

Building Bridges

March 5 & 6, 2015

MIGHTY PEACE TEACHERS' CONVENTION

Message from the President

It's been another successful year, and we have all of our teachers to thank for that. You come to the convention with such enthusiasm for the sessions and for networking with your colleagues, and it is always such a gratifying experience for our board. It is truly what keeps us coming back year after year.



Taylor Mali praised teachers for the difference they make in the lives of students everywhere. We are truly miracle workers.

There were some successes that I feel deserve special mention. One was our scheduled lunch break which we all seem to have figured out now. Whether you choose to leave and have an extended lunch, or to take it as a moment just to sit down and relax, we hope that it has made your convention experience more enjoyable. We also appreciate your willingness to try the new online

scheduler and evaluation format. Thanks very much for your feedback! The scheduler turned out to be a big hit, but we realize that the evaluation format needs some work. We're on it.

A special thank you again to our hosting schools and to the local teacher presenters. You are such an incredible asset to our convention. Thank you for your continued support.

The presenter proposal forms for the 2015 convention should be online in June, and we look forward to seeing all the innovative and creative sessions that our local teachers have to offer.

I am also looking for suggestions for keynote speakers. If you have any names that you would like to put forward, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Have a great summer!

Julie

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Connect with MPTCA

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

Thank you to Windsor Plywood for supplying the wood needed to make the display tables!

Convention Venues

Each year the MPTCA Board receives feedback about the Convention venues. The rooms are too small and fill up quickly. Parking is hard to find so it is difficult to move from one school to another. For some teachers this is the experience they have when they come to Convention. This is unfortunate and obviously not what the MPTCA Board spends so much time and energy in planning for.

The MPTCA Board would like to assure our teachers that there are no better venues in which to host Convention in Grande Prairie that are within our budget. Currently, through the locals, teachers pay \$90 to attend Convention. We think that what is offered at Mighty Peace Teachers' Convention is a great deal! This is made possible because Grande Prairie Public School District and Peace Wapiti School Division generously allow us the use of their schools at no cost to us. This means that our program budget is substantially larger so that we can provide our teachers with the greatest speakers possible. We understand this means that some sessions will fill up and some teachers may not be able to participate in some sessions, but that is also why some sessions are repeated during the two days of Convention and why we bring presenters back to Convention in following years. Having teachers create their schedules using the sched.org site will also provide the program committee with information about session attendance prior to Convention. Having the schools as venues also means that we can provide teachers with sessions for technology, CTS/CTF, fine arts and physical education that require resources that are only available in the schools.

We would also like to remind teachers that the venues we use for Convention are subject to fire codes and do have a maximum capacity. It is imperative that teachers understand and respect these limitations. There are also presenters who have requested that they only present to a small group. When the Session Full sign is on the door teachers need to respect this and find another session or visit the vendor displays. The sched.org site will allow you to choose several sessions for each time slot in your schedule. Planning for this possibility ahead of time might alleviate some of these frustrations as well.

The program committee is meeting in June to discuss possible solutions to these critical venue issues. Please feel free to contact mptconvention@gmail.com with any suggestions and ideas.

Vendor Displays

The MPTCA Board is always in search of great vendors to display resources and services to teachers. Each year we receive mixed feedback about the vendor displays. Many teachers love having a variety of vendors who sell educational and non-educational items and some teachers are disappointed that there aren't enough educational vendors.

We would like to let our teachers know that it is becoming very difficult to get vendors to come to Grande Prairie. Many companies are not making a profit when they have to travel to

Grande Prairie and there is a Teachers' Convention taking place in Edmonton at the same time as our Convention.



With the current curriculum redesign in progress all of the publishing companies have stopped purchasing display tables at our Convention. Many companies who offer educational resources and services are using the

Internet to advertise and sell their products/services.

The goal of the MPTCA is to fill the large and small gyms with quality vendor displays that offer something for our teachers, but displays also make up about 15% of Convention revenue so we do need to sell out all the available tables.

Nancy Evans, the Display Director, would be happy to receive any suggestions of companies that she could contact and invite to Convention. Please contact her at nancyevans@gpcsd.ca.

The Online Program: Successes using sched.org

From the feedback received by teachers in the online survey, we have declared using the web based program scheduler, sched.org, a huge success! We will continue to use this site for 2015, and in fact, it will be the **only** place that the program will be posted next year.

Having the program online had many benefits to teachers, presenters and the program committee, but to get the most of it we need all our teachers to use it.

