



HUTTERITE EDUCATORS OF MANITOBA

HEM

Winter 2017

AFFILIATED WITH THE MANITOBA TEACHERS' SOCIETY

President's Message

As we settle into another new year, the second semester/term, HEM salutes every teacher in our schools. Our cozy classrooms are a comfortable oasis from the cold winter air and if you're like me, you love the feeling of a warm house and classroom while the wind is howling outside.

Many schools are celebrating *I Love to Read Month* (or as my mom calls it – *All You Can Read Month*) and students are gaining an invaluable amount of knowledge through their exploration of text. Whether it be Lucy Maud Montgomery, Emily Bronte, Marc Brown, or whichever author or genre you're currently enjoying, read on!

A couple of our colony educators kindly agreed to share about two different high school course delivery methods available in our schools. If you're looking for ways to get your high school students their Grade 12 diploma, these are two ways that can be accomplished.

Your HEM executive has had several meetings this year to plan a remarkable

season. One of our events (hosted at several schools) is now "in the books" with smashing success. Read about our *Canada 150* celebration and what students and teachers had to say in this newsletter.

To provide you with extraordinary professional development opportunities, we are in the process of planning our second annual SHARE conference for August 2017. We are sending out a call for proposals and hope to get a program established and available to you by April. In addition, our annual SAGE conference will feature Sandra Reich. A sneak peek into her presentation is also available in the newsletter.

Stay warm and enjoy the last few weeks of winter!

Karen Maendel
Brennan School

Hey "English" Teachers!

Have you ever wanted to know how to say something in "Hutterish"? Knowing a few words and pronunciations is a good way to shock your students and grab their attention!

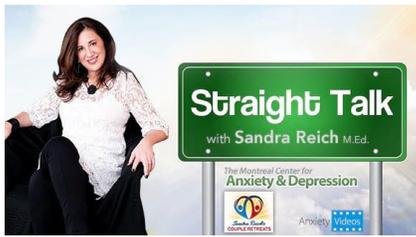
In every HEM newsletter we will be publishing a few "Hutterish" words or sayings to help you out!

Enjoy!

English	"Hutterish"	Pronunciation
Sled	Schlittela	shlitt-eh-lah
Slippery	rutshlich	rootsh-lich
Sliding down	oirutshlen	oh-ee-rootsh-leh

The "r" is always rolled in German and Hutterisch. Ask your students how! This technique is perfected through practice. ©

Save the Date: Sandra Reich



HEM is pleased to announce on October 20, 2017, we will be hosting Dr. Sandra Reich for MTS PDDay.

Sandra Reich M.Ed. is the Clinical Director of The Montreal Center for Anxiety & Depression, The Co-Director of Empowered Women Workshops, Co-Director of Anxiety Videos, Founder of Sandra Reich's Couple Retreats as well as the host of a top weekly radio show: *Straight Talk with Sandra Reich* on Voice America. Sandra is also a best-selling author of *Once upon a Time- How Cinderella Grew Up & Became a Happy Empowered Woman* and well known as an expert on anxiety, relationships, family dynamics and more.

She is an expert in the field of Cognitive Behavioral Therapy and holds a Master's

degree in Counseling Psychology from McGill University. She received extensive training from the Cognitive Behavioral Therapy Clinic for Anxiety Disorders at The Montreal General Hospital.

Sandra's expertise has been featured on many radio and television shows including Discovery Health's "Accident Investigator", Global TV's "Good Morning Live", the reality show "Working it out together", "Celebrity Damage Control" which is currently airing on the Oprah Network and featured as expert on the upcoming series called "As a Matter of Fact" on the topic of stress.

HEM's Canada 150 with Sigmund Brouwer and Michael Mitchell

During the week of February 6-9, HEM hosted our Canada 150 Celebration at four schools in the province. Almost 700 teachers and students from 30 different Hutterite schools took part in presentations at one of the following four schools: Grafton School on Springfield Colony, Silverwinds School, Shamrock School on Trileaf Colony and Acadia School.

