



How to Manage Your
Time over Summer Break

o June 2017



From the Past President



2017-2018 MTS
Professional
Development

RETТА *Record*

The first year in any role is going to be a challenge. I'm thankful that I had the opportunity to work with Frank Reeves, our past-president, before taking over the role of president myself. It has been a fantastic year that came with a steep learning curve and a lot of interesting twists and turns. I welcomed my daughter Violet into the world on November 4th and have been finding that balance between being with her and my commitment to the membership of RETТА and teachers across the province.

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank those committed members who work on behalf of all of us daily, mostly without appropriate or recognition. Firstly, I would like to thank our Council members and especially our school contact reps without whose continued commitment RETТА would flounder. Our contact reps are our direct connection to the membership and how we can communicate information in both directions. Our Council is the lifeblood of our organization.

Secondly, I would like to thank our Executive members who attended numerous MTS seminars as well as committing to the many hours of committee work needed for our association to be successful. The commitment of those who work tirelessly on the executive is inspiring. It is with sadness that we say goodbye to Ian Walker who has stepped down from his role on the executive, and Frank Reeves who has finished his one-year term as past-president and Cynthia

Jasper who has brought so much to the association and will be missed. It is also with some excitement and enthusiasm that I welcome Catherine Fouillard, Kirsten Mundle, Chad Duffield and Cameron Sheppard to our executive. I am looking forward to working with you all next year.

Thirdly, I would like to thank the staff at the Manitoba Teachers' Society for all the help given to me and our members throughout this past year. Without the sage advice and expertise provided by our MTS staff officers, life around the office would have been much more difficult.

Finally, I would like to thank the members of RETТА for the kind comments and continued support you provide me day after day. It has been an honour to be your representative this past year, and humbling to know that I get to do it again. Thank you.

This has been a great year for me. I have learned much and made many connections and friends. Even though there is still much work to be done this year, I am already getting excited about the challenges a new year will bring. There is one thing I ask of you, please take the time this summer to enjoy your time with family and friends, get lots of rest and laugh.

Tim Breen
RETТА President



WHO: TLLT workshops are available to MTS members. Non-members, including educational assistants and support staff, may attend TLLT workshops in their school for an additional charge of \$10 per person.

WHAT: TLLT workshops are half-day sessions offered *by teachers for teachers*. The cost is \$100 booking fee.

WHERE: TLLT workshops are offered at your school site or divisional PD day.

WHEN: TLLT workshops can be requested for any date, subject to the availability of TLLT facilitators.

WHY: The mandate of the Teacher-Led Learning Team is to design and facilitate workshops for Society members across the province.

For further information, please contact Dr. Danielle Fullan Kolton at dfullankolton@mbteach.org



**The
Manitoba
Teachers'
Society**

It has been a whirlwind of a year for me as the vice-president of your association. My first year had quite a steep learning curve and I feel like we have made a lot of progress looking after our members.

After the MTS Summer Seminars that we attended in August, Tim and I were happy to welcome over 40 new members at the New Teacher Orientation that was put on by the division. Shortly after that, the meetings began. MTS standing committees, RETTA Council and Executive, Collective Bargaining, Workplace Safety & Health, President's Council, Metro Presidents and Vice-Presidents, and more. We also managed to make it out to every work site this year to visit with members! It has been go-go-go all year but I wouldn't change a thing.

We are heading into a year of challenges, particularly with a provincial government that hasn't shown any signs of friendliness toward education, public service, labour, or unions in general. While I encourage you to rest and relax over the next two months, keep your ear to the ground and be aware of what's happening in our province. Have those conversations with friends and family about this apparent "fiscal crisis" we are in. Don't be afraid to ask the tough questions; Are we really in a crisis? How do our finances compare to other provinces? Are there other ways for the province to save money other than cutting salaries of public sector workers? Where does the province generate revenue?

Remember, you are the best advocate

for yourself and for teachers.

And with that, I will close by saying that it has been a pleasure working for the members of the River East Transcona Teachers' Association this year as your Vice President. I thank Tim and Janice for their ongoing support and advice. The upcoming year will, no doubt, pose several significant challenges that we are not used to. Together, we are stronger. I encourage you all to get involved and stay informed. There is no better time to be active in your union. But for now, take a well-deserved break, rest, and recharge those batteries. We will need to be fully charged up this fall.

Chris Daraszi
RETTA Vice President



MTS 2017-2018

Professional Development

FIELD-LED COURSE Personnel Leadership

1. October 19-20, 2017 2. December 11-12, 2017 3. February 2-3, 2018 4. March 9-10 2018

Location: Winnipeg

MTS is sponsoring a Field-led Course on Personnel Leadership during the 2017-18 school year. It is comprised of four required workshop components with additional readings and assignments, and it is approved for university credit toward the provincial School Leadership Certificate. The purpose of this course is to provide practitioners with opportunities to increase their knowledge and skills in supporting the professional growth and development of individual staff members and in leading and developing collaborative communities within the school. The course will provide opportunities to learn and practice various communication tools and discussion protocols, develop norms for collaboration and problem solving, and apply these skills to various contexts depending on their school and their current role in it.

