



MIGHTY PEACE TEACHERS' CONVENTION

GRANDE PRAIRIE, AB • MARCH 5-6, 2020



The Alberta Teachers' Association

Welcome to #mptc2020

I am very excited for MPTC 2020. Our program chair has done an excellent job finding new sessions and speakers to give us phenomenal professional development.

Take a look for yourselves and try something out of the ordinary. The best part about going to any session is that you will learn something; whether for the classroom, yourself, or how to pick better next time, lol. Some sessions I am looking forward to are...

- Addressing Diverse Needs in the Classroom. We all know our classrooms are never the same from year to year but we need to know how to still get through to students.
- 97 Staff Recognition Tips in Just 75 Minutes. Having a happy staff will lead to better motivation/work ethic. "A person who feels appreciated will do more than what is expected."
- BLAST - A multi grade literacy intervention. Again the needs in each class are so different but we still need to teach our content.

You can see I'm focusing on taking the challenges we all have in the classrooms and finding the positives to make the best with what we are given. On page two of this newsletter you will find our Convention Board Top Picks.

Enjoy the two days of comradery among professionals, along with the free fruit, donuts and coffee.

Jodie Dell
MPTCA President

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Connect with MPTCA

Email: mptconvention@gmail.com
 Twitter: @mptconvention #mptc2020
 Facebook Group: [Mighty Peace Teachers' Convention](#)
 Website: mptca.teachers.ab.ca



Schedule and Facilities

In addition to choosing from over 200 sessions during the two days of Convention, teachers can visit vendors in the large and small gyms of the GP Composite High School. Full time teachers are expected to attend at least six sessions over the two days of Convention. We have terrific opening keynotes on Thursday and Friday plus more speakers and presentations in the PWA Gym and PWA Theatre. Most sessions are held at the GP Composite High School and Peace Wapiti Academy schools (no sessions are at Harry Balfour this year). Maps of these schools can be found on our website - mptca.teachers.ab.ca and in Sched. This year we also have some sessions at Nitehawk and the Soccer Pitch beside PWA.

The sessions start at 9AM on both days (except for Mental Health First Aid) and end by 3:15PM. There is a break for lunch from 11:45AM-12:30PM. As always, we will have delicious and nutritious snacks available throughout the day. Both the GP Composite High School and Peace Wapiti Academy will be selling food at their cafeterias for those teachers who do not want to leave the facility for lunch.

MPTC Board Top Picks!

There are over 200 sessions in this year's program. Here are some of the Mighty Peace Teachers' Convention Association recommendations and top picks! Check them out at mptca2020.sched.com and start creating your schedule today. Please note that most sessions are first come, first served on the day of the session. Some sessions may require you to email the presenter to pre-register and may include a fee for materials or certification.

Adding a session to your schedule on Sched does not guarantee you a spot in the room.

There are many sessions that have piqued my interest yet again this year! I am excited to learn about project-based and concept-based learning activities for my junior high classroom in *Students Love my grade 6-8 social studies projects*. Also, I am relatively new to the world of FSL, so sessions such as *FSL: Les essentiels* may prove to be enlightening. I have heard much buzz from colleagues who are excited to hear from our keynote Temple Grandin...I might have to sneak a session of hers in as well. All-in-all, I don't think we can go wrong this year!

- Ashleigh Barsalou

I am so excited for the ATA's session on Trauma-Informed Practice: Safe, Supportive, and Self-regulated Classrooms. Sadly, trauma affected kids can be found in many classes, and I'm looking forward to learning new tools to help these kids. I am also looking forward to John Felling's session on Dominos. He is such an engaging presenter and it will be great to have new games to use for math.

- Annie Forney

Two sessions that I am very excited about are Susan Agrios' beKIND Mindfulness Triathlon Challenge and Temple Grandin's keynote address. I am certified as a mindfulness instructor through Mindful Schools and am always grateful for new resources to bring to our school. And with Temple Grandin, what's to be said? She's a legend! This is such a great honour for MPTCA to be hosting her.

- Julie Gummesen

The two sessions I am most excited about would be the Indoor Recess Emergency Kit with Vincent Mireau (<https://sched.co/Z5bQ>) and Smorgasbord of Low-Organized Games with your Regional Reps (<https://sched.co/ZF37>) with HPEC and Ever Active Schools. Every teacher dreads the indoor recess announcement and with our winters those indoor recesses can build up. With the Indoor Recess Emergency Kit we will have a go to kit to help our students deal with the classroom confinement, and our sanity and nerves will appreciate it. Ever Active Schools always hosts some amazing sessions for classes of all levels. Their sessions are well researched and hosted by presenters who love what they do. A Smorgasbord of Low-Organized Games promises to be that session that breathes new life into your daily lessons. No matter if you are a first time teacher or an experienced one this session will bring you new ideas for your physical education class in all grade levels.

