

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



UPDATE

RPSTA Executive

Your elected Executive is comprised of the following 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

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 3

January 10th, 2011

Happy New Year!

Welcome back! The Executive of the RPSTA hopes you all had a wonderful holiday, filled with many opportunities to relax and socialize with those who are closest to you.

Now that we have had a chance to recharge our batteries, we can look forward to longer daylight hours and, if the next six months fly by as quickly as the first four, before we know it the month of June will be upon us.

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STF Resolutions Deadline

The Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation continuously evolves in response to the changing dynamics of the teaching profession and the educational climate of society. Teachers can submit proposals for change in the form of resolutions. Through council meetings in Saskatoon in Fall and Spring, STF councilors discuss and debate proposed changes thoroughly before deciding whether to pursue them. The STF Executive has set the Spring Council 2011 Resolution Deadline as February 4th, 2011. If you require more information, or assistance in writing a resolution, please contact Pat Maze, RPSTA President at rpsta@accesscomm.ca.



Convention Report

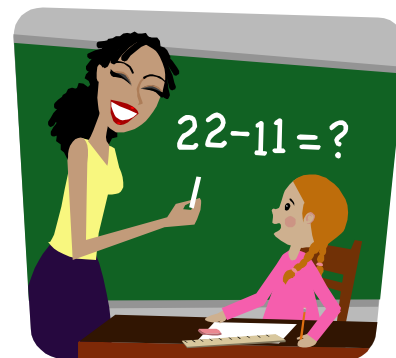
Regina Public School Teachers join forces with Regina Catholic School Teachers to put on the Regina Teachers Convention on March 4th, 2011, at the Connexus Arts Centre. Our afternoon Key-note speaker will be **David Chilton**. Chilton is a renowned speaker and author of The Wealthy Barber, which is billed by Amazon.ca as the bestselling book ever of any kind in Canadian history. Chilton speaks on financial planning, which may be quite timely as the STF continues to negotiate our new contract with the Province. Our morning keynote speaker is **Mark Runco**, an international expert on play and creativity. Mark is the Professor of Creative Studies and Gifted Education at the University of Georgia. He will also deliver the Steinecker Lecture at the University of Regina during his stay in Regina. In addition to the keynotes, there will also be breakout sessions and prize draws at the end.

Improving Morale!

The RPSTA survey commissioned last year indicated that our members rated morale as low in the Division. We have formed a sub-committee to look at ways to improve morale amongst our membership. If you would like to send us suggestions for improving morale, we would love to hear from you. Please send your suggestions under the heading Morale to: rpsta@access-comm.ca.

Some issues regarding teacher morale will be addressed

through our upcoming LINC negotiations. However, other items which are not covered under our local contract will be discussed by the subcommittee. Pat Maze, Jeff Perry, and Jay Fladager will be the RPSTA members on the Committee, while Mike Walter, Dave Hutchinson, Darren Boldt, and Greg Miller will represent Senior Administration.



Provincial Bargaining Update!

On December 15th, 2010, the Educational Relations Board (ERB) approved the application for conciliation made by the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation on November 26, 2010. Conciliation is a supportive process available to the bargaining committees intended to settle collective bargaining disputes that might be interfering with the achievement of a tentative agreement. Typically, it takes up to six months from the date of application to the conclusion of the process.

If you have any questions on the conciliation process, or questions about STF Provincial Collective bargaining in general, please access the "For Members" section of the STF website at www.stf.sk.ca. Then click on the "For Members" tab on the left side of the screen. To sign in, you will need to enter your `firstname.lastname@saskteacher.ca`. Your password is the same as your STF T-mail account password. If

you have forgotten your password, click on "problems signing in" and you will be provided with a phone number to get your password. Once signed in, click on the Provincial Collective Bargaining tab on the right side. Follow the STF website for all the latest news on Provincial Bargaining.



The McDowell Foundation

The McDowell Foundation is inviting teachers, administrators and others involved in public education to apply for funding for teacher-led research projects that enhance instruction in publicly funded

PreK-12 schools. A total of \$85,000 is available to support research activities that begin after July 1, 2011. The deadline for applications is March 31, 2011. For assistance in making an application, please

email the McDowell Foundation at mcdowell@stf.sk.ca, or call 1-800-667-7762.

RPSTA

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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:

January 17th

Harvest City

January 28th

McDermid 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!