

All the World's a Classroom

March 7 & 8, 2013

MIGHTY PEACE TEACHERS' CONVENTION

All the World's a Classroom

This year we have three inspiring keynote speakers who have many life experiences to share. Through these sessions we hope that teachers will be inspired to mentor and guide students to become compassionate and caring adults who are a positive force in our world.

Craig Kielburger, co-founder of Free the Children and co-founder of Me to We, will be opening the Convention with his session *The World Needs Your Kid: How to Raise Kids Who Care and Contribute (A must for parents & educators)*.

This address delves into everything you need to know about raising and mentoring kids to be active, engaged citizens. Learn how to help your children realize their own special gifts and passions. Explore the Three C's for raising socially conscious kids: Compassion, Courage and Community. Learn how small, everyday actions can have a lasting influence on a child's life—resulting in new friendships, improved grades and higher self-esteem. Learn how to introduce effective service-learning programs into schools. The world needs your kids. Craig will help you be their guide, mentor and

inspiration.

Also appearing on Thursday is Dr. Eva Olsson who, during World War II, was plunged into the heart of the Holocaust: concentration camps, slave labour factories, disease, and the deaths of millions, included most of her family. Eva's strong faith in God and in herself has enabled her to maintain a positive focus throughout the rest of her life.

Since 1996 Eva has been speaking about her life to over one-and-a-half million individuals throughout Canada, in the hope that people who hear her story will know that it is possible to survive the worst that life has to throw at them.

Dr. Eva Olsson uses the Holocaust and her experiences in it as a springboard to discuss the following key issues:

1. The power of hate and the need to stop it wherever it occurs.
2. The importance of not being a bystander when bad things are happening.
3. The importance of having compassion and respect for self and others - it must go beyond mere tolerance.
4. Education must go beyond the three "R's", and help students develop character as well.

Finally, during session H, Drew Dudley will close the Convention with what is assured to be a motivating and entertaining address. An affable and captivating speaker, Drew Dudley recasts our notions of leadership.



.....
 "We need to redefine leadership as being a series of "lollipop moments"—those moments when something you've done has made someone else's life fundamentally better" - Drew Dudley

By making leadership into something bigger than ourselves we fail to acknowledge the everyday leadership that affects us in innumerable ways. When it becomes outsized, we are given an excuse to not expect it from ourselves and from those around us. A born storyteller with infectious energy, Dudley tells us that leadership is, at its core, about striving to act in a way that has a positive effect on your own life, and the lives of others.

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Contact Information:

MPTCA Website:
mptca.teachers.ab.ca
MPTCA Email:

For Convention updates and information join our group on Facebook and follow us on Twitter @mptconvention and #mptca.



President's Message

Hello again teachers,
It's almost showtime, and the more I look at what we have planned for this year, the more excited I get!

There's a lot of wonderful information for you in this newsletter. I hope that you take the time to read it and all that it entails to make this convention experience your best one yet.

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank our host schools and their staff for allowing us to use their facilities for our event: Grande Prairie Composite, Peace Wapiti Academy, Harry Balfour, and this year, Montrose School. Teachers and staff open their personal (and we all know, cherished) spaces to strangers, and often have cleaning and reorganization to attend to once we all leave. As well, other convention boards pay a huge amount for their venues at hotels and conference centres which greatly reduces the budget left available for programming. We are so grateful for your generosity!

A very special thank you also goes out to our student helpers. Every year, we receive accolades for the

fine service that they provide in assisting you in the right direction. Please look for them in the marked t-shirts. They will be very happy to help you.

As one of many PD providers, our role over these busy two days is to offer a variety of PD opportunities. Over the last six years that I've been serving on this board, I've noticed how this role has shifted. Given the changing face of teaching, it is getting more and more difficult to offer subject-area sessions. We are no longer "content" teachers. My challenge to you this year is to look at our program through a different set of lenses, no more from a *subject/content* perspective, but from a *professional* perspective. I really believe there is something for everyone in attendance. There are sessions in global citizenship, inclusion, collaboration, technology, innovation, unit design, assessment, cognitive development, first aid, inclusion, bullying (not just for students, but for teachers as well), wellness, humour, and creativity.



Ironically, I just watched an inspirational TED talk from Sir Ken Robinson that charges schools with killing creativity. Are they? Are we? Here is the link. It is well worth the watch:

<http://tinyurl.com/7swydn>

If you would like to offer suggestions for next year's convention, we would love to hear them. As well, the call is always out there for new members. It is a very rewarding experience, as demanding as you want it to be, and we welcome your participation.

Thanks very much. Have a wonderful convention experience! Please drop by the convention office to pick up your lanyard if you have not received one, or just to say hello.

Julie Gummesen



Craig Kielburger, co-founder of Free The Children and Me to We



The Mighty Peace Teachers' Convention Association
and Northwest Regional Learning Consortium present

Craig Kielburger

Me to We: How One Person Can Make a World of
Difference (Inspiring for all ages)

Wed. March 6, 2013
7 - 8 p.m. with a
Q & A to follow
Doors open @ 6:30 p.m.
No admission charge,
Me to We merchandise
will be available.

