



“Why are you a teacher?”



This is a question that I have frequently been asked over the course of my career. It has also been a question I've asked myself on days when things are rough. I'm sure that we've all had days when we've googled *“Things I can do besides teaching.”* I'll be honest, some days I've questioned why I continue to work in the profession. At times, it seems like there are so many things outside my control that are drawing me down. So many negatives distracting from the positive. So many reasons to leave.

But then I take a moment and reflect on the positives. I ask myself “Why am I a teacher? Why did I become a teacher?” And as I find the answers, I remind myself of the why... why am I, and why are we, teachers?

1. We are teachers because we honestly and truly love our students. We love their unique personalities. We love their questions. We love their willingness and eagerness to learn. We love the challenges that some bring. We love the energy that they each hold. We love our students, each and every one.
2. We are teachers because we love learning. We love sharing information with our students. We love seeing that spark when something new is learned. We love challenging our students to learn more, to inspire the desire to find out more. We love to foster the love of learning, the love of calculations, the love of experimentation. We love helping to guide students along their learning paths. We love to teach.
3. We are teachers because we desire to make a difference. We know that what we teach, our actions, and our classrooms, will help to shape the world of the future. We know that we are making a difference. We are helping to shape the future!
4. We are teachers because we enjoy continual learning and growth. There is always a challenge in each school year. We will always be learning new things. We will always be learning new techniques. We will be continually adding to our personal toolboxes. Every teacher will experience personal development throughout the course of our careers. Education is constantly changing, and so are we.
5. We are teachers, because we are the reason, for some students, that their day is a little brighter. We are the people who made a difference that day. We are the people who made them smile. Who made them laugh. Who listened to their troubles. Who helped them. Who comforted them. Every single day, whether we know it or not, we do have a daily impact on our students.
6. For some students, we are the constant in their lives. We are the ones who are there each day. We are to comfortable routine that they have come to expect each day when at times their lives are not.
7. For some students, we are the first to believe in them. The first to challenge them. The first to see the potential that lies within them.
8. For some students, we are the first to show them boundaries. To show what is and is not okay as they grow and navigate through this world.
9. Some of us became teachers because we ourselves were influenced by a great teacher in our past. I personally will never forget my greatest teacher influence, Mr. Smith. He was the teacher who was tough, but fair. He always saw the potential in his students and pushed and challenged them to do better. He wouldn't accept “good enough”. He also cared. He was the teacher who drove me to the hospital for stitches when I sliced open my thumb and waited until my parents arrived.

Some days I know that we are tired. I know that there are days when the negatives seem overwhelming, But please, as you go through your days, think about all the reasons that you believe in the career that you've chosen. Please know, you are making a difference. Please try and remember your why.



NIGHT BEFORE QUIZMAS





BTA & CUPE Local 737 Night Before Quizmas Trivia Night

An evening of trivia was held on November 30th at the Victoria Inn. With Kate Hill returning as Quiz Master, 17 teams joined in on the fun!

Congratulation to the winning team, ***The Quizenheimers***, from Prairie Hope High School.

Back Row: Tammy Ballingall, Ali Johnston, Ryan Felstead, Brandy Hamilton, Kim Akins

Front Row: Kelly Fuhr, Madi Long



BRANDON TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION
PRESENTS

BTA FAMILY FUN NIGHT

Friday, February 2nd, 2024

BU Healthy Living Centre

6:00 P.M. BU WOMEN
8:00 P.M. BU MEN

VS

MOUNT ROYAL UNIVERSITY
MOUNT ROYAL UNIVERSITY

Adult Ticket \$5.00, Youth 14-17 \$2.00,

Children under 13 no charge

includes slice of pizza

Tickets must be pre-ordered and paid for by
12:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 31st, 2024



More information: Phone 204-729-3141 E-mail office@bta.mbteach.org

BTA BRANDON
TEACHERS
ASSOCIATION



FREE Public Swim for Youth

The Brandon Teachers' Association
is pleased to sponsor a free public
swim for youth (under 18).

Friday, February 2nd, 2024

1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

City of Brandon Sportsplex

For more information, please contact 204-729-3141

www.btateach.com

BTA MEMBERS YOUR PENSION NEEDS YOUR ATTENTION!!! IT - WILL CHANGE

If you haven't done so already, please sign up for the
Pension Sustainability Seminar, being hosted by MTS,
on Saturday, February 24th, 2024 from 12:30 to 2:30
p.m. at Brandon University, in Clark Hall.

This seminar is tailored to TRAF participants and the
objective of the seminar is to help members
understand aspects of pension as it exists today and
its sustainability going forward.

TO REGISTER ONLINE GO
TO THE MTS WEBSITE,
LOG IN AT MY PROFILE,
CLICK ON THE HEADER
EVENTS AND FROM THE
DROP DOWN CHOOSE
EVENT LISTINGS.

24TH

February
2024

from 12:30 - 2:30 p.m.

