

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE....Greetings!

Even though everyone is crazy busy, this month seems to be dragging! The huge light for me this week was the speech by Obama yesterday. At the heart of his eighteen minutes was the call for peace and justice for all. This is what we are all about as Catholic educators. In bringing the message of hope to our students by our care and dedicated teaching we are forming citizens who will be the change we all want to see in years to come. Never let a day go by without giving some thought to the impact you have on the children you serve and the people you work with.

As always, on behalf of your executive, I thank you for all you do and for the support you give us here at the Local office. In closing I extend a heartfelt thanks to those who made Gerry's retirement such a memorable event. To all who attended, spoke and wrote special greetings... thank you. A special thanks to Jan and Kathy who prepared the evening's program and to Shannon for emceeding for us.

Take care of each other. ~Sandy

## PRE-RETIREMENT SEMINAR A SUCCESS!

We had a wonderful turnout at our Pre-Retirement seminar organized by ATA facilitator, Heather Johnson. The Local has received much positive feedback about the variety of topics covered--savings, investments, wills, benefits--as well as the practical nature of both sessions. Like all good workshops we were left with many more questions and requests to provide this valuable information to our teachers again next year. For those of you who were interested in further information on wills and estate planning, we promised to send you the name of the lawyer who presented: Stacy Maurier (780-459-5596).

## 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](http://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. PLEASE NOTE: The GETCA website experienced a glitch and those of you who previously signed up to be a chairperson are asked to visit the website to ensure your name still appears as a chair. Please re-register if your name didn't carry over during the update.

## LOCAL PD - INTERVISITATION OPPORTUNITY

The Local's PD Committee is offering 65 intervisitation opportunities for members to observe a colleague in an educational setting. The Local will cover the cost of a substitute teacher for one half day. If you are interested in this valuable professional development opportunity, please complete the form which is printed on the reverse side of this week's Intercom and fax it to the Local office (780-454-1250). There is no need to put a covering letter. Once your form is received, an email will be sent to you with your grant number. If you have any questions regarding the Intervisitation Grant, please phone Jan at the Local office (780-451-1196). All assigned intervisitations must be used by Friday, June 12, 2009.

## AD HOC COMMITTEE FOR FIRST NATIONS, METIS, INUIT (FNMI)

A committee is being struck to look at issues facing FNMI teachers, teachers of FNMI students, and what the Local can do to support them. If you are interested in being a member of this ad hoc committee, please contact the Local's Executive Director, Kathy MacIsaac by phoning: 780-451-1196 or emailing: [macisaack@shaw.ca](mailto:macisaack@shaw.ca)

## WORDS OF INSPIRATION

"Help your brother's boat across, and your own will reach the shore." ~Hindu proverb

**Included in this mailing:** Nothing **Printed on reverse side:** 2009 PD Intervisitation Grant Form

## Meetings and Events

**Thursday, Jan. 29, 2009**  
Substitute Mtg., 7pm,  
St. James School, 7814-83 St.  
Limited to those substitutes  
who participated in the  
December 2 SMART Board  
presentation. This is Part 2  
of the session.

**Tuesday, Feb. 3, 2009**  
*District Faith Development Day-*  
*See you at the Shaw!*

**Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2009**  
Executive Mtg. #6, 4:30PM,  
Room 406, Barnett House

**Wed., Feb. 11, 2009**  
School Opening Mass  
Committee Mtg., 4:30pm,  
Room 410, Barnett House

**Monday, Feb. 16, 2009**  
FAMILY DAY HOLIDAY

**Website:**  
[www.local54.teachers.ab.ca](http://www.local54.teachers.ab.ca)

**Kathy MacIsaac**, Exec. Director  
[macisaack@shaw.ca](mailto:macisaack@shaw.ca)

**Sandy Gillis**, Local President  
[gillisa@telus.net](mailto:gillisa@telus.net)

**Jan Bossmin**, Office Manager  
[jbossm@telusplanet.net](mailto:jbossm@telusplanet.net)

## Council Dates:

Tuesday, Feb. 24/09  
Tuesday, March 17/09  
Tuesday, April 21/09  
Tuesday, June 2/09