



# The Apple

Spring, 2014

Edited by Sharon Thompson

### The Home Stretch

by Kathy Bellemare

#### Inside this issue:

Home Stretch, cont.	2
Union Positions	3
Deferred Salary	3
Road Trip	3
Kinder Books	4
Summer Reading	4

We have a wonderful job. We are able to work with young people in a variety of situations – in the classrooms, on the playground, in extracurricular activities, in the hallways. We assist them while they develop the skills and confidence they need to move forward in their lives. We are part of a positive, dynamic profession.

As we head into the homeward stretch for the 2013-14 school year, take time to reflect on how you have made a difference in the lives of those around you. Remember to celebrate what you and your colleagues have accomplished!

I have taken the opportunity to reflect on how MVTAA has made a difference in the lives of its members. Each executive chairperson has been active this year on projects in their specific area as well as other MVTAA initiatives.

#### Save the Date:

- *AGM at the DRCSS cafeteria; May 15 at 7pm*
- *2014 Retirement Event at the Watson Art Centre; June 5th*
- *Watch for information on a School Board Candidates Forum in the fall*

Have you been hearing the radio ads on CKDM in the morning? That's the work of our PR chair Sharon Thompson who is also getting gift books ready to give to all our kindergarten students in June. Stay tuned for the school board election forum in the fall.

To assist our members in staying well, our wellness chairperson Susan Hopfner organized a wellness wine and cheese evening, complete with a presentation by the MTS Primary Prevention Team. Plus a number of wellness resources are now listed on our website.

In a similar vein, we held the well-attended Christmas event with our special guest band “Tedless” from the DRCSS. The Retirement event will be held on Thursday June 5 to honour those who are retiring this year. Thank you to Allyssa Watson and our new co-chair Chelsea Hockridge.

We organized and advertised an evening event to learn more about gender issues with guest speaker Bradley Tyler-West. Our ESJ chairperson Dawn Dutchak is organizing an equity project in Winnipegosis.



## Home Stretch (continued from page 1)

Our collective bargaining co-chairs Stephen Jaddock and David Clark and committee are revving up to begin the next round of bargaining and have been both meeting and surveying members. By now you have filled in and returned your survey identifying your bargaining priorities. Let the negotiations begin!

We are disappointed that the division is not yet moving forward on the Short Term Disability Plan (STD) – the one people voted overwhelmingly in favour of last year - but we will keep working towards that end. So there will be more opportunities for me to talk about STDs! One of the many perks of my job! Sharon Paziuk also has information on new life insurance possibilities and we are addressing our dental trust surplus.

Our Professional Development co-chairs Ardena Shipp and Michelle Mailhot have been working on the PD opportunities in our division and overseeing budget work, etc. etc. to support teachers as they develop professionally. Please give them your feedback as to what you need, and how helpful these events have been for you.

Our Workplace Safety and Health people have been working collaboratively to ensure that we have a WSH program that rocks! That includes two days of good training each year as well. Thanks Chance.



Ed. Finance chairperson Chris Barkman and I prepared and presented to the Board during budget deliberation process to give the trustees MVTA's ideas on how money should be spent in our Division. Treasurer Marni Bednorski has been diligently keeping track of how money is being spent by MVTA. Sonja Blank, attending many meetings including the Ed. Finance Standing Committee.

I have been working on the front lines and behind the scenes to support the above initiatives and others as well. For example, this year new teachers were invited to lunch during the PD day in February in Grandview to learn more about MVTA. We had a great turnout. New this year is our website is almost always up to date. Check out [mountainview-teachersassociation.weebly.com](http://mountainview-teachersassociation.weebly.com) .

Various members have attended all sorts of MVTA committee meetings, Council and Executive meetings, Board meetings and Liaison committee meetings. This is on top of their regular day jobs. Thank you to those who have volunteered for MVTA this year. The year would not have gone as well without the commitment and hard work of these people. You have made life better for the teachers of this Association. Please remember to thank your colleagues who have volunteered to do this work on your behalf.

For those not on Executive or Council, consider becoming involved in the future. We are always looking for new people and new ideas as we work to support our teacher colleagues. Together we can accomplish a great deal! Contact me at [president-mvta@gmail.com](mailto:president-mvta@gmail.com) or 204 638 3619.

## Your Union Needs YOU!

The Mountain View Teachers' Association Executive is looking for a Wellness chair for the upcoming year. As well, if you are interesting in running for *any* of the executive positions, you

are welcome to let your name stand at the AGM. Let Kathy Bellemare know if you are interested. We will also be looking for Council Members in the fall. Voting for the Executive will occur at the Annu-

al General Meeting on Thursday, May 15 at 7pm at the DRCSS.