Early years students were captivated by an inspiring concert featuring



Avid reader and grade 9 student Renee was thrilled to get her copy of *Thief of Glory* signed by Sigmund Brouwer

singer/songwriter Michael Mitchell. His program was entitled *Canada is for Kids* and it showcased stories about Canada's

heritage, history and beauty. The audience was encouraged to sing along with well-known favourites like "Canada in my Pocket", "This Land is Your Land" and "Land of the Silver Birch". In addition, they skipped along to new tunes like "Something to Sing About" and "Canada is..."

Students in Grades 7 to 12 listened with open-mouthed enthusiasm as well-known and well-loved author Sigmund Brouwer played with their emotions by talking about the power of story. He had his audience displaying a variety of emotions: disgusted, exuberant, and somber to mention a few.

Both presenters were available for pictures and autographs following their presentations.

Teachers and students had this to say about the presenters:

"Not everyday you get to meet one of your favourite authors and have books signed by him!"

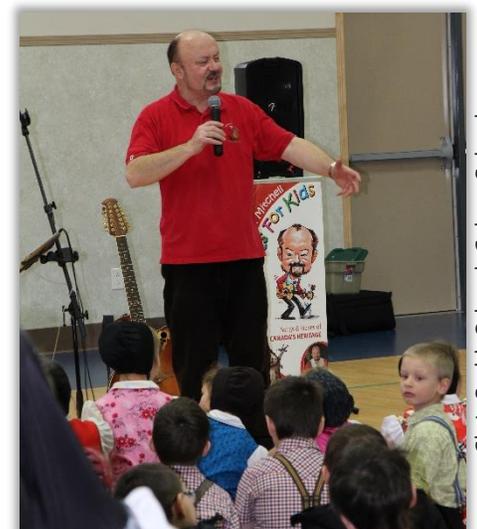
"Sigmund Brouwer had students riveted."

"It's so great to see that some of our rock stars are authors!"

"Sigmund Brouwer used humour to engage students and teachers alike as he spoke

about the difference between writing and story. One of the lines that stuck with me is that he hated writing in school, still doesn't like it all that much, but needs to do it because it is an important vehicle for telling stories. It's all about the stories.

My initial plan was to be a 'floater' between his and Michael's session, but I couldn't make myself leave."



Students loved singing along as Michael captivated them with songs like "I've Got Canada in My Pocket".

Hutterian Brethren Interactive Instructional Television (HBIITV)

This article serves several purposes: first, to educate those who are unfamiliar with HBIITV; second, to highlight successes and challenges; and third, to share insights from students.

Many Hutterian high school students take a significant portion their courses via Interactive Instructional Television (IITV). The infrastructure for this is provided by Hutterian Broadband Network Inc., which uses fibre optic networking and radio towers to deliver the educational content. At present, the network reaches over 35 different Hutterian communities in Manitoba, some as far west as the Saskatchewan border, and others as far south as Aberdeen, South Dakota. Most of the courses listed as compulsory under the Manitoba provincial curriculum are offered, in addition to a good number of electives. Schools on the HBIITV network are encouraged to teach some high school courses on-site, especially grade 9 courses. Provincial standards tests are written by all students and marked by their local school divisions and/or independent schools.

The teachers on the HBIITV network are almost all members of Hutterian communities. There are three administrators, each from a different community on the network: Frances Maendel from Baker School, Raymond Kleinsasser from Glenway School, and Anna Maendel from Fairholme School.

Technology such as laptops, graphing calculators, document cameras and DVD players can be effectively used as instructional tools, just as they are in a regular classroom. Document cameras are used in place of whiteboards. The entire network is audio activated; any student who activates their microphone and speaks will pop up on the screen where the teacher is usually seen. Teachers use a separate split screen to see all the students at any given time.

In addition to receiving instruction via interactive television, students interact with teachers and classmates via the internet. Virtual learning environments such as Edmodo, Google Classroom, e-mail, and even instant messaging are a key part of many courses. Tests and exams are supervised by a teacher or educational assistant at the students' home school. The on-site teacher is also responsible for mailing any assignments that cannot be sent via e-mail. All classes taught on the network are automatically recorded so that missed classes can be downloaded and watched after class time.

