

MIGHTY PEACE TEACHERS' CONVENTION

weEngage, weInspire, weMatter March 6 & 7, 2014

You Won't Want to Miss These Speakers!

Convention is a great time for being inspired and learning new ways to engage, motivate and assess students. Every year we hear from teachers who have been transformed by what they have gained from attending Convention. This year will be no different.

Spring is a time for renewal and growth and having Convention in March is a perfect time for teachers to reconnect with themselves, their teaching and each other. Sometimes a reminder of why we do what we do is exactly what a teacher needs in March.



Taylor Mali's closing keynote is going to do exactly that. Titled *What Teachers Make, Or, Why We Do What We Do*, is a presentation designed to inspire and motivate teachers and remind us that we matter.

Mali was once a full time teacher. Now he calls himself a teacher-poet, and he's written a book, *What Teachers Make: In Praise of the Greatest Job in the World*,

that chronicles his journey from educator to advocate. Watch him perform his best known poem *What Teachers Make* online through YouTube or TED Talks.

In 2011 Rick Wormeli performed 8 consecutive sessions for teachers at our Convention and loved every minute of it. When he told us he would love to come back to Grande Prairie we immediately booked him.

Teachers had nothing but praises for Wormeli and many stayed in the gym listening to him for the entire Convention. This year Wormeli will be presenting 7 different sessions, repeating only the opening keynote, *What We Could Do If We Were Brave Together* where we'll explore what it takes to be courageous in today's schools, and we'll declare over a dozen brave acts that can be taken immediately upon return to school.

Thursday he will be in the gym at PWA and Friday he will be at the GP Comp in room 53/58. Seating at the Comp will be limited so teachers will want to arrive early to ensure a seat.

Rick Wormeli's session descriptions and times can be found online at mptca2014.sched.org.

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Connect with MPTCA

Email: mptconvention@gmail.com

Twitter: @mptconvention #mptca

Facebook Group: [Mighty Peace Teachers' Convention](https://www.facebook.com/MightyPeaceTeachersConvention)

Website: mptca.teachers.ab.ca

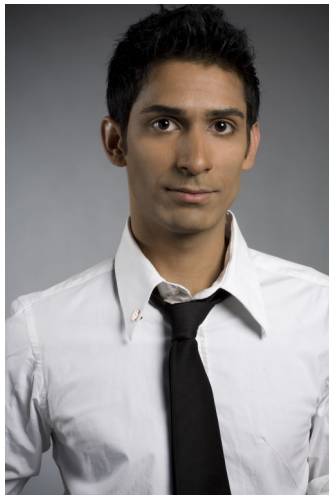


**Thank you to
Windsor Plywood for
supplying the wood
needed to make the
display tables!**

Jer's Vision

Jeremy Dias was born in Edmonton and grew up there until moving to Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, where he attended high school. As a youth, he was motivated by social and political inequality to take action, volunteering with numerous organizations and charities. In high school he started and led a number of clubs including *Stop Racism* and *Ontario Students Against Impaired Driving*. He also founded and coordinated the Sault Ste. Marie first regional LGBTQ youth group.

After coming out in high school, Jeremy faced extreme discrimination by students & school officials. At 17, he began a legal case against his school and school board, and at 21 won Canada's second largest human rights settlement. Jeremy used the money to found Jer's Vision: Canada's Youth Diversity Initiative, the international Day of Pink and the Jeremy Dias Scholarship.



Jeremy will be engaging and inspiring Mighty Peace teachers through 3 different sessions:

- The Jer's Vision Motivational Address - Session C - learn about the effects of bullying as Jeremy talks about his experiences facing racism and homophobia in a rural Ontario school, and how he overcame

discrimination by setting legal case precedents, eventually starting a not-for-profit organization.

- Pink Schools a NEW Plan to successfully address bullying - Session D, Repeated in G - This program is the creation of a 3 year project that brings together the latest research on bullying in schools internationally.
- How to Stop Homophobia & Transphobia - Session E, Repeated in F - This workshop will train participants on how to successfully address bullying, discrimination, homophobia & transphobia.

Visit www.jersvision.org/ for more information.

Jeremy is making himself available prior to Convention to present to schools or other organizations.

A list of possible workshops/sessions is available on the website (in the Programs for Youth and Schools section. Please contact him directly (info@jersvision.org) to make arrangements.

