



Rielity Check

Louis Riel
Teachers' Association
www.lrta.ca

June 2010
Editor : Deb Barry

President's Message

Farewell and Thank you!

This is my last message as President and as such, there are many people I need to thank for their support and commitment over the past three years. The Louis Riel Teachers' Association relies on so many people to be successful.



I would like to first thank all the teachers and clinicians of Louis Riel for the excellent work they have done for their students and their colleagues this past year. The work you do is so important. We prepare the future today, what an incredible undertaking! Please take time to look over the positive events of the past year and to celebrate them.

Retirees, congratulations and best wishes for happiness and health as you close one chapter of your life and venture on your next journey. Your contributions have greatly impacted the lives of the students you taught.

New teachers, it has been many months since the LRTA Induction and I am certain your year has flown by. On behalf of the children in Louis Riel, thank you for your energy, your ideas and your commitment. Now take some time in the summer to catch your breath!

LRTA Council members who represent the teachers and clinicians of the LRTA have done a great job again this year. So much of the Association's work requires Council's participation as it allows us to keep our colleagues throughout the Division informed. It is critical that we have representatives from each of our buildings at each Council meeting and participation at our Council meetings is always strong! I have said many times and I will say it again, the LRTA has the best Council in the province!

LRTA Executive members, colleagues who put their names forward to be elected at our Annual General Assembly, assume responsibility to ensure that the on-going needs of the organization are met. Our entire Executive took on additional responsibilities when asked to make sure that our Association activities served the members. Early every school year the Association sets goals, and for the most part have all been achieved.

The LRTA Vice Presidents are responsible for the day-to-day running of the Association. While their primary responsibilities are negotiations and professional development, there are many other committees such as Education Finance and StudentsAchieve that they willingly manage efficiently and effectively.

for their collaboration on issues that were important to our members.

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I would also like to thank the Louis Riel School Division Board of Trustees and Superintendents' Department for their collaboration on issues that were important to our members. The lines of communication were always open and we used a team approach to solve many of our issues.

Personally, being President of the Louis Riel Teachers' Association has been a rewarding and fulfilling experience for me. I know that I will look back at all of our accomplishments with pride and I know that I will truly miss Association work. I am very grateful and proud to have been given the opportunity to work on behalf of LRTA members.

Ce fut mon privilège et mon plaisir d'avoir servi comme votre président. Merci pour votre appui, votre encouragement et votre amitié.

It has been my privilege and pleasure to have served as your President. Thank you for your support, your encouragement, and your friendship.

Madeline



Farewell



Au revoir

Congratulations, Helmut Mathae!

Congratulations to Helmut Mathae, an instructor in the Culinary Arts Program at the Louis Riel Arts and Technology Centre. Helmut was awarded the Canadian Culinary Federation's Chef of the Year award at the President's Gala on March 20th at the Delta Hotel in Winnipeg.

Helmut Mathae was recognized for his years of work as a pastry chef representing Manitoba and Canada in national and international competitions including the Culinary Olympics in Germany.



Is this the best letter to the Editor never printed?

Friday, March 26, 2010

Dear Editor:

I am dismayed by the inaccurate and simplistic conclusions that were drawn by Colin Craig in his article, *Cost of education could use a good pruning*, printed Friday, March 19, 2010. Mr. Craig has concluded that because enrolment is falling, the cost of education must also fall. Mr. Craig's position does not take into account the reality of education in the 21st century.

Mr. Craig does not recognize the tremendous challenges schools are faced with today. Schools today offer a broad array of services ranging from breakfast programs, language programs, information computer technologies, vocational programs, various music and sport programs to advanced placement and international baccalaureate programs. In this century, teachers and schools are trying to meet the needs of **all** learners, including those with the greatest needs. Naturally, providing a broad array of services such as these has a cost attached.

The implementation of Bill 13, which strives to assure appropriate education services to children, has resulted in the addition of thousands of positions in the school system including Educational Assistants, clinicians and special education teachers. This major undertaking helps improve special needs education for this segment of the school population, but has resulted in increased costs.

Over the last decade, Manitoba has witnessed high levels of immigration not seen in recent memory. EAL students represent another challenge and an ever increasing cost to our educational system.

While it is convenient for Mr. Craig to target teacher raises as "the biggest cost driver", it is incumbent upon him to present accurate information in this regard. Mr. Craig states that teacher raises are "always above the inflation rate" while in actual fact, on average, a Manitoba teacher today is paid about 5% less (measured in real dollars) than a teacher in the early 1980s.

