

All the World's a Classroom

March 7 & 8 2013

MIGHTY PEACE TEACHERS' CONVENTION

President's Message

Welcome to the very first MPTCA newsletter of the 2012-2013 year. I hope you had a wonderful, restful summer (or not so restful, if you are the happily busy type), and that your return to a new school year has already seen its share of rewards.

I'd like to extend a special welcome to all the new teachers joining our convention area. We're excited to be back and working on our upcoming convention on March 7 and 8, 2013. While we bid a sad farewell to a few members moving on to new horizons, we are pleased to have two newcomers join our team: Jodie Dell from Peace River who is on our Program Committee and Jen Clevette from Grande Prairie, our new PWA School Host.

Thanks very much for your feedback on the evaluations at our 2012 convention. We really

do make the best effort possible to honour your suggestions for improvement.

This year we are navigating the uncharted territory of online proposals. While we are experiencing a few growing pains, mostly the journey has been a positive one. Thank you for your continued support and patience. Our program is filling up quickly, and our goal is to have it pretty much in place by January with a few inevitable tweaks.

Please stay tuned for more updates on our line up. For now, we are very excited to have Craig Kielburger booked as our opening keynote and Drew Dudley as our closing. Craig is a renowned human rights advocate, author, and co-founder of the nonprofit organizations, *Free the Children* and *Me to We*. He has inspired millions of young people to pursue global change

and is one of the youngest recipients to receive the Order of Canada. Drew Dudley is an engaging, humorous, and upbeat speaker whose message is to inspire us all to become leaders by grasping what he calls, "those lollipop moments". Calgary City had him last year and called him "the best money you'll ever spend...you'll want to laugh, cry, and hang out with him for the day."

To wrap up, I would like to put the call out there to anyone that may be interested in joining our team. We are currently looking for a new secretary and additional Program Committee members. We greatly appreciate your consideration. Any one of us can answer your questions about what this might entail.

Best wishes for a successful school year,

Julie Gummesen
President, MPTCA

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



2012-2013 Convention Board

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Ways to Connect Prior to Convention

The MPTCA has a Facebook group and is also on twitter, @mptconvention and we use #mptca. Please join us online for information about Convention. Also, here are some ways to connect with and learn from some amazing speakers before you see them in March.

- Criag Kielburger's global work is easy to find online but just in case you need it, @craigkielburger, @freethechildren and @metowe. Join the movement at www.weday.com and www.freethechildren.com.
- Drew Dudley will be the closing keynote, his TEDx Talks have been profound and inspiring. You can watch these talks and learn more about Drew through the [Nuance Leadership Development Services Inc.](#) website and on twitter @NuanceDrew.
- If you want to learn about play based learning in grades 4-12 you need to go to Shelley Wright's sessions. She will also be presenting about life in a tech-embedded, pbl, inquiry-based classroom. Her work can be found online at [Wright'sRoom](#) and on twitter @wrightsroom.
- The Principal of Change, George Couros will be presenting sessions for administrators and teachers. George has worked with schools and organizations around the world through conferences, keynoting, providing workshops, and consulting on how organizations can move forward by creating innovative environments for all learners in the community. If you are thinking of attending George's sessions check out his [digital footprint](#) and follow him on twitter, @gcouros.
- Mardelle Sauerborn has been "teaching" for 25 years, in small towns and public schools in Canada that typically require long drives and flying in planes. She has taught in the north, the south, on the prairies, and now calls "between two mountain ranges" home. Mardelle will be presenting about primary math and is currently an organizer/moderator of #Kinderchat, a global community of educators. She is the curator of SkypePlay, connecting kindergarten children to other classes globally. You can find her on twitter as @learningmurd and at her blog [Weeds In the Garden](#).

Attendance Policy and Information About Being Absent From Convention

Teachers are obligated, professionally and legally, to attend and participate in teachers' convention. Section 78(1)(d) of the School Act defines "teaching day" to include the two days per year on which teachers' conventions are held. These days are for attending sessions at the convention authorized by the Alberta Teachers' Association. Convention days are, by law, teaching days for which teachers receive pay.

School boards have the right to deduct pay from teachers absent from convention without legitimate reason, and in fact, have done so. A charge of unprofessional conduct under Association discipline bylaws may also be lodged against a teacher who fails to attend and participate in teachers' convention.

- **If you are sick (or cannot attend convention for other personal reasons)** then the provisions in the collective agreement apply and you must follow the same procedures for obtaining sick leave (or other forms of leave) that you would if it was a normal teaching day.

- **Any teacher wishing to engage in other professional development activity** during teachers' convention must complete the Alternate PD application form from the MPTCA website and send it to the attendance committee chairperson of the convention board. This person, in conjunction with the attendance committee, will make a judgment regarding the request. Requests to be absent from the Mighty Peace Teachers' Convention for **reasons of alternate professional development** are to be made prior to **January 24, 2013**.
- **Any teacher required to coach at an ASAA Provincial Finals Event** during teachers' convention must complete the form available on either the ASAA or MPTCA website and send it to the attendance committee chairperson of the convention board.

Contact information for the attendance committee chairperson is available on the MPTCA website.

Program Preview: CTS Sessions

We have some fantastic CTS sessions being offered at Convention this year, if we have enough participants. Pre-registration will be required once the full program is published (hopefully in January). These sessions will have to be cancelled if we do not have enough participants so we thought we'd give teachers a heads up about these amazing opportunities.

- **Alberta Conservation Education Programs Instructor Certification Course:** Instructor certification in Alberta's hunter education and fishing education programs. The Natural Resources (NAT) CTS Wildlife program requires this certification to deliver both these programs. This 4 hour session provides teachers the necessary information to deliver up to 9 credited CTS programs within the Wildlife strand for any high school student. The instructor certification also would benefit any Grade 7-9 teacher that wants to deliver either program within Jr. High Outdoor education programs.
- **National Archery in the Schools (NASP) Basic Archery Instructor Workshop:** This 8 hour workshop provides certification as a NASP (BAI) basic archery instructor. NASP is an exciting new archery program that fits into phys ed or outdoor ed programs. It also has evolved into an after hrs or club/team archery program in Alberta schools. Regional, Provincial, National, Online and International tournaments allow students to challenge their archery skills against other schools. Teams and individuals can compete at all levels from Grade 4-12. Teams must be mixed. NASP is designed to be an indoor safe archery program using the 20 lb. compound Genesis bows. This new technologically advanced bow allows all students of any size or strength to effectively develop the proper archery skills and technique to become competitive archers.
- **The Perfect Personal Messenger Bag:** Designing and sewing a personalized messenger bag will give your students a wonderful sense of accomplishment. Students learn basic pattern making skills and increase sewing skills while developing an understanding of the design process. This is a make and take session with the opportunity to practise what you teach. Go to class on Monday morning with a sample pattern, project and ideas for personalization. Instructions and a sample evaluation sheet are included.

Vendor Displays

We are always looking for educational vendors to display their services and resources at our Convention, especially for senior high. There are many challenges for us since travel and shipping costs are more for vendors to come to our Convention and there is another Convention held at the same time as ours. Despite having the lowest fees for vendors we still have trouble getting them to come to Grande Prairie. If you know of any vendors that we should invite to our Convention please contact the Display Director, Nancy Evans, at 780-538-2883 ext 170 or by email nancyevans@gpcsd.ca.