



BPTA Newsletter

Wow....tis the season to be frantically trying to finish projects, assignments, tests, and any other curricular objectives that need to be covered; All while participating in track and field days, field trips, year end assemblies, pep rallies, and any other last minute events that “spring” up. Before long, you will be typing in those last few words in the comment box of the last student of your last report card.

Just a reminder through this very emotionally, mentally, and physically draining time, that personal wellness is exceptionally important.

MTS now has a wellness twitter account which contains motivational quotes, resources, blogs, and stories of people going through the same things you are ending the year as a teacher. Follow them on twitter @MTSwellness.

Also, a reminder that EAP offers confidential counseling services to educators. Contact Louise Lamont @ (204) 571-2080 or llamont@mbteach.org

Important Dates

Wednesday June 4th

- ◆ AGM in Brookdale at 4:30. Door Prizes will be handed out and snacks will be provided. The following positions are still available: Vice-President, Ed. Finance, Liaison, and Employee Benefits

Tuesday June 10th

- ◆ Recognition Evening at the Carberry Community Memorial Hall

Reception: 6:00 p.m.

Dinner: 6:30 p.m.

Presentations to follow

Entertainment by a comedy sketch group
“Hot Thespian Action”

Beautiful Plains Teachers’ Association Thanks you for your years of Service

15 Years

- *Glenda McPhee*
- *Angela Tester*
- *Eric Gaudet*
- *Katherine Kingdon*

- *Diane Nordstrom*

20 Years

- *Sylvie Tomoniko*

25 Years

- *Dixie Friesen*
- *Bruce Menzies*

30 Years

- *Murray Parrot*

Teachers Leaving Service

Kerri Hayhurst

1. How many years have you been teaching and where?

1 year in Winkler, 18 years in Neepawa

2. Which aspect of teaching will you miss the most?

Interacting with students on a daily basis as a teacher and coach. I also miss many of the staff who I have grown close to over the years. I truly admire the teachers, the admin and the board members who go "above and beyond" for the students of BPSD, both in the classroom and extra-curricularly.

3. What is one aspect of teaching you are not sad to say goodbye to?

Curriculum changes instituted by the Department of Education that did not benefit the students. They lowered expectations which at times resulted in a poor work ethic on the part of some students, decreased mathematical skills and an over-reliance on calculators.

4. What is your most memorable moment as a teacher?

I honestly do not have one moment.....just always felt very proud of students who achieved THEIR potential. Some of the students who I have admired the most, are students who achieved 50-70% and worked very hard to achieve that mark.

5. Parting words...

Living, teaching, and raising our family in Neepawa has been a very large and important part of my life. Thank you for the memories and I wish you all the best.

Murray Martin

1. How many years have you been teaching and where?

21 years. I worked for ACC teaching adult courses in Carberry, Neepawa and Long Plain. The position in Long Plain became a permanent teaching position for 4 years. I then came to Neepawa to teach the at risk students.

2. Which aspect of teaching will you miss the most?

The aspect of teaching that I will miss the most is the relationships that I have built with the students, staff and student teachers. There is not a day that goes by that I don't laugh.

3. What is one aspect of teaching you are not sad to say goodbye to?

The change in the direction of philosophy by the department of education toward curriculum. Some of the changes that the department has initiated have brought the province of Manitoba to the second lowest scores in achievement for Canada.

4. What is your most memorable moment as a teacher?

My most memorable moment as a teacher came with the giving of the eulogy for one of my students. I met with the students who were classmates and friends the evening before the funeral. The students were happy to see me, so that they could express their pain and sorrow to an adult that they trusted. I did not know that I was respected and held in such high esteem until that moment.

5. Parting words...

I would like to thank the Beautiful Plains School Board for their support in education and also extracurricular activities. The trustees and superintendent do an excellent job of providing funding for extracurricular trips and for programming in our division. The teachers have always had a great working relationship with the board and I hope it continues for ever for the teachers' and students' sake. To the teaching staff, I would like to remind you that you are making a difference and to keep building those relationships with new staff, team members and classroom students. You know that you can, and do, make a difference in the students' lives.

Teachers Leaving Service cont.

Alex Martin

1. How many years have you been teaching and where?

I started teaching in Somerset, in 1976. I was hired the last day of summer holidays and started teaching the next day. The following year I got a job in Morris where I taught for three great years while my wife, Pat, completed university. We both found positions in Neepawa in 1980. So, my career is 38 years as a teacher.

2. Which aspect of teaching will you miss the most?

The camaraderie of the staff is a close second to the excitement and energy of teaching young people. I really love to be in the classroom with them. I find we both learn together.

3. What is one aspect of teaching you are not sad to say goodbye to?

Meetings of any kind I will never miss. Maybe the Payday Friday "Inservices" we once held at the "office" (legion) at 4 o'clock will be missed.

4. What is your most memorable moment as a teacher?

Meeting students years afterwards who have such great memories of the classes, trips, extra-curricular events, and personalities of NACI.

Meeting an elderly man in the Co-op grocery store in August one year, and he wanted to know why I wasn't in school teaching. I gently reminded him that it was August, to which he replied "Well you should ought to be anyways!"

5. Parting words...

Brian Harley said "Never start a fight you can't win."

Carl Saurbourn said "Tradition is no excuse to perpetuate stupidity."

One of my superintendents once said to me "You can hit them once, but do it in the hall without witnesses, and never punch twice."

Why is it that some students have to "go" every class, yet not once has had to "go" by the side of the road when we take a two-and-a half hour bus ride to Winnipeg?

Why do some people take the last of the coffee and put the pot back on the hot element to melt?

Who is the rascal that always leaves coloured paper in the photocopier?