To balance out the otherwise predominantly "digital reality," providing students with the opportunity to meet their teachers and peers in person is integral to the system. Most of the courses have one or two gatherings per school

year, usually at a centrally located Hutterite community. These gatherings are used for science labs, student presentations, guest speakers, or any elements of classroom instruction that cannot be done effectively via HBIITV. Some field trips/gatherings take place at museums, the Legislature building, the law courts, other historic sites in Winnipeg, or even remote outdoor locations, such as the boreal forest near Pine Falls, or Jackson Lake near Sydney.

The system's key success story is providing a culturally relevant and informed learning experiences. Hutterite History and Canadian History research projects, culturally appropriate creations in Art, socially relevant content in Health and Family Studies, and courses in Botany and Biology that connect well to Hutterite's agricultural heritage, nurture and support the identities of student's part of a visible cultural minority.

HBIITV has encountered several challenges in recent years. A key component of the network is to have most of the courses instructed by Hutterian teachers, who can deliver the curriculum content in a more culturally relevant manner. However, all the teachers on the network also teach in their home schools--none of us can take on a full high school teaching load. Indeed, most teachers on HBIITV teach one or two courses per school year, with three being the maximum. With student numbers increasing every year, teachers in the core subject areas are faced with class sizes in the 40-60 range, the only exception being Mathematics, a subject more schools tend to offer on-site. The most significant enrolment challenges are in the English Language Arts and core Social Studies areas.

Another challenge is the inability to connect personally with many students. It is likely that teachers may not even recognise a student when seeing them in person for the first time. The age-old struggle to reach struggling students is magnified by teaching in a digital realm. For example, why would students trust handing in a piece of writing with personal connections when they barely know the teacher? Many will connect and reflect meaningfully in spite of this, but for others, it is an insurmountable obstacle. This can result in teachers being uncertain about appropriate expectations for certain students. In addition, discipline problems such as attendance, plagiarism, and cheating are difficult to deal with, because the distance learning environment naturally supports a lack of rapport.

Possibly our greatest challenge lies in contending with diverse educational philosophies among Hutterian communities. Many Hutterites understand the base economic benefits of a higher

education but fail to understand that a higher education can make our young people well-rounded human beings. A common Medieval maxim describes this thinking: 'Je gelehrter, je verkehrter!' which roughly translates as, 'More learned, more perverted.' We are indeed seeing some changes, but growth in this area is happening quite slowly. It is a challenge for HBIITV staff to bridge the divide between trained educators and the wider Hutterian community which, for the most part, remains sceptical about the value of higher education.

To be successful in our educational endeavours, we must remain aware of those we are educating. To that end, I include insights from three students who agreed to anonymously share their thoughts, both positive and negative:

"It's kind of like social media, you know a lot of people--but you really don't know them."

"Because there are more teachers, you have teachers who love and know a lot about their subject. If you don't have that, you'll most likely end up with no one getting much out of it."

"TV keeps us on our toes--you have to be dedicated in order to get things done."

"Because most of the teachers are Hutterites, they will inevitably know some students better than others. It can be harder for some students to interact because they are not as well-known."

"I enjoy connecting with students from the broader Hutterian community."

"I took one class on teleconference--I wonder if anyone learned a whole lot, and not because the teacher wasn't good. I'd rather have ITV even if I have to stay in school a few years longer."

"Because the teachers are from so many different communities, we get to see things from different perspectives."

Delivering a high school education via Interactive Instructional Television is an effective method. To maximize student success adequate supervision from on-site teachers, a strong partnership with local school divisions, and the support of the students' and teachers' local communities are integral. As with any educational endeavour, only a team effort will make it successful.

