

MASTARS NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT 2013



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Message From President</i>	1
<i>SAGE 2013</i>	2
<i>Book Review</i>	2
<i>Teachers' Corner</i>	3
<i>SAGE 2012</i>	3
<i>MASTARS Executive</i>	4
<i>V. P. Thiessen Award</i>	4

2013 SAGE Featuring Internationally Renowned Speaker!

Marc Fomby is a Certified Prevention Specialist and the founding CEO of FTC Prevention Services, LLC in Richland, MS. He is also a past Prevention Services Coordinator for DREAM, Inc. in Jackson, MS and coordinator and founding member of the Mississippi School for Addiction Professionals, the first statewide educational hub for prevention, intervention and treatment specialists in the state of Mississippi.

Greetings to all long standing and new MASTARS members. It is the time of year where our thoughts turn to summer breezes, relaxation, rejuvenation and newsletters. After I finally finished breaking down that 6 foot drift in my back yard, and between reading the instructions on my new sump pump while trying to remember where I put my only good summer tire, I thought I might as well get another enjoyable task underway. And what a better day to do so, the first (and possibly only day of spring) May 13th. Now I am as hopeful as the next guy and dream that a real Manitoba summer will eventually come round but I have been living in this province long enough to realize we are only just 1 more day closer to next winter. The upside, of course, is that the cold weather has resulted in none of the students going out for lunch all year, which has added even more joy to the already splendid event of lunch time hall duty. It has afforded me the additional reward of getting a chance to get to know so many more students on a much more personal level, day after day, after day, after day.....

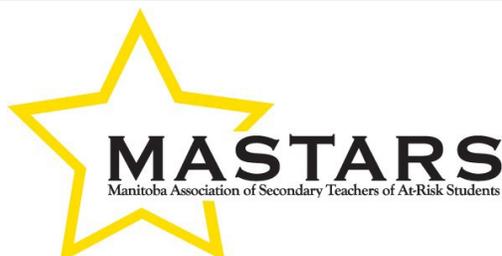
Now that the weather is out of the way, I know what MASTARS members have on the forefront of their frontal lobes,

SAGE 2013. This year's guest, Marc Fomby will be sure to chase away those "I wish I would have won the lottery last summer" blues, and put a smile on your face and bounce in your step. Internationally renowned, Marc Fomby has an infectious way of getting into his audiences' heads, making us laugh, think and daydream of perfect students and cordial administrators. We have once again reserved the beautiful Rossmere Golf Course, not to remind you of what you could be doing if you did win that lottery, but because in fact that the food is so good, the service second to none and the parking is free, which naturally is the most important feature of any educational conference. So book early, this will most assuredly sell out and last year's MASTARS crowd was so easy to work with we would love to see each of you back next year.

As many of you are aware I have been President of MASTARS for a number of years since its inception back in the days of yellow chalk and Film-on Fridays. I have seen many changes but I will continue to promise you some constants. MASTARS has always been proud of bringing to Manitoba Teachers first rate Professional Development and continue to live by the mandate of being a

voice for the at risk, or as Ken McClusky taught me, marginalized student. We will continue to lobby for the students and staff who teach them, and search for better programs, better systems and better classrooms, even if they are in museums.

We would like to encourage all of you to share your successes with us through the Vic Thiessen Award and nominate a student (we gave away 3 awards last year) or just email Tracey our awards person to share your personal success story. Check out our ever-evolving web site MASTARS.ca and let us know what you think. And don't forget to join us at Rossmere in October to see the outstanding orator Marc Fomby and in the meantime, take a chance and put on those summer tires.





Marc Fomby

SAGE 2013—Fighting Winged Monkeys

Staying Focused on YOUR Purpose: A day with Marc Fomby- founding CEO of FTC Prevention Services

Morning Session 9:00-12:00- Fighting Winged Monkeys: Staying Focused on YOUR purpose.

