

Northwest Teachers' Convention Release

September 24, 2009

After decades of planning and attending conventions in Saskatoon, the teachers of the Northwest School Division have chosen to hold their convention locally for the third time within two years.

This fall's convention will be held in Lloydminster at the Vic Juba Theatre on Monday, September 28th and in Maidstone at Maidstone High School and Ratushniak Elementary on Tuesday, September 29th.

Splitting the venues enables convention delegates to have access to both a beautiful theatre and to classrooms, stages, computer rooms, art rooms and gyms for hands-on workshops and sessions.

Teachers have now opted three times to support their local area, with the first in Meadow Lake and the last two in Lloydminster. This year, however, marks a change from the traditional end-of-February date.

Convention planner Lynda Erlandson noted that "I think it's a very positive thing for teachers to have it in the fall...it's a good time for a convention because anything learned now can be implemented over the course of the year – as opposed to learning things part way through the second semester."

The keynote speakers for the sessions on Monday will be renowned educator, Dr. Harry Wong, and member of the Grey Cup winning Saskatchewan Roughriders, Matt Dominguez. Dr. Wong's address 'Creating Excellence in Classrooms' will take place Monday morning and in the afternoon Matt Dominguez will discuss how one adult can powerfully influence a child, in an address titled 'The Power of One Adult'.

Tuesday's breakout sessions will begin with school staffs meeting separately to discuss how they can best apply the things they learned the day before to their particular classroom and school situations. During the remainder of the day teachers will be able to access over 40 superb workshops on a wide variety of topics. Dance, drama for teens, intermediate reading, math skills, career portfolios, using Smartboards, engineering design, visual art, and aboriginal music are just a few of the areas that will be covered.

Next year's convention will again be held in the fall, this time in Meadow Lake. The keynote speaker then will be Marcia Tate who will speak on brain-based teaching and learning.