- Jeanne Lawrence

I am so excited to be attending a couple of sessions by Bogdan Konikowski who is an artist educator from Poland. Last year I attended a couple of presentations and was really impressed. He is well organized and teaches art techniques in a manner that left me feeling like a "budding artist". Can't wait to produce a variety of art projects using different mediums. If you haven't pre-registered yet, better get on it. He fills up fast.

- Dena Lanktree

I am super excited that Debbie Terceros is doing a session on planbook.com. I got on board with planbook a couple years ago and I love it! I always wish I had enough time to sit down with my colleagues to show them how fantastic it is! I would also like to see Melissa Purcell's session on the Sixties Scoop, as this is just such an important part of our history. If you haven't heard of yoga nidra, it is fabulous. It is so restorative and beneficial, so I would definitely encourage teachers to seek out Susan Agrios' session.

- Heather McIlroy

I have been trying to get Wilfred Buck to come to our Convention for a couple of years and am so pleased that the NRLC has worked so hard to get him to make the trip to visit our teachers. He is unable to bring his inflatable planetarium but I will still be sitting front row in his sessions to learn all about the Cree stars.

- Debbie Harris

Vanessa Vakharia is offering workshops for teachers who have students with math anxiety and are "scared" of math. Vanessa is prepared to help us teach those students more effectively and help them overcome those fears and be the best math student they can be.

- Melissa Putman

#Red4EdAB

The Red for Ed campaign is a grassroots movement advocating for proper funding of public education, smaller class sizes and equitable salary increases for teachers. In Alberta, this campaign has grown over the last couple of months and the Mighty Peace Teachers' Convention would like to offer an incentive to all of our teachers to wear red on Friday, March 6th. The ATA President, Jason Shilling will be at Convention that day and we'd love him to speak to a gym full of RED!

We are going to give away five \$100 gift cards to teachers who wear red and share it on social media (if you aren't on social media, you can still enter though, so keep reading).

To enter, send your **#Red4EdAB** picture to mptconvention@gmail.com with permission to post it online, or post your **#Red4EdAB** picture on one of the following social media platforms with the **#Red4EdAB** and **#mptc2020** hashtags (you must have BOTH to be eligible to win).

- * twitter
- * Facebook
- * Instagram

We will make a draw for the gift cards after Convention on Friday and distribute to the winners.

We can't wait to see your pics!



DID YOU KNOW?

- ⇒ Travel expenses to attend Teachers' Convention are tax deductible!
More information can be found on the [CRA website](#).
- ⇒ If you fill out the individual session and Convention evaluation surveys you can enter to win an indoor parking spot at the Grande Prairie Composite High School (if available in 2021) or one of two outdoor spots that are right beside the entrance.
- ⇒ We are always looking for new board members. Please contact your local if you would like to help us with MPTC 2021. Email mptconvention@gmail.com if you would like more information.

WHO CAN ATTEND CONVENTION?

Eligibility to attend the Mighty Peace Teachers' Convention includes ATA members who hold the highest membership available to them under the school act in these locals:

- Greater Peace No. 13 (except High Prairie RCSS and McLennan RCSS)
- Northern Spirit No. 6
- Trumpeter No. 26
- Northern Gateway No. 43 (East Smoky)
- Grande Prairie District Catholic Teachers No. 42

Eligibility can also be extended to invited guests, such as teachers of charter, federal or private schools, and teachers from other provinces and/or territories. These teachers must provide proof of membership to their professional organization and pay a fee. Registration information for guests is on our website mptca.teachers.ab.ca.

If you are a teacher on leave of absence you may attend our convention!

During a leave, you are still an active member of your ATA local. As a result, you are entitled to attend your teachers' convention. Be sure that you have paid your ATA dues for a teacher on leave.

If you are a substitute teacher you may attend our convention!

As soon as you teach for one day in any of our member locals you are an Associate Member of the ATA and are eligible to attend Convention at no cost. Please have proof that you have taught during the current school year. Since adult supervisors do not hold an Alberta teaching certificate they are not entitled to Convention privileges.

If you are a student teacher in your last year of your program, you may attend our convention!

You need to be a member of the Education Students' Association, Education Undergraduate Society or other education student organization at your university or faculty of education. Joining one of these groups automatically makes you a student member of the ATA.

All guests, teachers on leave, substitute teachers and student teachers **who do not have an ATA Member Card** can register on Wednesday, March 4th, between 1 - 5:00 p.m. or on Thursday or Friday during regular convention hours. MPTCA does not produce a booklet, information as to session offerings are located online at mptca2020.sched.com.

MEMBER CARDS NEEDED

Teachers' Conventions are closed Conventions. This means that only ATA members who have paid to attend Convention through their ATA fees can attend. Spouses, children, friends or others who do not pay Convention fees may not attend the presentations nor may they be present in the displays or other areas of the venues during Convention. Teachers may be asked to show their ATA Member Card to prove eligibility at our Convention. 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 can print their own member card from the ATA website.

To print your ATA member card visit cards.teachers.ab.ca.