We hope to see everyone at the AGM!



## Deferred Salary Leave

Did you know that MVTAs members are eligible to apply for deferred salary leave? What is deferred salary leave?

- A tax deferred savings plan that provides the opportunity for paid leave from teaching.
- Administered by local Division or District and by Investors Group/Great West Life.
- Optional participation.
- Integrated into the Collective Agreements of participating Divisions/Associations to ensure opportunities for both leave and a guaranteed return to work in a similar position.

- Must apply to your Division/District by March 31 of each year.
- Member may agree to defer up to 33 per cent of gross salary for up to 6 school years to allow for a paid or self-funded leave of up to one school year.
- Member must return to teaching assignment for period equivalent to period of leave.

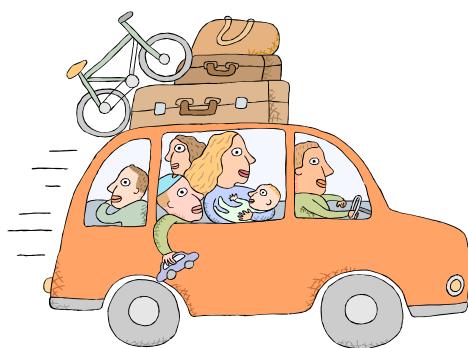
For more information see Article 13 of your Collective Agreement.

~Submitted by Sharon Pazuik~

## Summer Road Trip!

Will you be hitting the road this summer? Travel costs add up, so why not save some money? As a member of the Manitoba Teachers' Society, you are eligible for a wide variety of discounts throughout

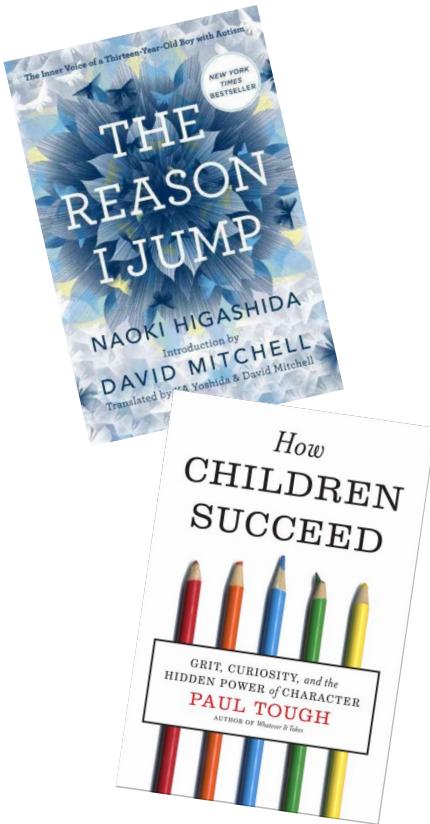
the province, including participating hotels, vehicle rentals, entertainment, restaurants, and much more. See [mbteach.org](http://mbteach.org) for a complete list of the discounts available.



## Mountain View Teachers' Association

Kathy Bellemare, president  
mvtapresident@gmail.com  
204-638-3619 (office)  
<http://mountainviewteachersassociation.weebly.com>

Your Association President, Kathy Bellemare, works on half-time release basis on association business odd-day mornings and even-day afternoons.



## Books for Kinders

For the past few years, the MVTA has given books as gifts to our Kindergarten students to help them celebrate the completion of their first year of school. This year's students will get either *The Night Before First Grade* by Natasha Wing or *If You Take a Mouse to School* by Laura Numeroff.



## Thought-provoking Summer Reading

- *Bright, Not Broken: Gifted Kids, ADHD, and Autism-* Diane M. Kennedy, Rebecca S. Banks, and Temple Grandin
- *Bully: An Action Plan for Teachers and Parents to Combat the Bullying Crisis-* Lee Hirsch and Cynthia Lowen, eds.
- *Empire of Illusion: The End of Literacy and the Triumph of Spectacle-* Chris Hedges
- *How Children Succeed: Grit, Curiosity, and the Hidden Power of Character-* Paul Tough.
- *The Orenda-* Thomas Boyden
- *The Reason I Jump: The Inner Voice of a Thirteen-year-old Boy with Autism-* Naoki Higashida

Contact Sharon at the PD Centre to borrow any of these titles.

204-638-3001 or [shthompson@mvsd.ca](mailto:shthompson@mvsd.ca)