

MIGHTY PEACE TEACHERS' CONVENTION

Mindful Learning, March 3 & 4, 2016

Save the Cat!

Tyler Durman is best known for his ability to offer wisdom through laughter and storytelling. Tyler is a former teacher and each year his presentations reach more than 200,000 students and adults throughout the U.S. and Canada. Learn more by visiting <http://bitesizedwisdom.com> and <https://www.facebook.com/tylerspage> and following him on twitter @tylerdurman. Tyler Durman will be opening the 2016 Convention with **Save the Cat!** We all know a teacher who has lost their joy. We will laugh and be touched by Tyler (not literally) as he helps us understand how to find and keep our joy alive. "Save the Cat" will be a phrase you remind yourself of every day as you live your own story and help your students to live their best story possible. In Session C, **Your Students are like BBQ Chicken**, Tyler will give you 6 specific tools you can use immediately to create and sustain a motivated and selfless culture among your students. Bite-Sized-Wisdom that will stand as a guide for every interaction they have with you and each other throughout the year.



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Connect with MPTCA

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Twitter: @mptconvention #mptca

Facebook Group:
[Mighty Peace Teachers' Convention](#)

Website: mptca.teachers.ab.ca



Interactive Literacy

Eric Litwin (Mr. Eric) is a guitar strumming, book writing, harmonica blowing, song singing, folksy, fun type of guy. He is the # 1 New York Times Best Selling author of the first four Pete the Cat picture books and the author of the new musical series The Nuts. Eric is a popular performing artist who plays guitar, sings, tells musical stories and brings books to life. Find him online at <http://www.ericlitwin.com> and <https://www.facebook.com/mrericmusic>.



♦ **Session F, Interactive Literacy: Classroom Management:** Mr. Eric began using interactive literacy and music as a classroom teacher. Very quickly he discovered that they were powerful and effective in day to day classroom management. In this practical and inspiring workshop teachers learn how interactive music and stories can help facilitate smooth transitions, create community, increase student engagement, reinforce educational objectives, teach rules, provide structure, set a positive tone and channel energy into learning.

♦ **Closing Keynote Session H, Interactive Literacy:** Get ready to sing, dance and fall in love with interactive literacy and music. Mr. Eric's presentation is fun, inspirational and practical. He shares simple, interactive songs and stories that teachers may use right away. No musical experience is necessary. Eric shows how traditional techniques such as call and response, repetition, and creative movement are applied in everyday lessons, classroom management, and transitions. He will also demonstrate their connection to reading, writing and language development. With his guitar, harmonica and dynamic singing voice, Eric will have everyone singing, laughing, dancing and moving. Eric will also share his New York Times best-selling Pete the Cat picture books and his new series, The Nuts.

2015-2016 CONVENTION BOARD

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Hotels in Grande Prairie

The Mighty Peace Teachers' Convention Association has been able to block some hotel rooms for very reasonable rates and we are pleased to be able to offer these to our teacher members. Convention is always a busy time in Grande Prairie so we recommend reserving your room today! These rooms are only available until February, unless they sell out sooner.



Hotel	Room Rates
Days Inn Grande Prairie 10218 162 Avenue Grande Prairie	CAD \$113.04 Complimentary wifi
Super 8 Grande Prairie 10050 116th Ave Grande Prairie	CAD \$129.79 Complimentary breakfast with hot items Complimentary wifi
Pomeroy Hotel & Conference Centre 11633 100th Street Grande Prairie	CAD \$139.00 - \$159.00 Complimentary breakfast Complimentary wi-fi

ATTENDANCE POLICY AND BEING ABSENT FROM CONVENTION

Teachers are obligated, professionally and legally, to attend and participate in teachers' convention. Section 78(1)(d) of the School Act defines "teaching day" to include the two days per year on which teachers' conventions are held. These days are for attending sessions at the convention authorized by the Alberta Teachers' Association. Convention days are, by law, teaching days for which teachers receive pay.