In this one-of-a-kind presentation participants are introduced to the concept of battling the “winged monkeys” that swoop down upon them in an attempt to prevent them from effectively accomplishing their goals. The facilitator assists the participants in taking a peek at their journey down the “yellow brick road” and demonstrates how to incorporate 8 self-care practices that can help them fight off the “winged monkeys” in their lives. Participants will learn how to identify those individuals, what their role is in getting them back on track and

how they can be effective in doing so by taking care of themselves first.

Afternoon Session 1:00- 3:00- The Message in the Music- Understanding the Language of today’s music:

This informative, fun, interactive, and educational workshop will encourage professionals to explore the influences of the music world. Media seek to use certain messages that will insight audiences, particularly youth, to purchase certain goods or support certain causes. Today many of the messages contained in the lyrical content of music and portrayed on

the big screen communicate acceptance and glorification of crime, violence, drug and alcohol abuse, illicit sexual behavior and degradation. In this workshop, participants are introduced to current trends in the youth culture that promote unhealthy lifestyles and have become “acceptable” in society. Participants are also exposed to some of the cultural slang and terminology used by media to directly communicate with youth. But, watch out...You just may get caught tapping your feet to the beat!

BOOK; YOU ARE NOT SO SMART BY DAVID MCRANEY

REVIEW BY WES WARREN & HALEY DAHLIN

Abe Lincoln and John Kennedy, both United States presidents were elected 100 years apart. Both were shot and killed by assassins with three names, each with 15 letters, and neither killer made it to trial. Kennedy had a secretary named Lincoln, both men were shot on a Friday, and both men were killed while next to their wives. Lincoln died in Ford Theatre; Kennedy was shot in a Lincoln which was made by Ford. Coincidence? Complicated plots?? Or a conspiracy theorist’s delight.

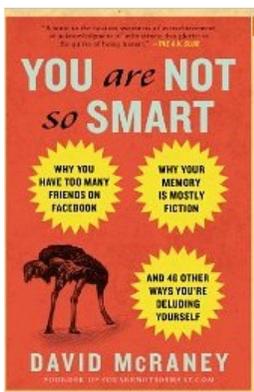
This is just one of the interesting tidbits of information found in David McRaney’s “You are Not so Smart”, the book which shares its name with the popular blog. McRaney’s book is a collection of non-fiction snippets in an easy to read, short guide on human cognition. McRaney uses common folklore and everyday examples to illus-

trate the many fallacies behind human thinking. Whether we’re buying a new car, or taking Vitamin C to prevent a cold, we all like to believe that all of our decisions are rational and well thought out. It points to the very root of our intellectual competency and whether we deserve the moniker homo sapien, “Wise human”.

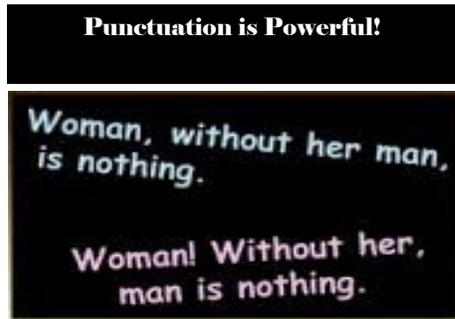
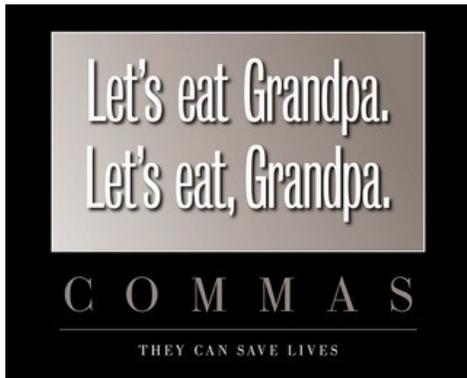
The chapters are short and concise and are as easy to read as this small book is to carry. It answers important questions of why I have so many PBS programs and important movies on my PVR, but still choose to watch episodes of Family Guy and why many wine connoisseurs may not be as wise as they think they think they are. The text itself reads like a psych nerd’s fantasy guide, and is loaded full of great stories and sprinkled with some interesting and applicable teaching ideas. I have used this book pri-

marily to enhance the story telling aspects of my class, while each chapter offers a little more insight into the psychology of human problem solving. McRaney takes time to explain the fallacies behind brand loyalty, catharsis theory, and introspection. The book delves into many well-known psychological experiments on conformity and obedience and some lesser known but nonetheless fascinating studies on human behaviour.