For further information, including registration details, see www.mbteach.org/professional-development/field.html

Workshop on Workshops

September 30, 2017 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Location: McMaster House

Building capacity in teachers to develop presentations and facilitate professional learning for adult learners. Recommended for teachers and leaders who develop and present at PD days and professional learning events.

Topics: Conditions and practices for adult learning, brain-friendly teaching; 4C's of workshop design; and facilitation skills for high participation and engagement.

Fee: Member \$75; Non-Member \$90

Dr. Danielle Fullan Kolton is a Staff Officer at The Manitoba Teachers' Society whose work focuses on the research, development, and coordination of professional learning services. She is passionate about working and learning with adult learners and supporting members in the messiness of leading and learning. She has worked as a K-12 teacher, principal, consultant, and university instructor.

FAB 5 Beginning Teacher Conference - Winnipeg/ Brandon

October 18 & 19, 2017 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Location Winnipeg: Victoria Inn, Winnipeg **Location Brandon:** Royal Oak Inn, Brandon

Supporting teachers in their first five years with a variety of practical workshops designed to develop day-to-day classroom practices.

Topics: Classroom management and student engagement; parent partnerships; working with EAs; student engagement; teacher wellness; inclusive practices; social media; and so much more...

Fee: TBA

How to Manage Your Time over Summer Break



As we transition ourselves to deal with our own summer break, I offer you this article that was written by a group of authors in an open forum article/blog called – wiki How to do anything- as a means of putting a different perspective on the summer plans that some anonymous authors suggested for teenage students that may be lacking in filling in their summer vacation time.

"How to Manage Your Time over Summer Break"- authored by "wiki- How to do anything..."

If your summer is looking pretty empty, and you're not planning on any vacations (or if you are, the destination is pretty far away) then this article will help you have some fun with your friends, and maybe even enjoy your parents' company! During recessionary times, you might not be able to find a job so this may be very helpful.

1. Wake up at the same time everyday. Make sure you get enough hours of sleep; you should sleep in if you stayed up till 2 in the morning playing video games. During the summer, you should aim for at least 7 to 8 hours of sleep. Even if that time is 1 am, try to stay consistent.
 2. See which friends are available over the summer. If none of your close friends are sticking around, either make new ones or call friends of friends that are staying. Ask if they want to go swimming, catch the latest movie, or maybe just hang around your house for your favorite TV show marathon. Check out your friends on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, or whatever social networking site that is your favorite but NEVER talk to someone you don't know! Talk to kids from school. Don't talk to random people! Only "friend" people on these sites if you have spoken to them before in person or at least have seen around somewhere. If you make plans, be sure to ask your parents for permission.
 3. Keep in touch with everyone! Over the school year, you have an excuse not to talk to distant relatives, or friends who live far away. That is when Facebook is again in the situation. But over the summer, you have plenty of time! Send an email to your grandpa; give a call to your friend who moved away. Plan to do something with them. Maybe even ask your aunt if she will go shopping with you for some new clothes!
 4. Plan some downtime with yourself. Summer time can be a time to have fun, but it is also a great way to relax from the pressures of school. Every day, plan about 30 minutes for you to just chill out. You can go outside and ride your bike, read a book, or just sit in your favorite chair and reflect on your thoughts.
 5. Start a new hobby, or keep up with your old hobbies. Search around and find one that interests you. Try joining a club or sport. Many teens get out of shape during the summer, and it's important not to just sit around on the computer, video game console, or TV all day. Try to limit your TV/Computer/video game time to a reasonable time span (like 2 hours daily). Many summer camps and classes are also available.- just ask around and look!
 6. Help out around the house, your parents need some help too!
- Plan some time to do some chores without being asked, and maybe doing a little extra. Ask your parents if there is anything you can do. It keeps your mind stimulated and provides some exercise. You might be in a dorm room or apartment when you go to college, and keeping clean and tidy is essential. So get in that habit. Just remember that in an average household, these things need to be done daily:
- Bedrooms should be clean, with beds made, laundry in a basket, trash in a trash bag. Etc.
 - Dishes should be done. (Loading and Unloading a dishwasher)
 - Shower stalls or bathtubs should be sprayed with some soapy water and rinsed off after use.
 - Scrub down bathroom
 - Vacuum, dust, sweep house
 - Garbage disposal should be cleaned (you can do this by running a fresh lemon with baking soda under the tap)
 - Do laundry
 - Clean the computer that you are staring at. It might be dirty.
 - Mow the lawn/Pull weeds/rake leaves, etc.
7. Consider getting a job, if you're not going anywhere. Try walking dogs, mowing lawns, washing cars, or baby-sitting. Save up all your money until the week before school starts, then you can buy yourself new clothes, new cell phone, iPod, etc. (Parents LOVE it when you spend your hard-earned cash on something worthwhile).
 8. If you still need something to do in the short term:
 - try searching 'how to overcome summer boredom'.
 - Have the whole family bring out anything that they don't want anymore (clothes that don't fit, old books, etc) and put it in a big box. You can have a garage sale, or donate it to thrift stores, or Goodwill.
 - Try things that you haven't done; maybe join that volunteer work sounds great for you! Just remember not to be on the computer or on the cellphone all day! Get out and discover the world in this summer break!
 - See what tasks have not been done (starting with the daily chores) and help out! You could even make a compromise with your siblings to do half of the chores, or you can do them together. Whatever works, just be sure to clean everything properly!
 - You might want to enroll summer workshops like art workshops, sing and dance workshops. You could also get a summer job where you can earn instead of doing nothing.
 - Since you don't have PE, try to do some exercises such as running. Also joining any summer sports will keep you shape until school starts again.
 9. Don't do anything dangerous. The last thing you want is a broken arm or leg to ruin your summer.