So, why does Mr. Craig deem Manitoba's school system "broken" and in need of reform? The OECD has consistently remarked that Canada has one of the best performing education systems in the industrialized world. What is Mr. Craig's real agenda? Simply stated, one must assume that it is to attack teachers, their salaries and their unions.

Sincerely,

Madeline McKenzie
President, Louis Riel Teachers' Association



L.R.T.A. Hockey Team

On April 18th and 19th, River East Transcona hosted the annual MTS hockey tournament. The L.R.T.A. hockey team faced the River East team at 8:45 a.m. Saturday morning. The early morning game played havoc on the Louis Riel team as the River East team came out with a 4 – 1 win.

After a team breakfast and strategy talk, the team was ready for its second game. L.R.T.A. rallied and easily handled the Seine River team with a 10 – 2 triumph. The third game saw Louis Riel face the Western School Division represented by Morden. The game was a close affair, but penalty calling was a one sided affair and Louis Riel was called for a total of four. However, Louis Riel goaltender, Guy Anderson, stymied the Western team as he stopped all penalty shots. Later in the game Western got close with a controversial goal but Louis Riel skated on to a 4 – 3 victory.

The hockey team thanks the L.R.T.A. for its support for this tournament. The annual tournament not only gives a chance for players in the division to get together but also provides the opportunity to network with other divisions in the province.

Next year's MTS hockey tournament will be in Dauphin.



Back row: (left to right) Douglas Vince, Jeff Hunter, Lori Lawrynuik, Sean Hart, Chris Barth, Jeff Herkimer, John Poulter, David Prescott

Front Row: Richard Botchar, Robbie Mager, Louis Riel wannabe, Guy Anderson

Missing from the photo is Ken Thoroski

Blue Cross Vision Plan

At the May 25th Staff meeting, LRTA members voted on the inclusion of the Blue Cross Vision Plan in the LRTA Extended Health Benefit package. In order for Vision Care to become part of the Extended Health Benefit package, 2/3 of those casting ballots needed to support inclusion. The results of the vote are as follows:

Number of ballots cast: 904
In support of including the Blue Cross Vision Plan – 368
No support of the Blue Cross Vision Plan – 530
Spoilt ballots – 5
Abstention – 1



41% of those casting ballots supported inclusion of the Vision Care Plan for the vote is lost.

Premiums for Dental coverage for 2101-2011.

The rates will remain virtually the same as this year.



	Current	2010-11
Family	\$102.74	\$102.75
Couple	\$66.85	\$66.86
Single	\$31.95	\$31.95



Birth Announcement



École Marie-Anne Gaboury

Annick and Chris Rauch are pleased to announce the birth of their first child! A healthy baby boy named Caden was born on May 17th. He shares his birthday with his mom. Congratulations!

Farewell and Best Wishes

The following colleagues have tendered their notice of retirement. We wish them all the best as they embark on the next journey of their lives.

Come out on Thursday, June 17th to celebrate their careers and retirement. Tickets for the LRTA Retirement Celebration will be available from your Council rep. after May 19th. Admission is free, but tickets are limited.

Monique Arbez
Gilles Bisson
Russell Bodnar
Marilyn Bourbonnais
Yves Brunel
Dennis Cape
Garth Collier
Robert Cordingley
Richard Dziedzic
Sharon Entz
Lynda Heinricks
Linda Howell
Pamela Hunter
Dale Kerr
Dianne Marion
Madeline McKenzie
Patricia Peacock
Gord Ptashnick
Sandra Robins
Deb Scott
Marcia Sweeney
Ruth Tomac
Judy Tozeland
Evelyne Vermeire

Denise Beaudry
Geradline Bisson
Renald Bourassa
Heather Brandow
Karin Bueddefeld-Noel
Ken Chapman
Linda Connelly
Pauline Dupont-Potvin
Evelyn Edmonstone-Page
Cathy Ferchoff
Wayne Hominuk
Richard Humphrey
Rose-Marie (Mimi) Iafolla
Glenda Lechner
Yvette Marten
Suzanne Mingo
Russel Prior
Linda Rivard
Monty Schwabe
Janice Sharpe
Judith Thornhill
John Tozeland
Roberta Tucker
Bruce Young