Markus Hofer
Netley School

A Call for Presenters: SHARE 2017

Hutterite Educators of Manitoba (HEM) is planning our second annual one-day SHARE event in August for teachers in Hutterite schools. The conference will take place this year on **August 18, 2017**. The purpose of the gathering will be to share resources, projects, and ideas that have been successful in our unique contexts. The initial planning process involves looking for teachers willing to share a resource they have created or discovered, that aligns with the Manitoba curriculum, and is suitable for use in Hutterite schools. Extra-curricular activities that your school has found particularly useful or enjoyable are also welcome.

Depending on the response, we intend to divide the day into grade groups and/or subject areas to maximize usefulness. You will be required to

register for this event (so we can feed you!) but registration is free!

If you have anything to contribute, please respond by **March 31, 2017**. Presentations will be brief and to-the-point. For example, a one-hour slot with a Middle Years Science theme could have 3-5 different teachers share a resource or project idea that has worked in their classroom.

The venue for this event has been determined and will be announced in April!

Additionally, we are gathering ideas on topics of special interest to Hutterite schools. If you have ideas you can share concerning the following topics, we welcome your suggestions: back-to-school activities, field day activities (for school kids and adults), or field trips. A



good starting point would be to simply let us know what your plans are for this year, or what you did last year. We expect to post these resources on our website at www.hutteriteeducators.org.

We look forward to an enthusiastic response.

*Karen Maendel, HEM President
kmaendel@plpsd.mb.ca*

Teacher Mediated Option (TMO)

The Teacher Mediated Option (known as TMO) is a unique way of delivering high school courses via audio teleconference classes. Each student has an ISO course package which the teacher uses to give instruction and clarification of content over the phone. Students dial into an audio teleconferencing system and join the teacher on air for the class. Classes are 50 minutes in length and occur four times over a six day cycle. Assignments are then submitted to the teacher for marking.

In addition to all the compulsory courses (ELA, Math, Science & Social Studies), TMO offers a variety of electives such as Agriculture, Art, Electricity, Home Economics, and Intro to Drafting. Class sizes can vary between 10 - 30 students.



Throughout the semester, teachers travel to schools to meet students, teach on location and help students with their work. These visits also help to build rapport between teacher and student and give a "face" to the voices that are

heard over the phone. Pine Creek School Division has taken the lead on this program since Dec 2014 and employs the teachers as well as the administrative assistant, principal and consultant who coordinate the program. A consortium made up of six school divisions gives direction to this program. TMO provides service to 26 schools and 141 students in the province of Manitoba. Students call in from a variety of places - Hutterite colony schools; schools in more remote parts of the province; small schools who have limited course options; and even from home.

*For more information contact:
Tammy Kruse, TMO Teacher Lead
204-872-0795 or
tkruse@pinecreeksd.mb.ca*

The Road to Reading Success!

For February's *I Love to Read Month*, Silverwinds School participated in a Reading Race! Students were encouraged to read at school and at home, and to track their progress. This activity can be integrated within Social Studies, Math, and Art as well as the targeted English curriculum.

The map pulled from the Manitoba Social Studies Curriculum, with checkpoints in each province and fun facts discovered about each province once a student got to them!

Most students knew they wanted to make it across Canada! They all set their goals quite high. The map itself

provided a good tactile and interactive goal setting experience. The calculated distance in kilometres between each province served as a counting marker and directly correlated to the number of minutes read. To differentiate, the younger students got more kilometres per minute read (as we had quite a few to cross!) Notes went home, and reading logs were signed by parents to ensure honesty and accountability.

Each student was responsible for his or her own mode of transportation. Some chose to travel by race car, truck, alligator, horse drawn carriage, boat, and airplane! A fun art integration piece!

At the beginning of the week, students would set a goal of how many minutes they wanted to read—realistically—and where they wanted to get. At the end of the week, during math class, students worked to calculate their number of minutes read as a quick warm up activity. They would then be responsible for moving their vehicles on the map.

The activity worked out extremely well for our school. Students were very encouraging—some even offered to help each other by reading together so that everyone could make their goals.

*Anne Feely
Silverwinds School*

Hutterite Educators of Manitoba

Visit our new website:

hutteriteeducators.org



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