Clark Hall,
Brandon University

**THE
MANITOBA
TEACHERS'
SOCIETY**
A Union of Teaching & Learning

Register at : www.mbteach.org

Registration closes
February 21st



A COZY GRATITUDE PRACTICE

Make a cup of tea or another warm drink of your
choice and find a quiet place to rest comfortably for
ten to fifteen minutes. You might choose to sit next to
a window so that you can gaze outdoors for this
practice.

As you sit in a quiet contemplation, sipping your warm
drink, take some time to make note of all that you have
to be grateful for this season. Some of the things you
might consider include the heating of your home, the
warm beverage in your hand, and the technology that
enables you to remain connected to loved ones.

Source:

<https://mindfulnessexercises.com/6-mindfulness-exercises-for-wellbeing-in-winter/>



Joint PD Fund

Apply today for up to \$3000 to attend the PD of your choice!

Three levels of funding:

Level 1 Funding

Up to \$1,000.00 each year to attend PD events. This is great for local or virtual events.

Level 2 Funding

Up to \$3000.00 once every three years to attend PD. Level 2 will cover PD events which involve extended travel or larger registration costs.

Level 3 Funding

For Substitute Teachers up to \$700.00 once each year to attend PD.

Application Process:

- ✓ **Step 1** – Find a PD Event you would like to attend.
- ✓ **Step 2** – Complete the application form including: a cover letter, conference registration form and conference brochure. Forms can be found under “Docs” at: www.BTAteach.com
- ✓ **Step 3** – Submit your form to office@bta.mbteach.org

There are 6 opportunities throughout the year to submit an application to the fund. The committee will review your application at their next meeting and be in touch.

Any questions you have please contact the BTA Office
Phone: (204) 729-3141 or Email: office@bta.mbteach.org



BTA BSD JOINT PD FUND DEADLINES FOR SUBMISSION

Wednesday, January 31st, 2024

Wednesday, April 3rd, 2024

Wednesday, June 12th, 2024

Submit Your Joint PD application to: office@bta.mbteach.org

Please review the funding criteria before forwarding your application

Important Dates

January 31st	Deadline for submission for Joint PD Fund	4:00 p.m.
February 2nd	Administration Day / PD Day (K-12)	
February 2nd	Free Youth Swim (under 18)- Sportsplex	1:00 - 4:00 p.m.
February 2nd	BTA Family Fun Night - Healthy Living Centre	
February 19th	Louis Riel Day - All Schools Closed	
February 22nd	BTA Council Meeting	4:15 p.m. - Hybrid
March 15th	Parent Teacher Conferences (K-8)/PD Day (9-12)	
March 21st	BTA Council Meeting	4:15 p.m. - Hybrid
March 22nd	Last Day Before Spring Break	
April 3rd	Deadline for submissions for Joint PD Fund	4:00 p.m.
April 1st	Classes Resume	



Brandon and Area Retired Teachers' Association

A chapter of Retired Teachers' Association of Manitoba

Retiring this school year? Consider becoming a member of

BARTA. Here's what we do:

- ☐ Meet for breakfast at Chicken Chef on the 1st Wednesday of the month
- ☐ Hold lunch socials four times per year, with a presentation or program
- ☐ Host wellness events of an educational and/or active nature, such as book sharing, walking, attending theatre events, and museum/art gallery tours
 - ☐ Support BTA's efforts to raise awareness of proposed government actions in education
 - ☐ Assist at BTA's annual LIFT in-service day
 - ☐ Support RTAM initiatives (rtam.mb.ca)
- ☐ Provide information to members about issues relevant to retired teachers
- ☐ Offer care and concern to members in times of illness and bereavement or in celebration of special occasions.

We welcome you to the next phase of your life: RETIREMENT!

We invite you to join our Association and reconnect with colleagues at BARTA events.
Our annual membership fee is only \$7.00.

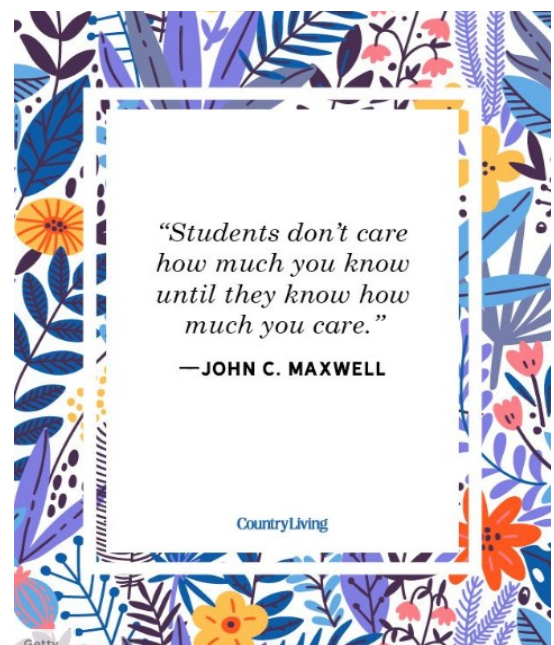
For more information, contact
Catherine McLaren, BARTA President

barta2022.3@gmail.com

204-724-6090



We look forward to meeting you!



*"Students don't care
how much you know
until they know how
much you care."*

—JOHN C. MAXWELL

CountryLiving