

NEXT INTERCOM WILL BE PUBLISHED ON AUGUST 28, 2008.

WATCH FOR SEPTEMBER ITEMS:

In the Fall the Local will be sending out information about accessing the 100 Substitute Days available to attend Specialist Council Conferences, the PD Grants in Aid, and the 100 half day Intervisitations. All information will be posted in the Intercom. Forms to update staff numbers, as well as the names of your school's council reps, mailing rep and the ATA key contact person will be sent out in September. We ask that you keep track of any births, deaths and member illnesses on your staff that occur over the summer and email them to the Local in September to: jbossmmin@telusplanet.net so that your colleagues will be recognized. Have a restful summer!

SCHOOL OPENING CELEBRATION - 20 USHERS NEEDED!

The School Opening Celebration is scheduled for Wednesday, August 27 at the Winspear Centre. We ask that staff gather for the welcoming at 8:30am so that the Mass can begin promptly at 9:00am. If you would like to volunteer to be an **usher**, please email Jan at the Local: jbossmmin@telusplanet.net or phone (780-451-1196). Anyone interested in joining the **choir** may contact Ray McLellan: mclellanr@ecsd.net. All rehearsals will take place on Tuesday, August 26, at the Winspear: ushers at 5pm; choir at 6pm.

BEGINNING TEACHERS' CONFERENCE 2008

On September 25 (eve)-27, 2008 the Alberta Teachers' Association is sponsoring the Beginning Teachers' Conference at the Fantasyland Hotel in West Edmonton Mall. Principals are encouraged to inform their beginning teachers of this professional development opportunity. Further information may be found on the ATA's website: www.teachers.ab.ca

APPLYING FOR EI BENEFITS - Info sheet

Included in last week's mailing was the corrected version for substitutes and temporary contract teachers on how to apply for EI benefits over the summer. The information sheet was printed on ultra orange and was titled: "Important Notice for Teachers - 2008 Applying for EI Benefits". For additional information, please visit the Association website: www.teachers.ab.ca

MEDICAL EXPENSES

Just a reminder that you should submit medical expense claims to ASEBP as they are incurred. This will assist you in obtaining documentation for claiming any amounts over and above your ASEBP benefit maximums from your Health Care Spending Account. A reminder that June 30, 2008, is the last day of the current plan year. You will then have 60 days in which to submit eligible claims to the Health Care Spending Account. Expenses incurred after July 1 will be for the new plan year.

SOMETHING TO REMEMBER

"Change is inevitable, except from vending machines."
Have a great summer break!

Included in this mailing: Nothing
Printed on reverse side: Message from the President, Shannon McElroy

**Meetings and
Events**

Friday, June 27, 2008

Local office closes for the summer. We will reopen at 8:30am on Monday, August 25 to start a new year!

Tuesday, August 26, 2008

Rehearsal for the School Opening Celebration-Ushers 5pm; choir 6pm at the Winspear Centre

Wed., August 27, 2008

School Opening Celebration: Winspear Centre, 8:30 doors open - 9am Mass begins

Friday, August 29, 2008

No school

Monday, Sept. 1, 2008

Labour Day Holiday

If members require **assistance over the summer** while the Local office is closed, the following websites and numbers are available:

Alberta Teachers' Association:
(780-447-9400)
www.teachers.ab.ca

Alberta Teachers' Retirement Fund (780-451-4166)
www.atrf.com

ASEBP
(780-431-4786)
www.asebp.ab.ca

Website:
www.local54.teachers.ab.ca

Local Email:

G. McHugh, Executive Director
gmchugh@telusplanet.net

S. McElroy, Local President
smcelroy@telusplanet.net

J. Bossmmin, Office Manager
jbossmmin@telusplanet.net

Message from the President - Shannon McElroy

For my last *Intercom* message as President, I would like to provide you with a brief retrospective report of my four-year term of office.

These four years have, first and foremost, involved some difficult bargaining situations but, with the UFL resolved, the next four look to be stable and positive, not only for the teachers of Edmonton Catholic, but for all Alberta teachers. Edmonton Catholic teachers will continue, until 2012, to be the highest paid of the four urban locals - ranking in the top 1/3 of the 62 bargaining units in the province.

My term of office saw two provincial elections, two municipal elections, new school trustees, 32 Council meetings and 40 executive meetings. Over the last four years alone, 200 teachers retired from the District; the majority honored at our annual Teachers' Retirement Mass and Banquet.

As a Catholic Local, we have made donations of approximately \$40,000 to charities, disaster relief efforts, and project support over the last four years. As well, we have continued to fund and expand our commitment to our scholarship program for the post secondary education of children of members and seminarians in vocational training.

We have advocated both at the budget table and in other meetings for new teacher support and, as a result, a second joint initiative with the District will see a major financial contribution going to support our newest to the profession for 2008 -2009.

Goals identified by the Local Executive over the last four years included increased member involvement and engagement and an enhanced Local profile. To that end, I am pleased to report that Council attendance has increased to an average of 90%, but we have yet to reach our goal of 100 % of schools in attendance at a CSR meeting.

As you may be aware, Gerry McHugh, Local Executive Director, will be retiring at the end of this calendar year and plans for choosing his successor are underway and will be presented to Executive in the fall to begin the selection process. We have been extremely fortunate to have had Gerry in the employ of the Local these past 13 years. His experience and knowledge have been an invaluable asset to both the presidents he has worked with and the members he has served.

Finally, it has truly been my distinct honor and privilege to have served teachers in the role of Local President over these two terms of office. I have appreciated the support of our Council Representatives who provide a vital link to the teachers at the school sites. Their willingness to take on the role of CSR speaks highly of their commitment to our profession. I would also like to thank the Executive members and Committee Chairs, who provided invaluable service to the teachers through the Local.

Thank you to the School Council Representatives, Committee Chairs, Executive Members, Past Presidents and numerous guests who were able to attend the Presidents Reception held June 12. It was quite a party; culminating for me, a great four years!

The Opening Mass Committee looks forward to starting the year off with the annual and inspirational *coming together* as a District at the Winspear Centre, on August 27th. I wish you a restful, rejuvenating and relaxing summer and we will see you all at the Mass.