

Transforming Education

March 8 & 9, 2012



A Message from the MPTCA President

It is my honour in my first year as president to personally welcome you to the 2012 Mighty Peace Teachers' Convention.

We chose the theme of "Transforming Education" to address the fact that we work in a profession that is becoming increasingly demanding. We are experiencing a climate of real change in Alberta education; one in which we are being asked by our educational and government leaders to become personally involved in moving our province forward. In keeping with this theme, our dedicated convention team has created a fantastic lineup that should make us all think about what changes are in our future and what direction we need to take. It is my sincere wish that you will all find something inspiring and hopeful to take back to your schools.

We are pleased to welcome our opening keynote presenter, Mr. Tod Maffin, a leading digital communication expert whose advice and expertise is much sought after in the business world and in the field of education. He has been well received at a number of teachers' conven-

tions now, and he will address the issue that we all face in teaching students that are growing up in a digital world.

And to wrap up, please join us as we close our convention in humour and fellowship with the popular comedy group hailing from Chicago, *Wavelength*, and their interactive presentation, "The 7 Habits of Highly Ineffective Teachers." You've told us through your evaluations that you appreciate closing a very full two days on a humorous note, and you will not be disappointed!

Finally, I would like to recognize the local teachers who come forward every year to offer the rest of us very practical, quality professional development. Our convention would not be the success it is without you. Thank you for your commitment to our profession. We truly do appreciate your contribution.

Have a wonderful convention! We look forward to seeing you and hearing any feedback that you may have.

- Julie Gummesen

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The 2012 convention program is now available online!

Check the website mptca.teachers.ab.ca for more information.

You can also join our group on [Facebook](#) for notifications!



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Tod Maffin Talks about Transformation

**The Problem with Rock Tumblers:
Why Our K-12 Education System is in
Urgent Crisis (and How to Fix It)**

**Opening Keynote, Thursday March 8,
Session A and again in Session B,
PWA Gym**

The “system” means well, but it’s slowly asphyxiating the future of education. In this provocative opening keynote address, Tod Maffin identifies the primary ways the education system is taking the “rough stones” of learners and tries to grind and polish their way to education — while actually scraping away the culture and uniqueness the learners bring. For more information please visit our website, mptca.teachers.ab.ca.

**Teaching the Facebook Generation:
Connect with your Gen-Y/Millennial stu-
dents better and teach more effectively**

Thursday March 8, Session C, PWA 151

How do you help Generation Y learn when they have nearly zero attention span, expect that you’ll be at least as tech-savvy as they are, and have high demands for heavy curriculum customization? There are ways — incredibly effective ways — once you understand and master next-generation teaching techniques for these Millennials.

Do you have some great ideas for next year’s Convention? Do you have an interest in professional development and want to contribute to your professional organization?

The Mighty Peace Teachers’ Convention Association will have its first meeting on May 5, 2012 to begin planning for the 2013 Convention. If you are interested in being a part of the board please let your ATA Local know immediately so that you can be a part of this premier professional development event!

Convention Schedule

Thursday, March 8	Friday, March 9
Session A: 9:00 - 10:15 a.m. Tod Maffin Opening Keynote and sessions	Session E: 9:00 - 10:15 a.m. Wavelength Mini-Keynote and sessions
Session B: 10:35 - 11:50 a.m. Tod Maffin Opening Keynote repeated and sessions	Sessions F: 10:35 - 11:50 a.m. Sessions
Session C: 12:10 - 1:25 p.m. Phil McRae Mini-Keynote and sessions	Session G: 12:10 - 1:25 p.m. Wavelength Closing Keynote and sessions
Session D: 1:45 - 3:00 p.m. Minister of Education and ATA joint presentation and sessions	Session H: 1:45 - 3:00 p.m. Wavelength Closing Keynote repeated and sessions

We don’t have a scheduled lunch break because the city of Grande Prairie is just too busy for +1400 people to be eating all at the same time.

Use one of the sessions to take your lunch break—you decide when it’s best for you.

Session Spotlight

- Advanced Photography, Bill Brandley, March 8 & 9, Two Day Session (A-G). Pre-Registration and payment is required (\$350). Visit mptca.teachers.ab.ca for a registration form.**

The Advanced Photography course is a natural follow-up to the Introduction To Photography workshop held two years ago. This workshop will be Digital. That is to say that we will not be going into the darkroom. The Student Learning Guide for the darkroom course will be included, but no practice time will be spent on it. The Advanced Photography workshop will be a hands-on approach. Those attending the workshop will be given the same Student Learning Guides that their students will receive. They will then work through various assignments that they choose from selected courses. Each Student Learning Guide is self-directed. Attendees will be using Photo Shop CS 5 Extended, Corel Draw, InDesign, etc. All S.L.G.'s will be on a CD for your convenience and classroom use. Resource files, etc. will be included.
- Understanding Conflict, Beverley Barca & Wayne Harlton March 8 & 9, Two Day Session (B-H). Pre-Registration is required, email barcab@shaw.ca.**

