

From the Executive of
the RPSTA
Phone (525-0561)

RPSTA Executive

Your elected
Executive is com-
prised of the fol-
lowing
teachers:

Patrick Maze -
President

M. Jeff Ruf-
Vice-President

Bashab Banerjee
Jay Fladager
Melissa Gerlach
Barry Houlden
Tricia McNair
Jeff Perry
Andrew Pelling
Sejal Pilatzke

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Invest in Teachers!	1
Convention Exemptions	2
Provincial Bargaining	2
Lack of Substitutes	3
Informational Sessions	3
RPSTA Contact Information	4
School Visits	4



UPDATE

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 4

February 23rd, 2011

Invest in Teachers!

The Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation has initiated its 2011 For Our Future multimedia campaign with a series of billboards, television commercials, and newspaper and online advertisements. The ads focus on six students, albeit in a more fully developed and comprehensive context. These six students represent the nearly 160,000 children who currently attend schools in Saskatchewan's publicly funded education system. Classmates and parents of these six students are included in an effort to illustrate the united support there is for teachers and publicly funded education among the general public.

The campaign is intended to increase public awareness of the investment required in order to sustain a high-quality publicly funded education system while also stressing the importance of this system for the future of our children and our province. The multimedia campaign includes an opportunity for students and parents alike to share their stories about how a teacher, and the publicly funded education system, have made a positive and lasting impression on their lives. For more information on the 2011 For Our Future campaign please visit www.forourfuture.ca.



Convention Report

If you are unable to attend the 2011 Regina Teachers' Convention you are required to apply for an exemption from the RPSTA Executive. 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. Sporting/Cultural activities should normally be scheduled to avoid conflict with Convention.

The afternoon keynote speaker, financial author **David Chilton**, has recently re-written his

book "The Wealthy Barber", under the name "The Wealthy Barber Returns". The Wealthy Barber, is billed by Amazon.ca as the bestselling book ever of any kind in Canadian history. Our morning keynote speaker is **Mark Runco**, an international expert on play and creativity as it relates to education.

Provincial Bargaining Update!

Steven Allen, President of the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation, recently announced a letter-writing campaign aimed at influencing the provincial government to bring the necessary resources to the bargaining table to successfully reach a provincial collective agreement.

The STF is asking its 12,000 members across the province to each take part by engaging in the letter-writing campaign.

Informational packages have been mailed to each teacher's home address.

Please read and follow the instructions carefully.

By each of us doing our part, we can show the provincial government that teachers are valuable professionals who deserve a fair contract.



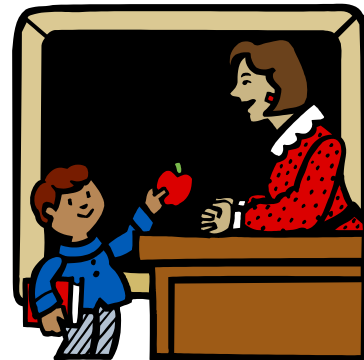
Lack of Substitutes causing Concerns!

Pat Maze, president of the RPSTA, recently sent a letter to the senior administration of our school division demanding that the shortage of substitute teachers be addressed as a top priority.

The RPSTA has heard loud and clear from its membership that this situation cannot continue. Don Hoiium, director of education with Regina Public Schools, has responded by committing to actively recruit substi-

tute teachers, including increased advertising for substitute teacher positions, hiring more superannuates to substitute teach, and recruiting new graduates from the Faculty of Education at the University of Regina into substitute positions. Unfortunately some professional development opportunities have had to be cancelled to help alleviate the shortage.

We recognize the inconvenience this causes to teachers who have prepared and are looking forward to these seminars. Please remain patient and of course, professional as we work through these difficult times.



Informational Sessions:

The following informational sessions may be of interest to RPSTA members:

Job Sharing:

March 8th - 4pm

Division Office

(The Elders' room)

Deferred Salary Leave Plan:

March 16th - 4pm

Division Office

(The Study room)

RPSTA

Contact us:

#205-3303 Hillsdale Street

Regina, Sask.

S4S 6W9

Phone: 306-525-0561

Fax: 306-565-8446

RPSTA Goals:

The RPSTA has committed to improved communications as a goal for the upcoming school year. This will include increasing members' understanding of the RPSTA and its roles. (You may have noticed a more informational aspect to the Update.) We are also committed to improved relations between our Association and all of our members, and improved relations with Regina Public Schools Senior Administration



RPSTA Website:

The RPSTA website contains updated Executive Member and Councillor information, and it also contains our LINC contract in PDF form. In addition, on the website you can find the RPSTA constitution, RPSTA Updates, and information on RPSTA Committees. Please visit our website at:

www.local.stf.sk.ca/rpsta

RPSTA School Visits:

RPSTA President Patrick Maze is continuing school visits. There have been very good discussions at each of the schools. As this is a LINC bargaining year, proposals for our new LINC Agreement will be one of the points for discussion.

Upcoming Visits:

February 23rd	McLurg School
February 28th	W.F. Ready School
March 1st	Ruth Pawson School
March 2nd	Ethel Milliken School
March 3rd	Elsie Mironuck 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!