwall Street, Regina, SK. S4P 2K7  
Tel: (306) 757-3171 Fax: (306) 757-3172  
E-mail: [mlar@accesscomm.ca](mailto:mlar@accesscomm.ca) Website: [mlar.ca](http://mlar.ca)

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### President's Message



Chidi Igwe and Jim Leskun, Photo taken at "2014-2015 Kickoff" meeting on August 25, to start off the new School Year: meeting organized by Regina Multilingual Schools Committee chaired by Chidi.

Greetings all students, parents, teachers, principals and co-ordinators of MLAR's member schools and welcome to the 2014-2015 heritage language school year. I hope that everyone had an enjoyable summer and that you are all ready for the school year ahead.

Thank you to all who attended the Heritage Language School Year Kick-Off meeting held on August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014, at the Travelodge South. At this meeting, expectations with respect to classroom use and student supervision at Balfour and Campbell Collegiate were stressed. Most of the complaints from Balfour and Campbell are due to Heritage Language Schools not following these rules. Please review these rules with your students and teachers on the first day of classes so that our Office Co-ordinator, Emile, who has to deal with complaints, will not have to dedicate his valuable time to deal with these issues.

The Regina Multilingual Schools Committee is in the formative planning stages for the 2015 Volunteer Teacher Award night which is scheduled for May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2015 to be held at the Travelodge South. Last year's presentation of service pins was well received by all those in attendance at the 2014 event and will continue for the 2015 year.

The Professional Development Committee is holding off in setting a date for MLAR's workshop. MLAR's three year PDC workshop plan started two years ago with 'Curriculum Development' and last year with 'Effective Teaching Methods' and is planned to be about 'Student Evaluation' this year. With SOHL hosting a similar titled workshop at its conference to be held in October, MLAR's PDC felt that it would be more useful to review the material covered by SOHL and supplement this material with our own workshop to be held after Christmas. Please stay tuned for the exact date.

Also, mark your calendars with the date of the 2014 AGM to be held on November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2014. At the AGM, elections will be held for President, Vice President plus two Directors. If you are a motivated, hard-working individual who would like to serve the Heritage Language School community or if you would like to nominate an individual who would be an asset to the organization, please contact the office for a nomination form. I wish you all the best for the 2014-2015 school year.

Dr. Jim Leskun  
MLAR President

## Heritage Language Schools 2014-15 Kickoff



MLAR Secretary Damodar Pokhrel handled registration at this meeting on August 25 at the Travelodge, a meeting under a revised name that previously was referred to as the Principals' Meeting.

There were 40 in attendance at this meeting, including 34 representing various operating language schools. However, 14 language schools were not represented, and so missed out on some important matters discussed at this meeting. In particular, the Saskatchewan Ministry of Education is recently focussing more attention on Heritage Language schools and is increasing its expectations for the funding the Government is making available to qualifying Heritage Language Schools so it is important to attend this meeting to be aware of changes.

President Jim Leskun acted as Chairman and kept the meeting interesting, keeping everyone involved, giving all an opportunity to introduce themselves, and later to ask questions on various topics to be presented.

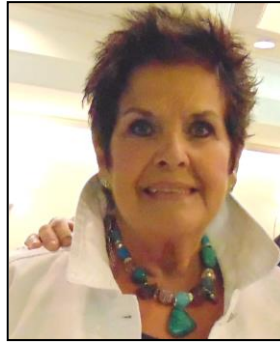


Following is a summary of main topics covered:

1. Full schedule of classes held at Balfour
2. Full schedule of classes held at Campbell
3. Currently known Days when classes not available at Balfour
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5. Where to go in case of emergencies at either Balfour or at Campbell
6. Rules that language schools must follow when using Balfour or Campbell classrooms, to avoid complaints.
7. Other Regina Multilingual School (RMS) committee responsibilities including the Award Night planned for May 4 2015; school visits by MLAR Board Members; and Student Certificate new procedures.

## The following matters were also covered

1. Professional Development Committee Chair



Judith Kocks explained why no teacher workshop will be held this year until after the Christmas Break. This is because the planned topic has to do with Language School Program Evaluation, and the Committee is awaiting

more information about the new Student Assessment Initiative that is being planned by SOHL to be implemented by all language schools this school year, as a requirement of the Saskatchewan Ministry of Education.

2. Regarding the topic of Language Program



Promotion and Publicity and various SOHL initiatives, Past President of SOHL Ved Arora made several announcements including reference to the Annual International

Heritage Day Celebration which will again be held at the Balfour Auditorium, date yet to be finalized. Ved also made reference to various deadlines that language schools will have to meet to qualify for funding from the Ministry of Education through SOHL. Ved also encouraged language school principals and teachers to attend SOHL's Annual Conference to be held in Regina on October 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> where the new initiative regarding Student Assessment will be dealt with.