The program provides participants with a toolbox of communication and problem-solving skills that will help them handle conflict or concerns. The conflict cycle is discussed, and participants will identify factors that increase resolution resistance. Core conflict is separated from complicating factors. Interest-based framing is used to define the underlying interests, as this often makes it easier to resolve conflict. The program reinforces participants' existing skills and helps them develop and practice new communication skills that are advantageous in conflict situations. Participants learn how to use a process for handling concerns in a consistent, comprehensive and interest-based manner that is fair to everyone.
- The Sense of Humour, Wavelength Inc. Friday March 9, Session E.**

Empower your group with one of the most potent technologies known to education — the ability to use humor effectively. Certified Laughter Leaders, Jim Winter and Michael Edgar Myers, share the research and practices that can enhance and enthuse any teacher's classroom and collegial work.
- Leadership for Learners in a Digital Age, Jeff Fillion, Thursday March 8, Session B and Repeat in C. Pre-Registration is required online at <http://bit.ly/AkHY1B>**

Emerging technologies and shifting paradigms are offering limitless possibilities for schools to enhance learning opportunities for their students. As we struggle to define the parameters of 21st Century Learning, we are faced with a number of challenges that serve to maintain the teacher-directed status quo. Join Jeff Fillion to engage in a conversation about the shared vision evolving at St. Richard School that encourages students and staff to approach learning with a whole new lens.
- CrossFit VO2Max, Brett Shillington & Ron Turner Friday March 9, Session E and repeat in F At VO2 Max Gym (10071 - 120 Ave) Pre-Registration is required, email vo2max-jwfitness@hotmail.com.**

Are you looking for something to take back to your PE classes or Total Body Fitness classes that includes cardiovascular conditioning, strength training and gymnastic skills? Come join us at our gym for this Functional Fitness program that is easy to implement in any setting with minimal equipment

Be a Part of Convention—Host a Session!

For each session we like to have a teacher who is attending the session to pass out evaluation forms to the participants at the beginning of the session and to collect the completed evaluation forms and return them to the convention office. This is what is referred to as hosting a session.

Interested teachers can obtain the evaluation envelope from the speaker. Instructions for the host are on the envelope - you are asked to record the total number of participants in the

session, regardless of how many evaluation forms are returned. In the event that there is no host, the speaker will ask someone in the session to hand out and collect the evaluation forms. The envelope of completed evaluation forms is to be returned to the convention office, at which point the host will receive a \$10 gift certificate to Tim Horton's or Starbucks - host 6 sessions and you've made \$60!

Once you have decided what sessions you are going to attend simply e-mail mptconvention@gmail.com to sign up to host a session. In the e-mail include the session letter(s) and your name. Be sure to check the Program spreadsheet to see what sessions already have hosts. You can sign up to host via e-mail before noon on March 7, 2012. After that, come by the convention desk and check to see which sessions still need hosts and just sign up on the board.

Don't Forget...

- There will be various vendors in the large and small gyms. **Display hours are Thursday - 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Friday - 8:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.**
- There are staff and students in the schools where sessions are held who have peanut allergies so please do not bring food items with peanuts in them.
- We are very fortunate to be able to use the schools to host sessions. Please be courteous and treat the spaces like you would expect others to treat your classroom.
- We are trying to reduce waste created during convention. This year we are encouraging teachers to bring their own reusable coffee and water containers.
- MPTCA president, Julie Gummesen, and her grade 5/6 class from Rosary School in Manning would like to invite teachers to donate and recycle their old cell phones. Proceeds from the recycled cell phones are donated to Amnesty International to support human rights in Canada and around the world. There will be a box at the convention office, located in the GP Composite High School, for teachers to leave their cell phone donations. Please ensure that the phone is functional. For your peace of mind, please erase any data or photos on your device. The recycling company will test the device and wipe out any information stored in it.



New Lanyards for Member Cards



To prove eligibility at our Convention teachers may be asked to show their ATA Member Cards. The Mighty Peace Teachers' Convention Association (MPTCA) has never felt the need to police sessions and ask for identification from every teacher attending. However, on occasion, a person's eligibility to be at our Convention has been questioned, so proof may be requested. This convention is for ATA members and special guests and we want to ensure

that there is space for teachers to attend the sessions of their choice. We are also protecting teachers under the ATA Professional Code of Conduct which non-teachers are not required to adhere to.

Teachers who do not have a Member Card can register at the MPTCA office at the GP Composite High School on Wednesday, March 7th from 1 to 4 p.m. or during regular Convention hours. Please contact Barnett House to receive or replace your ATA Member Card. Visit cards.teachers.ab.ca for more information.

Morgex has supplied the MPTCA with lanyards for convention attendees. The lanyards will be distributed to eligible teachers through the ATA locals. They are not mandatory to wear, but we encourage participants to use them as a convenient way to display their member card.

Teachers' Convention Children's Day Camp

Join us for two days of fun, crafts, field trips, and outdoor activities. Please provide two snacks and one lunch each day for your child. Early drop offs and late pick up are available upon request at time of registration.

Muskoseepi Park Classroom March 8 & 9 9:00 AM-4:00 PM

Call (780) 538-0451 or e-mail musko_contact@cityofgp.com for more information.