

March 5, 2009

Issue No. 23

Local: 780-451-1196

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

Deadline for Provincial Election ballots to be returned by mail:

March 13.

Election Day is **March 23.**

Good luck to all candidates!

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hi everyone,

I hope our convention was a wonderful learning experience for you all. Thank you to everyone who dropped by the Local's booth to say hello and enter our draw. One of the great benefits of convention is the reconnection with friends and colleagues both old and new and, to this end, the two days were an outstanding success.

As we enter report card time, Open House preparations and the pressure of getting ready for our new year, we need to remind each other of the necessity of caring for each other and helping in any way we can to ease the pressure of all the demands placed upon us.

Please take note of our work on Motion 503 and support something that has the potential of easing a critical pressure point for our grade three students and teachers.

Take care, *Sandy*

P. S. Rats!!!#@ we lose an hour's sleep this weekend ☺

THANK YOUR SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS!

March 9 - 13 has been declared Substitute Teachers' Appreciation Week. We wish to thank our subs for doing their best to maintain continuity and excellence in our classrooms. At your school this week please be sure to acknowledge, in some small way, the good work of your substitute teachers. ~Kathy Maclsaac

MOTION 503

Teachers and schools must be held accountable, but is standardized testing the way to do it? Not only do these tests place an undeserved and unnecessary pressure on students, they also provide only a small snapshot of what students, teachers, and schools are doing.

"Because students are not randomly assigned to schools and because schools have little or no control over the majority of factors, any attempt to place blame for poor test performance on the schools alone without giving proper consideration to each of these factors is problematic at best and misleading at worst." Ranking schools or jurisdictions based on test results negatively affects students and school communities.*

(* taken from "Real Learning First; The teaching profession's view of student assessment, evaluation and accountability" The Alberta Teachers' Association.)

Please support Motion 503, "to eliminate provincial achievement tests for grade three students and consider alternative assessments for learning." Email, call or send a letter to your MLA today. This motion will be debated and voted on, on March 16th. Contact information for all MLAs is listed on the government website: http://alberta.ca/home/mla_contacts.cfm and is included in this week's mailing. ~Amber Nicholson, Father Leo Green School

GETCA LOCAL DISPLAY BOOTH - Sub for a Day Draw

We tripled our foot traffic from last year at the Edmonton Catholic Local's booth at convention. The positive feedback we received from our teachers was appreciated. Thanks to the hundreds of you who entered our draw for a Sub For A Day. We are pleased to announce the winners of the draw which was held at the Local office on Monday, March 2. Congratulations to **Barbara Barylski (Louis St. Laurent HS)** and **Mary Agnes Lamoureux (Our Lady of Mount Carmel)**. Both lucky teachers will be receiving letters of congratulations from the Local this week.

WORDS OF INSPIRATION

"You must be the change you wish to see in the world." ~
MAHATMA GHANDI

Included in this mailing: List of MLAs (ultra orange...three per site... please post and share)

Printed on reverse side: Message from EPC Chair, P. Clancy-Novosel re: staffing

Meetings and Events

March 8 - 14, 2009

SUBSTITUTE

APPRECIATION WEEK

"Treat them well;
they are precious."

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Executive Mtg. #7, 4:30pm,
Room 406, Barnett House

Tuesday, March 17, 2009

**HAPPY
ST. PATRICK'S DAY!**

Tuesday, March 17, 2009

Council Mtg. #06, 6pm,
Auditorium, Barnett House.
Sandwiches available at
5:15pm.

March 30 - April 3, 2009

SPRING BREAK!

Tuesday, April 7, 2009

Executive Mtg. #8, 4:30pm,
Room 406, Barnett House

Website:

www.local54.teachers.ab.ca

Kathy Maclsaac, Exec. Director

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Sandy Gillis, Local President

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Jan Bossmin, Office Manager

jan.bossmin@ecteachers.ca

Council Dates:

Tuesday, March 17/09

Tuesday, April 21/09

Tuesday, June 2/09

President's Reception:

Thursday, June 11/09