

## From the President's Pen

We are almost halfway through another school year. For many of us, this has been an exciting year as we try to wrap our minds around the new curriculum. With the mandatory implementation of a new program of studies for kindergarten and Grades 1, 4 and 7, and the optional implementation of Grades 2, 5 and 8, mathematics teachers across the province have been very busy. There are many chances to confer with colleagues and many professional development opportunities. The new curriculum ties into many of the current AISI projects. Whether your district is focusing on differentiation, inquiry, assessment, character education or other priorities, you should be able to see some correlation to the new curriculum.

As teachers, we are used to change and have learned to embrace it. Often it is rejuvenating to try something new. I thought it would be a few more years until I would be implementing the new curriculum, but I changed positions this summer and have had the pleasure of teaching Math 7 this year. Watching students attach personal meaning to the mathematics that we are teaching is inspiring. Seeing a renewed confidence grow in my students makes me remember why I decided many years ago to go into education. Whether it is new curriculum, new grade levels or new methodology, we do our best to make the transition seamless.

This year, the MCATA executive has continued to work with Alberta Education representatives and regional consortia to help smooth the implementation process for teachers and students. We enjoyed seeing many of you in Jasper, in October, and hope that you keep in touch with the colleagues that you connected with there. The success of our mathematics program in Alberta can be attributed to the dedicated professionals who know how to work together so well.

As Christmas break approaches, we are sometimes overwhelmed by how much we have to do and get discouraged with the preholiday lack of energy. Our students are ready for a break and are losing some of their beginning-of-year excitement. Approach the holiday with some selfishness! Recharge your batteries guilt free. You have worked hard since September (or earlier) and deserve some time away from the job. Have a wonderful holiday and a very happy new year.

*Sharon Gach*