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**Summer Institute Program**

**August 16 – 18, 2023**

Elkhorn Conference Centre

**USHA JAMES**

A person with long hair wearing glasses

Description automatically generated with low confidence

**Leading in a Good Way**

**Keynote**

**Leading in a Good Way: How might we meaningfully use data as guidance?**

**Interactive Sessions**

**Making Sense of the Numbers: Thoughtfully engaging with big data**

**Beyond Parent “Involvement”: Strengthening support for students by developing truly collaborative partnerships with families and communities**

**Beyond Student “Voice”: Meaningfully centring the student experience in decision making in all classrooms, schools and systems.**

**► Tuesday, August 15 Pre-Sessions for Executive and New Members Only**

10:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Executive Planning Session *Salon A*

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. Lunch for Executive and New Members

1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. New Members Orientation Session *Ten Restaurant*

6:00 p.m. Reception and Dinner for Executive and New Members*Salon D*

**► Wednesday, August 16**

9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. New Members Breakfast *Private Dining Room*

11:00 a.m. Golf Tournament  *Poplar Ridge Golf Course*

6:00 p.m. – 6:45 p.m.Networking Happy Hour *Cash Bar* *Salon ABC*

6:45 p.m. Dinner and Summer Institute Commencement*Salon ABC*

8:15 p.m. – 9:15 p.m. Keynote – Usha James

**Leading in a Good Way: How might we meaningfully use data as guidance?**

The demands on teachers, principals and senior administrators to engage with data are significant and are often seen as unwelcome accountability measures causing resistance or mere compliance. However, by redefining data as guidance, we can adopt a powerful approach that encourages every member to actively seek, gather, and comprehend data, empowering them to feel confident and competent in critically analyzing their own practices. In this keynote, we will consider how critical inquiry might support the development of the mindsets and competencies required to meaningfully use data to support all learners, especially those who need us to change our practices the most.

9:30 p.m. Hospitality *Chalet 651*  ***St. James School Division*** *invites registrants and their guests*

*to come enjoy drinks (spirited and non-alcoholic options),*

*snacks and an opportunity to network!*

**► Thursday, August 17**

7:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m. Breakfast Buffet Ten *Restaurant*  *Included for registrants with name tags. Others may purchase breakfast on site.*

8:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. Interactive Session One  *Salon ABC*

**Making sense of the numbers: Thoughtfully engaging with “big” data**

Examining achievement data, perception data and demographic data in silos can lead to a proliferation of disconnected goals and contribute to a system that feels overwhelmed by multiple challenges. How might we thoughtfully analyze data and look for patterns that help us better see our students and ourselves? In this session we will think about how we might examine different data sets in relation to each other and understand that the analysis that emerges is a catalyst for further inquiry.

10:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Break

10:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Interactive Session Two  
  
**Beyond Parent “Involvement”: Strengthening support for students by developing truly collaborative partnerships with families and communities.**

Often the students whom we are unsure how to support are the same students whose parents we have the least connection with. How might we better understand students' strengths and experiences by intentionally and systematically seeking guidance from their families? In this session, we will examine a variety of ways that data can be gathered from families and communities in ways that are respectful, authentic, meaningful and powerful in guiding our system, school and classroom decisions.

12:15 p.m. Lunch*Ten Restaurant*

*Included for registrants with name tags; others may purchase lunch on site.*

1:15 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. Interactive Session Three *Salon ABC*

**Beyond Student “Voice”: Meaningfully centring the student experience in decision making in all classrooms, schools and systems.**

What does it mean to meaningfully centre student experience? How might students provide crucial guidance for our planning? In this session, we will consider what we might affirm and refine about our current practices related to gathering and responding to student voice. We will examine potentially impactful practices for increasing student agency in creating more equitable, inclusive and supportive classrooms, schools and systems.

3:15 p.m. ***Get a Life!*** *On-your-own*

*Activities at Elkhorn include golf, tennis, fishing,*

*beaches, hiking/biking trails, fitness centre and spa*

**Everyone Welcome!**

**► Thursday Evening Events Bring Guests and the Whole Family**   
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**CASH BAR**

5:30 p.m. Reception and Prizes*Room behind Salon ABC* *Golf prizes and other prizes for all registrants*

6:30 p.m. Summer Institute BBQ

*Included for registrants with name tags Room behind Salon ABC*

*extra for guests and family*

**► Friday Morning, August 18**

7:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m. Breakfast Buffet *Ten Restaurant*  *Included for registrants with name tags. Others may purchase breakfast on site*

8:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.Closing Challenges

**Leading in a Good Way: The place of data in robust critical inquiry approach to system, school and classroom improvement**

In our closing session, we will consolidate our learning and examine how a critical inquiry approach is broadly supported and enhanced by reframing data as guidance. We will revisit our initial thinking about what it means to lead in a good way and ensure that you are ready with practical tools, actionable next steps.

11:00 a.m. Wrap-up

**Usha James**

**Usha James** spent 12 years as a secondary teacher and five years seconded to OISE at the University of Toronto, as an instructor in the Initial Teacher Education Program and Director of the Secondary Program. She has authored textbooks, teaching and learning resources, and curriculum documents with the aim of supporting educators and leaders seeking to refine their practice. Usha has contributed to The Critical Thinking Consortium (TC2) for many years as a resource writer, editor, speaker and facilitator of professional learning. She was appointed Executive Director of TC2 in 2016.  Usha has worked with educators and administrators of kindergarten to post-secondary students, supporting their efforts to improve the quality of their students’ thinking. She has seen how an understanding of how to nurture quality thinking can deepen educator understanding and practice of assessment, instruction, curriculum design, literacy, numeracy, differentiation and equity. Usha has worked extensively with senior district leaders to help them nurture thinking schools and systems, supporting their strategic planning and building capacity in leadership teams to think critically about their practice.

**Organized by the MASS Professional Learning Committee 2022-2023**

Carolyn Cory (Chair)**,** Leanne Peters, Matt Henderson, Karen Boyd, Darlene Willetts, Jon Zilkey and Cheryl Mangin, with assistance from Barb Isaak, MASS Executive Director

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**MASS OFFICE**

**Phone: 204-487-7972**

**Fax: 204-487-7974**

**Website: www.mass.mb.ca**

**Executive Director:**

**ken.klassen@7oaks.org**

***2018 Conference & PD Events***

**2024 Conference and PD Events**

**MASS Fall Members Meet**

October 27/23, Legacy Centre

**MASS Leadership Development Module I**January 11-12, Hilton Garden Inn

**MASS Spring Members Meet**

March 1, Legacy Centre

**MASS Leadership Development Module II**April 18 – 19, Hilton Garden Inn

**MASS Annual General Meeting & Recognition Banquet**

May 16, The Leaf

**MASS Summer Institute**

August 13, Executive & New Members Pre-Sessions

August 14-16, Lakeview Hecla Resort

**MASS Fall Members Meet**

October 4, Legacy Centre

***Visit the MASS website for more   
information on the above sessions.***

**MASS OFFICE**

**Executive Director:**

**Barb.isaak@mass.mb.ca**

**Executive Assistant:**

**karen.wohlgemuth@mass.mb.ca**

**Barb Isaak: 204-794-8537**

**Karen W: 204-871-3466**

**Website: www.mass.mb.ca**

**Mark Your Calendars!**