I recommend McRaney’s book as an easy read for the non-fiction enthusiast. If you teach psychology, or work with people who at times flabbergast you with their choices, you may find this most interesting and enlightening. It is easy to read, interesting and you can read it in small bites here and there and who knows, maybe I’ll become a little smarter after all.



TEACHER'S CORNER



Don't forget to check out our website @ www.mastars.ca

REVIEW-SAGE 2012
PERSPECTIVES ON THE MARGINALIZED STUDENT

In response to 2011 conference evaluations we saw a return performance from Dr. Ken McCluskey Dean of Education at the University of Winnipeg and Dr. Reece Malone from the Rainbow Resource Centre. We value the responses we get from our membership!

During the morning Reece entertained us with concepts of understanding sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression, recognizing and understanding the impact of homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying, and recognizing personal bias in order to create a gender inclusive school environment. On top of being on the receiving end of such useful information Reece also guided us through our own personal values on very sensitive material.

Lunch was served by the al-

ways courteous Rossmere Golf & Country Club staff in a timely manner. Even though it was a little cool, the view was still perfect!

In the afternoon Ken unfolded past Manitoba Lost Prizes projects as well as current and future goals through a PowerPoint presentation. These undertakings use Creative Problem Solving (in combination with mentoring, career awareness, and other interventions) and have been used successfully to reclaim talented but troubled high-school dropouts. It was a family affair with Chris and Kari McCluskey (Ken's son and daughter-in-law) discussing the Infinity Program in Stonewall that they supervise. As well Ken's granddaughter

offered Fair Trade Coffee to purchase to raise funds for international Lost Prizes programs.

The following Information booths were available at the entrance to conference attendees to peruse during their breaks.

- MADD
- www.ihollaback.org
- Nelson Education
- Mental Health Education



Don't Be Disappointed

Register Early for SAGE 2013

Sellout Every Year!

MASTARS Executive:

Wes Warren - President

Denise Flint—Treasurer

Carmelina Tarantino — Secretary

Susan Tozer—Registration

Janet Kastellanos—Registration

Tracey Smith—Newsletter
Editor/Awards Committee
Chair/SAGE Council Rep

Marek Kutka— Website Editor

Don McCaskill —Member at Large

Luke Jones—Member at Large



Association Objectives

1. To promote the interests and needs of secondary teachers of "students at risk" (defined as "young people who have little hope for capturing their personal power, either due to a lack of natural supports, failure in school, ridicule by peers, social deprivation, or lack of connection to society." (Else, 1997) and other teachers working in related fields to best allow them to service the needs of the students they teach;
2. To provide a forum for MASTARS to discuss matters of mutual interest, including work conditions, curriculum, and services related to work areas;
3. To coordinate and develop professional activities for teachers and/or students;
4. To assist teachers of "students at risk" in building useful relationships within the business community and related educational institutions.



We're online @
www.mastars.ca



VICTOR P. THIESSEN MEMORIAL AWARD

The Victor P. Thiessen Memorial Award for \$500.00 is for a graduating student from a Manitoba high school who has exhibited significant personal and academic improvement over the course of their senior years enrollment. The Manitoba Association of Secondary

Teachers of At-Risk Students (M.A.S.T.A.R.S.) has established this award in memory of Vic Thiessen.

Vic Thiessen was a founding member and the first treasurer of M.A.S.T.A.R.S., a Special Area Group of Educators affiliated with the

Manitoba Teacher's Society.

If you have a student to nominate, or would like more information please check our website www.mastars.ca, or email our Awards Committee Chair Tracey Smith @ trsmith@wsd1.org

Congratulations to last year's winners!

Aaron V. received \$500

Simion S. & Carley H. each received \$250