When teachers create their tentative schedule online, the program committee can see which sessions have the most interest. This allows us to move popular sessions to larger rooms or ask the presenter to repeat the session at another time. With more teachers using this online feature the program committee can more

accurately predict which sessions will be in demand so that changes might be made.

During Convention we often get presenters who suddenly need to cancel or we have issues with rooms and need to make changes. Another great feature of the online schedule is that when changes are made, teachers who have the session in their schedule are notified of these changes. Sched.org also sends an email with the most up-to-date schedule information on the morning of Convention.

Presenters told us they liked being able to create their profile online so that teachers could learn more about them and the session(s) they were delivering. They could also see the teachers who were interested in their session so they knew how many teachers

to prepare for. When all of our teachers use this system this number will be much more accurate for presenters.

We would like to remind teachers that sched.org does not register you for sessions. It simply allows you to search through the program as a database (much more powerful than the old spreadsheet) and build a schedule of sessions you are interested in. If a session requires pre-registration then that will be listed in the description with instructions of how to pre-register.

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 (<http://support.sched.org/customer/portal/topics/334705-guide-for-attendees/articles>).

“The app was terrific! I loved that you could select many choices for a session time so you didn't have to go through the whole document again if logistics did not work out.”

- 2014 MPTC
Attendee

2014 MPTCA Survey Results

Q3. Please rate the mptca2014.sched.org program site.

	Excellent	Very Good	OK	Poor	N/A	Total	Average Rating
Ease of accomplishing what you were trying to do	33.99% 69	47.29% 96	14.78% 30	2.96% 6	0.99% 2	203	3.13
Ease of navigation	33.00% 67	47.29% 96	15.27% 31	2.96% 6	1.48% 3	203	3.12
Visual appeal	38.42% 78	43.35% 88	11.82% 24	3.94% 8	2.46% 5	203	3.19
Organization of information	36.14% 73	41.09% 83	17.33% 35	3.47% 7	1.98% 4	202	3.12
Options to sort and view information	35.96% 73	35.47% 72	22.66% 46	3.45% 7	2.46% 5	203	3.07
Overall impression of the site	37.62% 76	42.57% 86	15.35% 31	2.48% 5	1.98% 4	202	3.18

Present a Session!

The MPTCA knows that teachers in the Peace Region have some unique needs and they also have a lot of skills and knowledge to share with their colleagues. Having local teachers present at Convention is one of the things that makes our Convention such a success!

While we can't cover travel or other expenses (since our teachers are obligated to attend Convention anyway), we do provide a \$150 honorarium per session (\$300 for a double session, etc.).

If you are interested in presenting a session please complete the

online proposal form that is now available on our website (mptca.teachers.ab.ca). Proposals must be submitted by September 30th, 2014.

If you would like to suggest a presenter please email the 2015 program chair, Jen Clevette, mptcprogramchair@gmail.com.

2015 MPTCA Session Spotlight

Save Your Sanity: Proactive Strategies for Children with Challenging Behaviour

SAVE YOUR SANITY sessions will cover the following topics for K-12 teachers:

- * Discipline vs. Punishment
- * Managing Teacher Stress
- * Developing skills to analyse our own behaviour in relation to challenging situations
- * Empowering students to become part of their learning community
- * Proactive vs. Reactive strategies
- * The Power of "YOU" as a strategy
- * Antecedents to Avoid
- * Organization, Communication, Cognitive, Social Skills, Goal Setting and Anger/Oppositional Strategies
- * Executive Functioning strategies for ADHD and ASD
- * Developing an intervention plan using functional assessments



Sessions being offered at the 2015 Mighty Peace Teachers' Convention:

- ◆ Save Your Sanity – Proactive Strategies for Children with Challenging Behaviour – K-6 (double session)
- ◆ Save Your Sanity – Proactive Strategies for Children with Challenging Behaviour – 7-12 (double session)
- ◆ Save Your Sanity – Proactive Strategies for Children with Challenging Behaviour - Examining Sensory Issues in the Early Education Classroom
- ◆ Save Your Sanity: Proactive Strategies for Children with Challenging Behaviour – Utilizing Physical Activity to Increase Performance in the Classroom (Elementary Level)
- ◆ Save Your Sanity: Proactive Strategies for Children with Challenging Behaviour – Executive Functioning and Self Regulation Strategies for the Elementary Student
- ◆ Save Your Sanity: Proactive Strategies for Children with Challenging Behaviour – Executive Functioning and Self Regulation Strategies for the High School Student

More information can be found online www.saveyoursanity.ca.