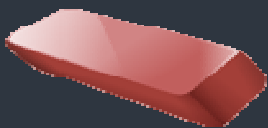


POLITICAL ACTION UPDATE

Thanks to all school staffs who participated in our *"Cuts to education erase more than just deficits"* campaign. Your school reps sent us back hundreds of signed erasers, which our Political Engagement Committee will be delivering to the Minister of Education when the spring sitting of the legislature begins in February. This activity is just another way of letting the government know that teachers cannot do more with less!

Thank you for "getting political!"



Local reps Jonathan Sharek, Suzanne LeGars, Melanie Mercier, and Amber Nicholson, along with President Sandy Gillis represent Edmonton Catholic Teachers at CBC radio's turkey drive on December 18th

this issue

Mentoring Beginning Teachers

"Happy New Year"

Stop the Cuts!

Trivia Contest

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Greetings everyone and though repetitious, Happy New Year! We entered our Christmas break with a lot of energy and some very positive happenings at the local level. Our turkey drive was a huge success and our hats are off to all school representatives who took the initiative to bring the idea back to you just days before the Christmas holidays. Through your remarkable generosity, we donated \$2125 to the Food Bank. Your huge hearts are responsible for making so many more lives bearable at Christmas time and we recognize that this event was just one of the many that are carried out at your respective sites to reach out to the poor of our communities. You are all amazing...no wonder you are teachers!

As we begin 2010, we see things occurring on the political front that may have effects on us that might not be exactly positive or uplifting. The crossing of the house by two MLAs, the upcoming cabinet shuffle and its ensuing effects are but three things to be aware of. Please stay tuned to the news and the papers to see how things evolve in the next little while. I am urging us all to keep the pressure on by writing, phoning, or emailing our MLAs and Members of the Opposition in the next week to let them all know that cuts to education are unacceptable and uncalled for. I believe it is imperative to keep the pressure on and not be distracted by the rhetoric that we are all familiar with when it comes to discussions about education in this province.

As we begin this year, please continue to care for each other and sustain the communities you have all worked so hard to build and maintain. The students in our care are so fortunate to have you as their caring leaders.

Every blessing,
Sandy



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Executive members of the Edmonton Catholic Teachers Local send best wishes that 2010 will bring you and your families many blessings.

Sandy Gillis, President

"Wishing everyone in Edmonton Catholic a fantastic 2010, with many good things to look forward to!"

Amy Cooper, VP

"Athbhliain faoi Mhaise Daoibh."

Greg Carabine, VP

"New Year's Resolution: I will go to the staff room everyday at lunch to enjoy the company of my colleagues."

Wayne Prokopiw, EPC Chair

"Best wishes on your new year. May you find support and guidance in friends, colleagues, your ATA local, and the Holy Spirit."

Kyle Porter, GETCA Liaison

Wishing you peace in 2010...

Kathy MacIsaac, Executive Director

Our First Contest of the New Year!

The newest Vice President of our local, Greg Carabine, (Austin O'Brien High School) participated in a head shave to raise money for cancer research. How much hair did Greg have taken off? The first correct response emailed to kathy.macisaac@ecteachers.ca will win this month's dinner at a local restaurant.



Mentoring Beginning Teachers

"Because teaching is a new experience every time you walk into a classroom, good teachers build a repertoire of strategies and tools that they can use when they need them. Good mentors share their tools with their protégés and help them build their own repertoires."

-an elementary principal

As you know, this year, the Local's major professional development initiative is our mentorship program for the more than 60 new teachers of Edmonton Catholic. To date, these new teachers have attended sessions on a variety of topics including: report cards, IPPs, parent-teacher conferences, as well as "hot issues" in education.

Beginning teachers can often be overwhelmed by their initiation to teaching and need to be given information and allowed to ask questions.

With this in mind, the Mentorship Committee has paired our new teachers with experienced mentors who have volunteered to provide assistance. By giving advice on such issues as classroom management, planning for instruction, teaching content, assessment and reporting, engaging and motivating students, these mentor teachers provide invaluable support to their protégés. The Local thanks these individuals for accepting the opportunity to serve as mentors and for contributing to the growth of the profession:

Rania Eshak- JH Picard

Pat Riske- St Richard

Sylvia Ferretti- Cardinal Leger

Kim Corbett- St Cecilia

Kalay Dumont- St Edmund

Joe Dumont- Holy Trinity

Raya Korber-Holy Trinity

Elsy Villalta-Grandin

Elizabeth Gameiro- St Edmund

Cherie Graham Smith – Anne

Fitzgerald

Julie Francois- Sir John

Carmen Vaugeois- Fr Leo Green

Nicole Thomlinson- St Angela

Chris Lirette- Blessed Kateri

Carol Durnford- LSS

Daniel Espejo- LSS

Karen Lupul- AJM

Greg Carabine- AOB

Alyssa Quintin- Frere Antoine

Claudia Pederson- St Kevin

Renee Shevalier-Lavin-

Annunciation

Fergal Peters- St. FX

Tracey Joy McGill- STM

Pina Hackman- St Dominic

Erlene Montieth- St Gerard

Amy Cooper- St Clement

Sandra Esposito- St FX

Julie Herauf- St Richard

Laura Chevalier- St Edmund

Emilia Borruso- Holy Cross

Tiffany Pino- H E Beriault

Darrell Shaigec- St Eliz Seton

Cathy Laporte- AJM

Rita L'Heureux- JH Picard

Michelle Nash- St James

Rob MacKinnon- AOB

Darlene Olson-St Pierre –

Aboriginal Learning

Erin McAuley- St Elizabeth

Melanie Mercier-

Annunciation

Monique Mouallem-

Annunciation

Chris Ferguson- St FX

Brenda Hamilton- St Angela

Theresa Urquhart- St Teresa

Susie Martin- O'Leary

Jennifer Howe- HE Beriault

Mary Jeanne Miller- St Monica

Renata Olynk- Sir John

Laura Kunce- Holy Cross

Lisa Haile- Anne Fitzgerald

Michelle Yeomans- Mother

Teresa

Louise Saad- Frere Antoine

Lisa Holts- Bishop Savarvn