- **If you are sick (or cannot attend convention for other personal reasons)** then the provisions in the collective agreement apply and you must follow the same procedures for obtaining sick leave (or other forms of leave) that you would if it was a normal teaching day.
- **Any teacher wishing to engage in other professional development activity** during teachers' convention must complete the Alternate PD application form from the MPTCA website (mptca.teachers.ab.ca). Based on specific criteria set out by the provincial ATA, the attendance committee will make a judgment regarding the request. Requests to be absent from the Mighty Peace Teachers' Convention for **reasons of alternate professional development** are to be made prior to **January 15, 2016**.
- **Part-time teachers** are being paid "only for the time the teacher teaches" (*School Act* (Section 103(b))). Your teaching assignment is your *shift*, which is a defined time. Any addition to or adjustment of time must be done with your agreement and proper

compensation. In simplest terms, whatever is consistent with your assignment for that day is your obligation. Notwithstanding all of the above, part-time teachers **aren't prevented from voluntarily attending sessions**.

- **Any teacher required to coach at an ASAA Provincial Finals Event** during teachers' convention must complete the form available on either the ASAA or MPTCA website (mptca.teachers.ab.ca) and send it to the attendance committee chairperson of the convention board. Teachers are not excused from Convention to coach zone events.
- **Substitute teachers can attend Convention!** As soon as a substitute teacher teaches for one day in any of our member locals they are an Associate Member of the ATA and are eligible to attend Convention at no cost. Substitute teachers can register on Wednesday between 1 - 5:00 p.m. or on Thursday or Friday during regular convention hours. Proof that they have taught during the current school year is required. Since adult supervisors do not hold an Alberta teaching certificate they are not entitled to Convention privileges.

School boards have the right to deduct pay from teachers absent from convention without legitimate reason, and in fact, have done so. A charge of unprofessional conduct under Association discipline bylaws may also be lodged against a teacher who fails to attend and participate in teachers' convention.

Extra Credit: Stories Worth Sharing

At the heart of education is the teacher-student relationship. So many adults, looking back to their childhood, have that one teacher that changed the trajectory of their lives. Teachers as well can look over their career and pin point those students who validated their work or warmed their heart. Imagine for a moment an evening in which teachers, students, parents and community leaders gathered for an evening to speak of the affect that relationships played in their education. That opportunity is here.

The evening of Thursday, March 3, 2016, **Extra Credit: Stories Worth Sharing** will be a community event where local teachers, parents, and students have an opportunity to speak from their perspectives about the relationships formed during their educational experiences. It is those relationships that prove to be most valuable and stand the test of time. If you had the chance to tell your story about that teacher or that student who truly impacted your life, would you? **Extra Credit: Stories Worth Sharing** is looking for those stories and those story tellers. Stories can be spoken, written or by video format. To submit your story, visit www.excred.com now.

The 2016 Program is Only on SCHED

Last year the 2015 program was only available online, through the SCHED site. We had a lot of positive feedback about this site, so we will continue to use it, as long as it meets our needs.

SCHED does not register you for sessions and adding a session to your schedule does not commit you to that session. In fact, you can have multiple sessions that are in the same time slot on your schedule. It simply allows you to search through the program as a database and build a schedule of sessions you are interested in.

Right now, teachers can visit mptca2016.sched.org to see the line-up of keynotes and some other sessions we are currently promoting. The complete program should be online February 1, 2016.

When teachers create accounts and build their tentative schedules on SCHED, the program committee can see the number of teachers who are planning on attending those sessions. Having this information prior to Convention allows the program committee to make changes to rooms

and even add sessions if possible. Another great feature of SCHED is that we can email all the teachers who have added that session to their schedule with any updates or cancellations, keeping our teachers informed.



Build your schedule on your computer and with the mobile web app.

If you are not familiar with sched.org please check out the support section of their site which is dedicated to showing Convention attendees how to get the most from the features they offer tinyurl.com/schedsupport.

Community Presentation

Evening of Wednesday, March 2 at Mother Teresa Catholic School (Time still to be announced)

***Please share this information with parents and in your communities.**

60 YEARS ON - MARIA MONTESSORI: HER LIFE AND LEGACY (1870 – 1952)

60+ years after Dr. Montessori's death, her philosophy and methodology still prompt debate, while myth and mystery surround Maria Montessori the woman. Contemporary primary education derives its form largely from the work of this pioneering educator, considered one of the most 100 important women of the 20th century.

