

From the President of  
the RPSTA  
Phone (525-0561)  
rpsta@accesscomm.ca



# UPDATE

## RPSTA Executive

Your elected Executive is comprised of the following teachers:

Patrick Maze -  
President

M. Jeff Ruf -  
Vice-President

Launel DeWitt  
Jay Fladager  
Barry Houlden  
Chris Keyes  
Mike Markesteyn  
Andrew Pelling  
Jeff Perry  
Sejal Pilatzke

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February 17, 2012

## Changes to School Calendar

The joint RPSTA/Regina Public Schools Calendar Committee met recently and revised the 2012-2013 calendar to reflect government's election promise of students starting school after the Labour Day weekend. The committee, comprised of elementary and high school-classroom teachers, administrators, and senior administrative members from Regina Public Schools, decided to prematurely end the two-year pilot of a February break in order to facilitate the change, which has already been approved by the Regina Public

School Board Trustees.

From the February break, two holiday days were taken and placed on August 27 and 28, and the other two days were placed at the end of the Christmas break on January 3 and 4 to extend that break to include the weekend.

The government's promise to have students start school after Labour Day will be most significant in year 2015, when Labour Day falls on September 7th, meaning students won't be back in the classrooms until Tuesday, September 8th.

## Enjoy February Break!

**February 18 to 26, 2012. Have an enjoyable holiday - see you on the 27th.**

# Convention Report

The 2012 Regina Teachers' Convention will be held on March 9th at the Conexus Arts Centre. If you are unable to attend you are required to apply to the RPSTA for an exemption. Exemptions are generally granted for unavoidable circumstances or situations where a teacher is using a personal day or other leave through human resources.

As Convention is part of your Professional Development, other Professional Development opportunities are rarely approved, unless your presence is required

Extra-curricular sporting/cultural activities should nor-

mally be scheduled to avoid conflict with Convention.

The morning keynote speaker at our 2012 Convention will be Regina's own motivational speaker, Mrs. Darci Lang.

Darci speaks about the importance of focusing on the positive elements of our lives. The afternoon keynote will feature nationally acclaimed educational comedian Mr. Steve Brinder. Steve was a huge hit at STF Showcase several years ago, and has been featured in several national televised performances. He relies on his experiences as a substitute teacher for much of his material.



**Don't forget!** All STRP members are **STRONGLY** encouraged to purchase pension service within the interest free period ending on May 26th, 2012 for any or all of the three days during which salary was lost due to the withdrawal of professional service. For further information, go to the For Members section of the STF website.

# Big Questions Worthy Dreams Conference

The 2012 STF Big Questions Worthy Dreams conference will be held in Eamer Auditorium, STF building, Saskatoon, on Friday March 16 and Saturday March 17. The theme is “Living as an Ally: Teachers’ Work”. To register for

this conference please send an email to Pat Maze at the RPSTA office, as registrations are to come from local associations. For more information on the conference, please check the STF website.



## Interested in Job Sharing?

**Elementary teachers interested in Job Sharing are invited to attend an informational session in the Mary Hicks Gallery at the Division Office on Tuesday, February 28th, at 4:15pm.**

### **Question:**

Can Professional Development opportunities be offered during our preparation time?

### **Answer:**

P.D. opportunities can be offered, however attendance must be considered voluntary in nature, with no coercion to attend, and no repercussions for not attending.

# RPSTA

## Contact us:

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[rpsta@accesscomm.ca](mailto:rpsta@accesscomm.ca)

## RPSTA Goals:

The RPSTA Executive has committed to:

-Enhanced communication with senior administration and with our membership

-Stronger resolutions to STF

-Increased focus on our mandate to the membership

-Strengthening our Constitution



## RPSTA Website:

The RPSTA website will be receiving enhancements in the upcoming months. It currently contains our LINC contract, the RPSTA constitution, RPSTA Updates, and information on RPSTA Committees. Please visit our website at:

[www.local.stf.sk.ca/rpsta](http://www.local.stf.sk.ca/rpsta)

## RPSTA School Visits:

RPSTA President Patrick Maze is continuing school visits. These are informal discussions regarding the services of the RPSTA/STF and any member issues/concerns.

### Upcoming Visits:

March 1st (noon)	Haultain School
March 1st (3:30)	Hawrylak School
March 7th,(noon)	Coronation Park
March 8th, (10:00)	Wilfred Hunt School
March 12th, (3:30)	Glen Elm School

Please contact Patrick Maze at the RPSTA office if your school would prefer a visit during a staff meeting or a time other than noon-hour. Thanks!