Yury Kruk

RETTA Executive



From the Past President: In My Opinion...

As this school year draws to a close I must say I have thoroughly enjoyed my time on the RETTA Executive, first as a Member-at-Large, then as Vice President, four years as President, and this year, as Past President. Working closely with the Executive on behalf of teachers has truly been an honour for me.

That being said, I have concerns for our members. Five years ago, I predicted that teachers and education would come under attack in Manitoba. The hints were there... Bill 22 in BC; legislating workers back to work nationally, stripping teacher collective agreements in Ontario, and the like. I wrote...

"In My Opinion these types of actions are just the tip of the iceberg in Canada. With the backing of our federal government, under the guise of saving the economy, these types of government bullying tactics will permeate union negotiations in the near future. We are under attack! ...These types of strategies used by government serve to bust union rights at the core. We must stay vigilant protecting our collective rights..." Hey cool, I quoted myself! Unfortunately, with the passing of Bill 28 by the Regressive Conservatives we are now under attack here in Manitoba too.

In My Opinion this attack is very deliberate and targeted. The real goal is to defund, destabilize and destroy public education in favour of privatization. Bill 28 is just the tip of the spear; all under the guise of fixing deficits and improving broken education systems. Hogwash! We have one of the best education systems in the world! I guess if you are the government and you don't like the way things are going, just change the rules. Who cares if what you do violates Human Rights and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms? Who cares if what you do destroys education as we know it? All that really matters is getting re-elected, right?

Ok, you think I am exaggerating don't you.

Unfortunately, I am not. There is a worldwide push to privatize education and it is well underway. It is also very dangerous. We don't have to look far to see the future. Down south Trump and DeVos are well on their way to defunding, destabilizing, and privatizing the US education system. Case in point, DeVos's home state of Michigan. Michigan's education system is in shambles because of privatization.

According to a 2015 report by New York Times education reporter Kate Zernike, between 2010 and 2015 the combination of "divisive politics, "educational ideology," and "a scramble for money," over 1.1 billion state tax dollars go to Michigan charter schools, "produced a public education fiasco that is perhaps unparalleled in the United States." National charter school companies moved into Detroit promising impoverished residents school miracles. Zernike found that "the unchecked growth of charters ... created a glut of schools competing for some of the nation's poorest students, enticing them to enroll with cash bonuses, laptops, raffle tickets for iPads and bicycles." Schools were "cannibalized" as they fought "so hard over students and the limited public dollars that follow them that no one thrives." Scott Romney, a board member of the civic group New Detroit, charged that as a result of the reforms, "We've had a total and complete collapse of education in this city."

In My Opinion we can no longer just stay in our classrooms and ignore what is going on. We have to fight now to protect our rights and to protect publicly funded public education for all before it is too late. It is only Teachers and Teacher Unions that stand in the way of these profiteers. Get informed, get involved, and help educate the public about what's at stake in this fight. After all, it's only the future!

Have a great summer.
Frank



The Every Teacher Project 2016

Did you know?

54% of LGBTQ teachers have heard colleagues use homophobic slurs

73% of LGBTQ teachers were not out when hired

34% of LGBTQ were advised not to come out at work

49% of LGBTQ teachers have mentioned their partner to students

95% of LGBTQ who are out report that the school community is supportive

THE EVERY TEACHER PROJECT

ON LGBTQ-INCLUSIVE EDUCATION IN CANADA'S K-12 SCHOOLS
FINAL REPORT