3. MLAR's Annual Membership Meeting (AGM)

It was announced that this meeting will be held on November 24<sup>th</sup> at the Travelodge on Albert Street South, Regina. The following are up for election: President, Vice President and 2 Board Members, all for a 2-year term. MLAR members in good standing can identify 2 voting delegates, and can submit nominations for above positions. More information will be sent to all language schools together with nomination documents at least 1 month in advance of the meeting.



Photo of those who attended the Heritage Language School 2014-2015 Kickoff meeting on August 25<sup>th</sup> at the Travelodge, taken shortly after the end of the meeting. (Not sure of everyone's name so will let you identify.)

### Some Concerns raised by Language Schools

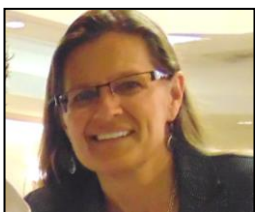


Jashim Uddin, Principal of the Bangla Heritage School with classes at Campbell expressed concern about class cancellations which made it difficult to meet the Ministry of Education's requirements for 70 hours

of instruction to qualify for available funding. President Jim said that he would again meet with the Principals of Campbell and of Balfour to discuss that concern, to reduce class cancellations, especially on Saturdays.



Madoka Otani, Principal of the Queen City Japanese School who also holds classes at Campbell, mentioned that last year she was able to find another location for her classes at a reasonable cost when Campbell cancelled classes, so that is another option.



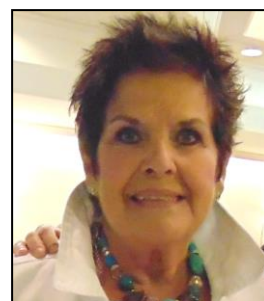
Sandra Morin, Principal of the German School also at Campbell, said that the Saskatchewan Ministry of Education is obviously paying more attention to

Heritage Language Schools regarding meeting their requirements for funding.



Lucia Garcia, Principal of the Salvadorean Spanish School and Santos Garcia teach at Balfour on Saturdays. Santos mentioned that for school year 2013-

2014 they extended their class period by ½ hour to 12:30 on Saturdays to make up for lost time. Emile mentioned that other language schools teaching at Balfour on Saturday mornings from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon could also extend their class hours to 12:30. However, this would not be possible for language schools teaching in the afternoon because the shortage of classrooms to meet the needs of 13 different language schools made it necessary to limit schedules with one period from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm and the other period from 3:15 pm to 5:15 pm.



Regarding rules about not disturbing anything on the regular teacher's desk, as a former teacher in the public school system, Judith stressed that this is very important as teachers get very upset when things are taken from their desk or things on their desks are disturbed, or their class arrangements are tampered with. Language schools must always respect the classrooms they are allowed to use for language classes.



It was also mentioned that at times, all the whiteboards in the classroom have some of the regular teacher's contents written on them, and language schools are not allowed to erase any of the regular teacher's content on whiteboards.



Fatima Pirbhai-Illich recommended that the MLAR Board discuss the above and other language school concerns with the Regina Public School Board and with the Collegiate Principals, in an effort to resolve concerns expressed at this meeting.

## ANOUNCEMENTS

### MLAR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

As mentioned above, this meeting will be held on November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2014 and will involve Elections of the following:

- President – 2 year term
- Vice President – 2 year term
- 2 Board Members – 2 year terms

Language schools are to identify 2 voting delegates and if they wish to submit nominations for above positions, nomination documents must be provided to MLAR office by the deadline of November 17<sup>th</sup> to be accepted. Other factors to consider:

- For nominations to Executive positions of President or Vice President, the candidate must have at least one year of previous experience on the MLAR Board to be considered.
- Nominations from the floor will NOT be accepted, so all required nomination documents must be completed and submitted to MLAR Office by the stated deadline of November 17<sup>th</sup>.

Registration at the Travelodge will be from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm with the meeting to start at 7:00 pm.

### MLAR MEMBERSHIPS 2014-2015

To be eligible to vote at MLAR's AGM a language school must have renewed its MLAR Membership. As of September 1, all but a few schools have renewed their membership. Schools must also be MLAR Members to qualify for free access to Balfour and Campbell Collegiates. Memberships should be renewed before the start of a new school year (prior to September of each year).

### TEACHER WORKSHOP

As mentioned earlier, the date for this year's workshop has not been set, but will not be until after the Christmas Break. The Topic being considered is on Language School Program Evaluation which would include Student evaluation/assessment, with SOHL's assessment templates to be implemented this school year to be part of the workshop content. More information will be provided to all schools once a date is identified.

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**Saskatchewan  
Ministry of  
Education**



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