

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT.... Greetings all:

Please take some time with staff to talk about our upcoming event at Barnett House with Deputy Minister Keray Henke. Mark Ramsankar and his team at Edmonton Public Teachers have invited us to co sponsor and attend this important working session. We have two questions for the evening: What is Alberta Education doing that helps our situation in the classroom and what are some of the issues that need to be addressed to further enhance the learning environment for our students? This is a wonderful opportunity for our written statements to be taken back to Minister Hancock who is very open to hearing from teachers. Please email sharon.thorn@edpub.org to register. Mark your calendars: February 18th from 6:30-8:30pm. Enjoy every moment of this Family Day weekend with those dear to you and take time for some mid-winter rest!

Continue to care for each other,
Sandy

HERE'S A TAX TIP FOR YOU

If you have had occasion to take a personal leave which required you to pay the cost of a substitute, whether one was needed or not, you can deduct this as an employment expense on your income tax form. All you have to do is visit www.google.ca: type in "T2200 Canada" and download the form. Send the completed form to Theresa Reich, Controller with Edmonton Catholic District for verification, and enter the expense on your tax return at "Line 229 - Other employment expenses". The amount is actually on your December pay stub under "Deductions year to date". Your income is reduced by that amount.

~Kathy Maclsaac, Executive Director

ATA PROVINCIAL ELECTION CANDIDATES' FORUM-CSR-Feb. 24

You are all welcome to attend the next Council meeting of School Representatives being held on Tuesday, February 24, to hear the election speeches of the candidates running for ATA Provincial Executive Council (PEC). Please come prepared to ask questions of those who would like to represent you at the Provincial level. Candidates for the position of ATA President are **Carol Henderson, Beverley Jaremko and Denise Legge**. Vice Presidential candidates are: **Sharon Armstrong, Alexandra Jurisic and Mark Ramsankar**. Candidates for the Edmonton City District Representatives elected by acclamation: **Markiana Cyncar-Hryschuk and Christine Harris**. A by-election for the vacant office of DR, Edmonton City, will be held before the end of October 2009.

YES, THE LOCAL HAS A DISPLAY AT CONVENTION!

Even though Edmonton Catholic Teachers Local display booth was not printed in the convention booklet, we have been assured you can find us at the bottom of the escalators, outside the Exhibits Hall, next to the Edmonton Public Teachers' booth. Once again we will offer our teachers the opportunity to win a Sub for a Day! A draw will be made on both days of convention, so stop by the booth and fill out a form!

MATERNITY LEAVE INFORMATION NIGHT- Monday, March 2-Room changed to 140.

If you are expecting a baby, or planning to start a family soon, we invite you to register for our Local's Maternity Leave Information Night being held Monday, March 2, 2009, in Room 140, at Barnett House, beginning at 7:00pm. You and your spouse are most welcome to attend. Please register by emailing Jan at the Local: jan.bossmmin@ecteachers.ca

LOCAL PD - INTERVISITATION OPPORTUNITY- Only 35 grants remain!

Would you like the chance to observe a colleague in another educational setting? This wonderful PD activity is offered each year by your Local. The cost of a substitute teacher for one half day will be covered. If you are interested in this opportunity, please complete and fax the form which was printed on the reverse side of Intercom No. 18. Uncompleted requests will be returned. 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 email Jan at the Local office: jan.bossmmin@ecteachers.ca

WORDS OF INSPIRATION

"One kind word can warm three winter months." ~ JAPANESE SAYING

Meetings and Events

Tuesday., Feb. 17, 2009
PD Book Share, 4:30pm, Room 410, Barnett House

Wed., Feb. 18, 2009
An Evening with Keray Henke, Deputy Minister of Education, 6:30-8:30pm, Auditorium, Barnett House. Limited spaces available- please register by email: sharon.thorn@edpub.org

Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2009
Council Mtg. #05, 6pm, Auditorium, Barnett House. Sandwiches available at 5:15pm.

February 25, 2009
ASH WEDNESDAY

Wed., Feb. 25, 2009
Teachers' Retirement Reception Committee Mtg., 4:00pm, Local office 402, Barnett House

February 26 - 27, 2009
Teachers' Convention at the Shaw Conference Centre. Stop by the Local's booth outside the Exhibits' Hall and enter to win a Sub for a Day!

Website:
www.local54.teachers.ab.ca

Kathy Maclsaac, Exec. Director
kathy.macisaac@ecteachers.ca

Sandy Gillis, Local President
sandy.gillis@ecteachers.ca

Jan Bossmmin, Office Manager
jan.bossmmin@ecteachers.ca

Council Dates:

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