
Multilingual Association of Regina

APRIL-JUNE 2014 NEWSLETTER



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President's Message

The end of May is nearing and this means the drawing to a close of the 2013-2014 school year. The past few months have been a busy time for the organization.

On May 5th, MLAR held its annual Volunteer Teacher Award Night which was very well attended once again. I had the privilege of emceeing the event for this year. We had many special dignitaries, most with a teaching background, attend this evening.

For 2014, MLAR changed the focus this year from honoring three individual teachers (youth, new and long term teachers) to honoring teachers who have contributed for three or more years. Bronze service pins were awarded to 26 of the 46 teachers whose names were submitted as having taught for 3 or 4 years. Silver service pins were awarded to 12 of the 21 teachers whose names were submitted as having taught between 5 and 9 years and Gold service pins were awarded to 8 of the 13 teachers whose names were received as having taught a heritage language for 10 or more years.

This change in format was very well received by all in attendance and especially by those who were able to receive this small token of appreciation from MLAR. We were also pleased to award the Honorary Life Membership Award to two long serving MLAR Board members who retired in 2013, Mrs. Mary Kolitsas and Mr. Ved Arora. Mary had served for 25 continuous years and Ved had served for 35 continuous years.

Thank you to all of the Board members of MLAR for organizing yet another fantastic

celebration for the great volunteer teachers within our membership.

On March 29th, I had the privilege to attend the Salvadorian Spanish School's 21st Anniversary at the Cathedral Community Centre. I was able to bring greetings on behalf of the MLAR Board to honor this milestone achievement for this organization. Congratulations to Santos and Lucia Garcia, the backbone of this organization, on 21 years of teaching the Spanish language. MLAR is looking forward to many more years of your dedicated participation.



All Principals, Coordinators, Teachers, involved parents are invited to attend MLAR's **2014-2015 "Heritage Language School Kickoff"** to be held at 7:00 p.m. on August 25th at the Travelodge on South Albert Street, with registration starting at 6:30 pm. This meeting is very important to all of the above individuals as information pertinent to a successful school year will be discussed at this meeting.

Have a great summer and we will see you all on August 25th!

Dr. J.R. Deskin.

Heritage Language Teachers Award Night May 5, 2014

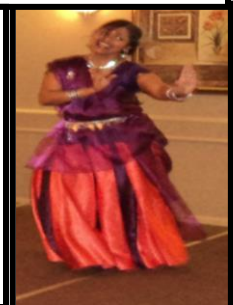


As can be seen from the above photo, this event was very well attended, with 117 registered including special guest Honorable Russ Marchuk, who brought greetings on behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan. Other guests who brought greetings included Brenda Sherring of SaskCulture, Juanita Redekopp-McKeown from the Regina Public School System, Terry Zwarych from the Regina Multicultural Council, Ved Arora from SOHL. This year it was nice to see representatives from Balfour Collegiate: Juanita Tuharsky, Jordan Hackel and Kelsey Dayman; as also Leslie Erhardt from Winston Knoll Collegiate, accompanied by Naticia Leskun.

Board Members Olatundun Adebogun and Stephanie Schaefer at Registration table were kept busy as they received everyone and handed out MLAR pins, various documents and a Gift of a 4 Gigabyte USB Flash Drive to those who registered.



Following welcomes, a sumptuous Buffet of mixed vegetables, Roasted Chicken, Fish, Rice and a wide variety of cakes, pies, fruit, Tazo Tea and Coffee, cultural entertainment was provided - a cultural dance by Sudha Srinivas.



