

NOTE TO MENTOR TEACHERS:

FOIP regulations strictly prohibit the retention of any practicum evaluations without written permission of the student teacher. If permission is granted, the evaluations must be stored in a secure area (not on computer) and have identifying names removed. ~Gerry McHugh, Executive Director

SCHOOL OPENING CELEBRATION-Aug. 29, 2007-USHERS NEEDED!

Included in last week's mailing was a poster advertising the School Opening Celebration. This year's theme is "Living a Life of Faith in the 21st Century - The Heart of Social Justice." This year 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 phone the Local office (451-1196). Anyone interested in joining the choir may contact Ray McLellan (989-3046) or Susan Moffat (989-3026) at LSS. All rehearsals will take place on Tuesday, August 28, at the Winspear: ushers at 5pm; choir at 6pm.

LOCAL SPONSORSHIP- EDUCATION LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Congratulations to Doris Leboldus-Campbell (Archbishop Joseph MacNeil) whose name was drawn for Local sponsorship to attend the Education Leadership Academy, July 8-12, 2007, in Banff, Alberta. Thank you to all newly appointed administrators who entered the draw to attend this conference for aspiring leaders.

RECIPIENT OF THE BERNIE LEMAY JR HIGH TECHNOLOGY SCHOLARSHIP

At the October meeting of school council representatives **Benjamin Reitzel**, Louis St. Laurent grade 9 student, will receive a \$500 scholarship cheque from the Local as the recipient of the Bernie Lemay Junior High School Technology Scholarship. Bernie was the Executive Secretary of the Local office for 27 years and was a leader in the association's application of technology to business.

This scholarship is presented annually in Bernie's name to junior high students from our District who display an aptitude in the use of computers. Congratulations, Ben!

SPEAKER PROPOSALS FOR 2008 TEACHERS CONVENTION

Have you listened to a speaker who has motivated or inspired you and has enhanced your outlook and influenced your teaching practices? Let us know! Please email Val Knebel (VP of Programs) at knebelv@gmail.com for a speaker proposal form.

BEGINNING TEACHERS CONFERENCE 2007

On September 27 (eve)-29, 2007 the Association is sponsoring the Beginning Teachers Conference at the Fantasyland Hotel in West Edmonton Mall. Space is limited: apply early. Contact your principal for release time arrangements and registration forms. Further information may be found on the ATA's website: www.teachers.ab.ca

Words of Inspiration

"One cannot consent to creep when one has an impulse to soar."

~ HELEN KELLER

Included in this mailing: 1. **EAFEC Report** from Council meeting #08. One per rep. Please place in ATA binder. 2. **Local Calendar** for 2007-2008. One per teacher. Please place one copy in ATA binder.

Printed on the back: Message from President, Shannon McElroy, re: funding shortfall

Meetings/Events

Friday, June 29, 2007

Local office closes for summer holidays. We reopen at 8:30am on Monday, August 27, 2007. Happy Summer!

Wed., August 29, 2007

School Opening Celebration: 8:30 gathering and welcoming, 9:00 Mass. Please phone the Local to volunteer to be an usher. Those interested in joining the choir should contact Susan Moffat (989-3026) or Ray McLellan (989-3046) at Learning Support Services.

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

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

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

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

Local Email:

G. McHugh, Executive Director
gmchugh@telusplanet.net
S. McElroy, Local President
smcelroy@telusplanet.net
J. Bossmin, Office Manager
jbossmmin@telusplanet.net

Website:

www.local54.teachers.ab.ca

Message from the President

A Call to Action!

As the school year comes to a close, it is time to prepare for some of the issues that will face us in the fall. As I said to the Council of School Representatives at the June 5 Council meeting, it might be time to, “hope for the best but prepare for the worst.”

It would appear that the government has no intention of moving on its budget allocation of 3% to K-12 Education in spite of lobbying by the Alberta School Boards Association, the Alberta Teachers Association, and MLA's in both opposition parties.

At the School Board meeting of June 11, trustees raised serious concerns over the District's ability to adequately address the funding requirements for ESL programming, programming for students with severe special needs, full day Kindergarten, medical and mental health issues, new curriculum implementation, transportation costs, building maintenance, salaries, and operations.

Not only will under funding have implications for students, staff and parents, it will impact bargaining - for our teachers as well as the other 28,000 teachers whose collective agreements expire on August 31. Teachers have every right to expect that their salaries be commensurate with the rising costs of living and working in the province of Alberta. The suggestion by the Minister of Education that school boards can simply utilize their surpluses, or that they can hold plebiscites to raise money through increasing property taxes, is simplistic at best and vindictive at worst. School Boards, which were instructed to retain surpluses in their budgets to deal with unforeseen financial risks, are now being requested to use them. Those with limited or non existent surpluses are at a distinct disadvantage - creating for them labor uncertainty.

I strongly urge you to contact your MLA using the Budgetmore.com website to express your concerns to this government. The best way we can affect any change is by lobbying - through telephone calls, letters and emails. Talk to your neighbors and fellow teachers, families and friends. Write letters to the editor and visit your MLA over the summer.

In closing, it will **not** be the oil and gas revenues that will sustain the future or the fortunes of Alberta - it will be its youth. It is time for this government to make education a priority by providing teachers and schools boards the resources to properly develop, nurture, and educate Alberta's **real** future – today's children and tomorrow's voters.

Contact your MLA!

Shannon McElroy, President
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