

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE....

We get to wish each other Happy New Year twice each year and the wishes for success, health and blessings go out to all from the Local office as we head out for work marked by plugging in cars, extra bundles of warmth for supervision and fortified patience with the possibilities of a full week of inside recess and lunch breaks!

We begin 2009 with renewed optimism for ourselves, families, and our students, and because we "teach", we model this optimism for our students on a daily basis despite the economic and social turmoil facing the province and world. Within our faith context we are possibly the only voices of hope that our children will hear this year and so it deepens our commitment to the valuable societal work that we do! You have all contributed immensely to thousands of families this past Christmas with the works of charity and justice that you all helped organize and implement throughout the city. On behalf of all those without a voice, I applaud and thank you all for the many, many acts of reaching out.

As we prepare for our convention in February, please consider going online and offering your service to chairing a session. It is a simple task that involves directing the speaker to their site, offering an introduction and thanking them following their session. Amber Nicholson is our local rep on GETCA and appreciates any assistance you can offer in this regard.

Take care of yourselves and each other. ~Sandy

MESSAGE FROM YOUR NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR....

Happy New Year to all of you and thank you for the many phone calls and emails of support that I have received from you since I have taken on this new role as Executive Director of Edmonton Catholic Teachers. I look forward to continuing the good work of our Local and to serving all of you for many years. ~Kathy

GERRY McHUGH'S RETIREMENT PARTY VENUE HAS CHANGED

Due to the immense popularity of Mr. McHugh, his retirement party will now take place in the cafeteria of Barnett House on January 15 from 4-7pm. **If you plan to attend, please RSVP by email: jbossm@telusplanet.net on or before January 12th.**

CHAIRPEOPLE NEEDED FOR CONVENTION SESSIONS

All three Locals participating in GETCA have been asked to encourage their members to chair a session of their choice at convention. To sign up please visit www.getca.com. Our teachers are known for their participation in special events, so we ask that at least one teacher from each site volunteer to help meet our quota.

BUS PASSES FOR CONVENTION....limited quantity available

Two day bus passes for use during teachers' convention (Feb. 26/27) will be available at both the January 20 and February 24 Council meetings at a cost of \$7.00 each. CASH ONLY. We ask the Council reps to purchase passes needed by their staff members. Substitutes may purchase passes at the Local office after January 20, 2009.

SCHOOL OPENING MASS

You are welcome to join the School Opening Celebration Committee. The first meeting will take place at in Room 410 at Barnett House on Wed., February 11, 2009, at 4:30pm. This committee is once again being chaired by Floriana Bruni-Bossio. If interested in participating, please email Floriana: brunibossiof@ecsd.net

WORDS OF INSPIRATION

"Never mistake motion for action." ~ ERNEST HEMINGWAY

Meetings and Events

Monday, Jan. 12, 2009

Pre Retirement Workshop-part 1, 5- 9pm, Auditorium, Barnett House. Dinner at 5pm.

Tuesday, Jan. 13, 2009

PD Book Share Meeting, 4:30pm, Room 410, Barnett House

Thursday, Jan. 15, 2009

Retirement party for Gerry McHugh, 4-7pm, Cafeteria, Barnett House. RSVP required.

Monday, Jan. 19, 2009

Pre Retirement Workshop-part 2, 5:30- 9pm, Auditorium, Barnett House. Dinner at 5:30pm.

Tuesday, January 20, 2009

Council Mtg. #04, 6pm, Auditorium, Barnett House. Sandwiches available at 5:15pm.

Website:

www.local54.teachers.ab.ca

Kathy MacIsaac, Exec. Director

macisaack@shaw.ca

Sandy Gillis, Local President

gillisa@telus.net

Jan Bossm, Office Manager

jbossm@telusplanet.net

Council Dates:

Tuesday, January 20/09

Tuesday, Feb. 24/09

Tuesday, March 17/09

Tuesday, April 21/09

Tuesday, June 2/09