Bronze Service Pin Awards: 3 to 4 years of service



MLAR had received from Heritage Language schools, the names of 46 volunteers who were eligible for Bronze Service Pin awards. Unfortunately only 26 were able to attend the awards night to receive their Service Pins: **Bangla Heritage School**: Ishrat Ara, Nasima Akter, Sofia Ali; **Regina Chinese School**: Leon Heyu Wang, **Das Schulhaus Gernan School**: Sabine Zagoricnik-Wecker, Stephanie Schaefer; **German School of Regina**: Judith Kocks; **ICA Hindi School**: Shivali Sood; **Nepali Bhasha School**: Khem and Gayatri Nepal, Ghana Bhandari, Khem Regni, Lxman Regmi; **Nepali School**: Damodar and Shobba Pokhrel, Shiva and Prasanna Shrestha, Jyota Sharma, Sureah Jnawali; **Punjabi School**: Jasmin Kamboz; **Russian School**: Ludmila Karaza; **School of Chinese Studies**: Simon and Clara Lau; **St Paul's Greek School**: Kelly Tasselos, Panayiota and Sofia Tompolidou.

Silver Service Pin Awards: 5 to 9 years of service



MLAR had received from Heritage Language schools, the names of 21 volunteers who were eligible for Silver Service Pin awards. Unfortunately only 12 were able to attend the awards night to receive their Service Pins: **Igbo School**: Chidi Igwe; **Yoruba School**: Olatundun Adebogun; **Vietnamese School**: Lan Van; **Bangla School of Regina**: Zaheed Iftekhar, Mohammad Chowdhury; **German School of Regina**: Sandra Morin, Julia Lacey; **Queen City Japanese School**: Madoka Otani; **School of Chinese Studies**: Monica Chu; **St Paul's Greek School**: Toula Diamond, Petros Aiginitis (Not on stage: Poonam Sood, **ICA Hindi School**)

Gold Service Pin Awards: 10 or more years of service



RMS Committee Chair Chidi Igwe presented Gold Service Pins to the following [Left to right]: **Das Schulhaus German School**: Cornelia Taschow-Graupe, Helga Mogharabi; **German School of Regina**: Regina Furkert; **Punjabi School**: Inderjit Kamboz; **Sadochok Ukrainian PreSchool**: Kateryna Myezyentsova; **School of Chinese Studies**: Rose Cheung, Raphael Hwang; **Vietnamese School**: Tin Nguyen, 8 of the 13 teachers who were eligible to receive this recognition. Two of the above recipients, Cornelia Taschow-Graupe and Tin Nguyen, also received “belated” service plaques in recognition of their past service as MLAR Board Members several years ago.



Other awards included MLAR's **Honorary Life Membership Award** which this year went to two former long-service MLAR Board Members, **Mary Kolitsas** and **Ved Arora**, presented by Indu Jaiswal

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Preparation for the 2014-2015 School Year
Principals of Language Schools teaching at Balfour and Campbell in 2013-2014 were contacted in May-June and asked to let MLAR Office know as soon as possible whether or not they would need the same classroom schedule as for 2013-2014 so the Required Permit could be submitted. If you have not yet responded to this request please do so as soon as possible, else classrooms will not be reserved for your use as they may be allocated to new language schools.

MLAR MEMBERSHIPS 2014-2015
Memberships are to be renewed each school year. Membership application forms were emailed to all school principals before the end of June 2014 for completion and return to MLAR Office. Annual fee remains at \$ 20.00

Heritage Language Schools
“2014-2015 School Year Kickoff”

This is the name the Board has selected to replace the former “School Principals Meeting” held annually. It is important to have Teachers attend this meeting as well as Principals, because matters related to use of classrooms at Balfour and Campbell and other matters affecting teachers are discussed at this annual meeting.
Date: August 25, 2014, Travelodge Hotel, Albert Street South, Regina. Registration starting at 6:30 P.M., meeting at 7:00 P.M.

TEACHER WORKSHOP

A Teacher workshop is planned for November 2014. The exact date and more details will be emailed to all schools once that information is available. The topic being considered is in relation to **EVALUATION**.

The Multilingual Association of Regina (MLAR) gratefully acknowledges **funding assistance** from **SaskCulture Inc., Saskatchewan Lotteries, Saskatchewan Organization for Heritage Languages, (SOHL) Saskatchewan Education.**



Saskatchewan Ministry of Education