Location:
Peace Wapiti Academy
10815 104 Street
Grande Prairie, AB

Be inspired and empowered
by Craig Kielburger to
unlock your passions and
unique gifts to make a
positive difference in our
world. Craig will share
remarkable stories of
change and tangible actions
you can take to improve the
local and global community.

The MPTCA and NRLC have co-sponsored a public presentation so that the message Craig Kielburger is bringing to teachers at Convention can be shared with all members of our communities. It is guaranteed to be an inspirational evening for everyone and a once in a lifetime opportunity for many.

We are asking teachers to share this information with their students, school councils and community organizations.

Digital copies of approved marketing materials that you can distribute and put online are available from our website.

<http://tinyurl.com/alesoce>

New Schedule!

Thursday	Friday
Session A: 9:00 - 10:15 Opening Keynote and sessions	Session E: 9:00 - 10:15 Sessions
Session B: 10:30 - 11:45 Opening Keynote repeated and sessions	Sessions F: 10:30 - 11:45 Sessions
Break 11:45 - 12:30	Break 11:45 - 12:30
Session C: 12:30 - 1:45 Keynote and sessions	Session G: 12:30 - 1:45 Sessions
Session D: 2:00 - 3:15 Sessions	Session H: 2:00 - 3:15 Closing Keynote

We have added a 45 minute break and reduced the other breaks to 15 minutes. We hope that this gives everyone a chance to visit the exhibitor displays in the small and large gyms, to have some lunch or network and visit with colleagues.

The opening keynote is offered twice. The closing keynote will only be offered in session H this year.

Options for Lunch?

The cafeteria at the GP Composite High School will be selling food throughout the day but please remember that the space there is limited. There will also be soup and sandwiches (or something like that) for sale at Harry Balfour. At PWA we are in the process of trying to organize some on-site options because we do realize how difficult it can be to leave the Convention for lunch.

The best way to guarantee that you will be able to eat and not miss any of the amazing sessions or displays in the gyms is to bring your own lunch. The Comp, PWA and Harry Balfour all have an eating area and microwaves.

We will appreciate everyone's patience as we try this new schedule and value any feedback and suggestions you may have for us in our online Convention evaluation survey.

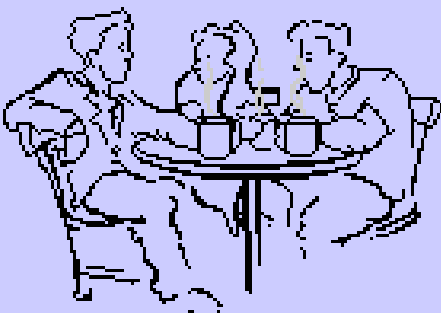


Technology Café

Come by the PWA Library at 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 7 for an edtech sharing session.

If you have a project involving technology or know something about a particular device or tool, you are invited to share during this event.

If you want to learn more about technology and network with teachers who are using technology, then please stop by for this casual and informative social activity.





La régionale de Grande Prairie

invite tous les enseignants de
français et d'immersion française
à un vin-fromage
jeudi 7 mars 2013 de 15h30 à 17h00
dans la salon du personnel
au Composite High School



Muskoseepi Park Teachers' Convention Children's Day Camp

Join us March 7 & 8 9 AM-4 PM 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.

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

The Eastlink Centre also has a day
camp for children ages 5-11. Please
check their website for upcoming
information www.eastlinkcentre.ca.

Some Grande Prairie merchants would like to show their teacher appreciation by giving you a discount at their business during Convention. You will need your ATA Member Card. Join our Facebook group and follow us on twitter to find out more about these deals. Advertisements will also be located in the Convention venues.

Volunteer! Host a Session

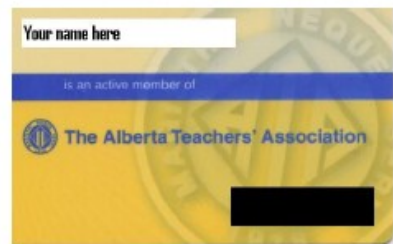
It is a very easy way to get involved in Convention:

- Ask the presenter for the evaluation envelope.
- Pass out evaluation forms to the participants at the beginning of the session.
- Record the total number of participants in the session on the envelope.
- Collect the completed evaluation forms.
- Return the envelope with the forms to the Convention office.
- Receive a \$10 gift certificate to Tim Horton's or Starbucks!

Once you have decided what sessions you would like to host simply e-mail mptconvention@gmail.com to sign up. In the e-mail include the session title and letter(s) and your name. Be sure to check the Program spreadsheet to see which sessions already have hosts. You can sign up to host via e-mail before noon on March 6, 2013. After that, come by the convention desk and check to see which sessions still need hosts and just sign up on the board.