New Online Program and Evaluations

This year the program for the Mighty Peace Teachers' Convention will be available online at mptca2014.sched.org. This site will allow teachers to create an account so that they can generate and save their own personal schedule from the available sessions. These schedules can be printed and shared with other teachers through email, twitter and Facebook. Session handouts and presentations may be linked directly with the session information on this site.

The program also has a mobile site, mptca2014.sched.org/mobile, which will store the schedule data on the device for offline access (which is great in case of any WiFi/bandwidth issues).

We will still have an Excel and PDF version of the program available through our website, mptca.teachers.ab.ca, but teachers are encouraged to take advantage of the wonderful features of the new

online program. Using this program will also ensure that you always have the most up-to-date schedule information.

Teachers wanting to learn more about the new program can visit our website, mptca.teachers.ab.ca, for links to articles and tutorials.

This year, the Mighty Peace Teachers' Convention Association has also made one more step in its dedication to go paperless. **All of the individual session evaluations will be online.** There will be no paper evaluations to complete. As a result, we will no longer require a host in the session to collect the paper evaluations and return them to the Convention Office. QR codes linking to the online evaluation form will be available at each session and teachers will be provided with the online evaluation form information prior to Convention through our website and Facebook group.

President's Message

Hello again teachers,
It's almost show time, 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. We hope that you will take the time to read it and that this Convention experience proves to be your best one yet.
I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank our host schools, their school divisions, and their generous staff for allowing us to use these facilities for our event: Grande Prairie Composite High School, Peace Wapiti Academy, Harry Balfour and Montrose Junior High. 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 lot 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 and the supervising school hosts. Every year we receive accolades for the fine service that the students 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.

And as always, a much-deserved nod to our local teacher presenters. Your expertise and practical sessions add so much to the quality of our Convention. We know for many of you that presenting in front of your peers can take you out of your comfort zone. Thanks very much!

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. We're looking very forward to seeing all of you. Have a wonderful Convention! Please feel free to stop by the Convention office if there is anything that we can assist you with, or just to say hello.

Julie Gummesen

2014 Schedule

Thursday, March 6	Friday, March 7
Session A: 9:00 - 10:15 Opening Keynote & Sessions	Session E: 9:00 - 10:15
Session B: 10:30 - 11:45 Opening Keynote Repeated & Sessions	Session F: 10:30 - 11:45
Break 11:45 – 12:30	
Session C: 12:30 – 13:45	Session G: 12:30 – 13:45 Closing Keynote & Sessions
Session D: 14:00 – 15:15	Session H: 14:00 – 15:15 Closing Keynote Repeated & Sessions

Social Activities

The Northern Spirit ATA Local #6 is holding their teacher induction and retirement ceremony and dinner the evening of Thursday, March 6th at the Paradise Inn and Suites.

Following this dinner the MPTCA will be hosting a social event in this venue for teachers to socialize in a non-public space. A cash bar will be available.

Member Cards Needed - No Lanyards



To prove eligibility at our Convention teachers may be asked to show their ATA Member Card. 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.

In the past we have provided teachers with lanyards to hold their cards but this will not be done this year.

It is difficult to get educational vendors to come to our Convention to share their resources with teachers because of travel costs and competition with other Conventions that take place at the same time as ours. If you have any information about potential exhibitors or if you would like to see a specific vendor at our Convention please contact Nancy Evans, Displays Chair, at nancyevans@gpcsd.ca.

Muskoseepi Park Day Camps!!

During Teachers' Convention



Date: March 6th and 7th
Time: 9:00 am—4:00 pm
Place: Muskoseepi Park Pavilion
Ages: 6 -10
Price: \$45.00



please call 780-538-0451 for more information or to register



The Eastlink Centre also has programming available for children ages 6-11 during Convention. More information should be available on their website www.eastlinkcentre.ca.

Scheduled Lunch

Last year we changed the schedule to include a 45 minute break for lunch, which many teachers appreciated. However, the expectation that all full-time teachers attend 3 sessions per day has not changed. We hope that this extra 45 minutes provides teachers who want to attend 4 sessions/day with some time to eat and for everyone to fully enjoy the displays in the Composite High School gyms.

The cafeteria at the GP Composite High School will be selling food throughout the day. Harry Balfour will not be serving food and we are working on providing options for lunch at PWA. The Comp, PWA and Harry Balfour also have an eating area and microwaves for teachers wanting to bring their own lunch.