Join **Carol Scarratt**, founder and now Professor Emeritus of *Western Montessori Teachers' College* (est. 1979), as she presents a pictorial account of Dr. Maria Montessori's extraordinary life, together with poignant moments from the history and development of the *Montessori Method*.

"Carol thoroughly researched the life of Maria Montessori. Her multi-sensorial presentation, the serene music and stimulating narration left us newly inspired to carry on the Montessori legacy. Everyone should see this presentation. I feel energized and renewed!" (Attendees' Feedback, Vancouver).

MORE GREAT SPEAKERS TO SEE THIS YEAR!

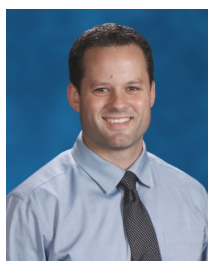
* **Big Daddy Tazz** - <http://www.bigdaddytazz.com/>

Session B: Out of my Mind

Session C: Big Daddy Tazz Running AMOK

Often described as one of the most talented comics in the business, Big Daddy Tazz has been delighting crowds at fundraisers, corporate events, festivals and on television for almost 20 years. It all began in high school when he fell on his face and his teacher asked what he was trying to prove. Tazz quickly answered "Gravity!" laughter erupted, and Tazz learned he had a natural ability to make people laugh. Today he is one of the most sought-after comedians in Canada.

After 30 years of denying he had mental illnesses that were controlling his life, Tazz realized that being manic-depressive, attention deficit, and dyslexic could either destroy or enhance his life – it was his choice. Today, audiences are happy to join him on his rapid cycle ride down the never-ending road to recovery that has led him from comedy venues across North America to the Psych ward at the Calgary Foothills Hospital. He tours the country speaking on Depression/Suicide (in schools and the workplace), Bullying (in schools and the workplace), and Customer Service. Big Daddy Tazz delights crowds at fundraisers, corporate events, festivals or on television. He's known as the Bi Polar Buddha and is equal parts comedian and motivational speaker who likes to enlighten, educate, and inspire.



* **Chris Wejr** - <http://chriswejr.com/>, @chriswejr

Session A, repeat in E: Motivation from Within - Moving Away From Points, Prizes, and Pizza Parties

Session C: Change the Lens, Change the Story: Embracing the Strengths of our Students

Session D, repeat in F: Shifting to a Strength-Based Culture

Chris is a father of 4 year-old twin girls and a former high school PE/Science/Math teacher and volleyball coach. He currently works as a teacher/principal of James Hill Elementary in Langley.

Previous to this, he worked as a teacher/principal in the community of Agassiz in which he worked with the staff to create positive changes in school climate as well as student motivation and engagement based on a strength-based school culture. He has also advised and worked on committees with the BC

Ministry of Education, the Canadian Education Association and other agencies to help promote educational change in areas such as curriculum, professional learning, assessment, and technology. Chris learns from and shares with others through his learning network on Twitter at @chriswejr as well as on his blog at chriswejr.com. Chris is a strong believer in the power of social media to share stories that drive educational change and has presented online as well as in Western Canada and the United States.

* **Mark Ramsankar, Alberta Teachers' Association President**

Session E: Voice – Advocacy – Action: A Conversation with President Mark Ramsankar

We live in interesting times. In the last 2 years we have seen the comings and goings of 3 education ministers and 4 premiers. We watched as Alberta changed governments for the first time in 44 years. And while they say that the only constant in life is change, through all these (and more) changes, the ATA has been constant in advocating for a great school for all: for all students and for all teachers. Join President Ramsankar for a behind the scenes look at the hot issues facing teachers today and an in depth discussion of how the ATA is reacting to the shifting climate, including a Q and A session with members.

* **Dr. Edmond Dixon**

Session C, Repeat in D: Helping Boys Learn

Dr. Dixon--a teacher, principal, researcher and parent of boys, knows that teachers are often at a loss when dealing with their boys' lack of focus and commitment to school. His presentation, which is chock full of advice based on his real life experience will demonstrate how teachers can have tremendous influence on their male students' success. His 6 Secrets Pathway will help educators use simple techniques to improve their students' focus, avoid distractions, complete homework without nagging and put their best effort into learning.