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 6th from 1 to 5 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. The Program-at-a-Glance will also be formatted to print on legal size paper for each day of Convention. If it is folded it could also be stored in the lanyard for easy access.

Session Spotlight

Carol Henderson—Advancing the Teaching Profession in a Culture of Change. Session E, CP 53-58

Too often the education sector is an "evidence free zone" when it comes to making public policy decisions about how to enhance teaching and learning. Teachers should be aware of the systemic issues facing education and how through the Association's research the profession is attempting to advance informed decision-making for the benefit of Alberta students. This session will highlight the latest research and key issues in education in Alberta and their impact on the profession, teachers and their students.

Susan Carter—Coping with Teaching Because it's Not Your Fault. Session A and Repeat in Session E, CP 74-75

Come and enjoy a lighter look at education through the eyes of Susan Carter, who coped with her Junior High Art and Health students but took her frustrations out on an unsuspecting Comedy Club audience. Gain some practical ideas for the classroom while enjoying a few laughs.

Mike Hanlon—Workplace Bullying - Teachers as Targets.

Double Session C & D and Repeat in Double Session F & G, CP 56

Teachers have long been advocates for their students working to protect them from bullies both on and off the playground. But what of the teachers? Statistics show that 37% of workers will be a target of a workplace bully. If we are to include those who are affected as witnesses a full 49% of workers are included. Teachers tend to trend higher as they are potential targets from many groups including colleagues, administration, parents and even students. This presentation illustrates the issue, its manifestations and repercussions and calls staff to action. This session serves as a jumping off point for further discussion, training and policy development to ensure teachers are safe within their classrooms and able to deliver quality education to their students.

Bill McBride, multiple sessions in PWA 151

- **Closing the Achievement Gap: Teaching to Gender Differences, Session A and Repeat in Session D**
- **Engaging the Disengaged Student, Double Session B & C**
- **Using Simple Debate to Teach the Argumentative Essay, Session E**
- **Vocabulary Development: Turning Word Losers into Word Lovers, Session F**
- **Building Literacy in Math and Science Texts, Session G**
<http://www.entertaininganelephant.com/>
<http://billmcbride.pbworks.com/>

Garfield Gini-Newman, multiple sessions in PWA 117

- **Nurturing Creativity, Session A**
- **Technogogy: Finding Powerful Ways to Digitally Enhance Learning, Session B**
- **Nurturing Competencies for a 21st Century World, Session C**
- **Teaching for Deep Understanding, Session D**
- **Assessing for Competence and Deep Understanding, Session E**
- **Creating the Conditions for C3i, Session F**
- **Angry Birds Go to School – Developing a Cascading Curriculum, Session G**

Gini-Newman is a Professor with the Department of Curriculum, Teaching, and Learning at OISE. His primary areas of research involve the pedagogy of critical thinking and ways to embed critical thinking in classrooms from kindergarten to graduate school. His related interest is in the area of effective assessment practice. Garfield's focus in the field of assessment is how to build powerful curriculae grounded in the effective use of both formative and summative assessment as well as how to effectively assess for thinking.

Arts Grants for Schools

Did you know that your school is eligible to apply for a grant of up to **\$15,000** to bring artists in to teach your students and provide professional development for teachers?

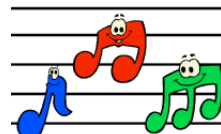
The Alberta Foundation for the Arts (AFA) through its' **Artists & Education Grant program** provides up to 75% of the cost of artist residency programs in schools throughout the province.

How To Apply: Grant Guidelines, Application form and Help tip sheets can be downloaded from <http://www.affta.ab.ca/Resources/Grant-Help-And-Resources>

Deadline: April 1, 2013 for artist residencies taking place in the 2013-2014 school year.

How to Find An Artist: For assistance finding artists that provide school residency programs in theatre, dance, music, literary, visual arts, crafts, film & video please contact the Arts Touring Alliance of Alberta <http://www.artstouring.com/yad.php> or the ATA Fine Arts Council. Schools may choose to work with any professional Alberta artist on or off the listing.

Contact: Paul Reich, Arts Development Consultant



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 April 27, 2013 to begin planning for the 2014 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!



MLA
Mr. Speaker's **for a day**

High School Teachers: Invite your students to experience an insider's view of the life of an MLA!

Spring 2013

Mr. Speaker's MLA for a Day is a nonpartisan program at the Legislature that will offer your students a deeper understanding of our parliamentary system while gaining new friendships and perspectives.

Students will engage in workshops and discussions, personal interviews with current and former MLAs and a spirited debate in the Legislature Chamber.

Transportation, meals and accommodation are provided.

What do students say?

"It was my honour to partake in this program."

"Loved it!"

"A very cool experience."

Sponsored by the Legislative Assembly Office and the Royal Canadian Legion Alberta-NWT Command

Visitor Services
Phone: 780.643.6573 | Email: MLA4aday@assembly.ab.ca | www.assembly.ab.ca