

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

This week's message highlights two important events of the past two weeks. The first was the Celebration of the Arts, which proved to be a treat for the soul as we witnessed a dazzling display of the talents of our students in music, dance, drama and art. *What impressed me most was the behind the scenes dedication of you, the teachers and consultants, who gave such an obvious gift of time and instruction to all the children who were applauded so enthusiastically.* On behalf of all your peers, I extend a heartfelt thank-you and congratulations on a very successful event. The social justice conference last weekend focused on the security of future food supplies for the planet and guest speakers led us on a journey of reflection as to our own personal role in achieving justice for all people in accessing food and water as basic rights. The complicated political and economic realities were sobering topics that might lead to despair if it were not for the compassion and dedication of people who lead the way in numerous efforts to seek solutions to massive problems. One such group, that we as a Local support, is the Greater Edmonton Alliance. Michael Walters, chief organizer, gave a practical and well received session that sparked much interest. This organization is working on an initiative to preserve the farmland around our city and is gaining a lot of support within city and provincial government. Please take a moment as a staff and go to this website and complete the survey, adding your voice to this earth saving project!

<http://www.greateredmonthonalliance.com/e107/page.php?3>

Enjoy the long weekend ahead as we enter the hectic closing of our school year. In the midst of the hustle and bustle remember to take special care of each other.

Blessings to all. ~Sandy

## YOU ARE INVITED!

How would you like to share your energy, creativity and leadership skills to benefit Edmonton Catholic Teachers? Now is the time to consider putting your name forward to serve on one of the many committees of your Local. There are all kinds of interesting opportunities to get involved in---from planning events to welcome new teachers to our profession and honouring those retiring from teaching, to coordinating PD activities, to being involved in public relations, communications, or political engagement, to assisting with the planning of Teachers' Convention, to sitting on our scholarship selection committee, to promoting social justice activities---and the list goes on! Please refer to the ultra-lemon sheet included in this week's mailing for a complete list of positions available. If you do not wish to chair a particular committee, we would still welcome you as a committee member. Elections of Executive members and chairpersons will take place at the June 2 Council meeting. If you would like to put your name forward, or require additional information, please call me at 780-451-1196.

~Kathy MacIsaac

## TEACHERS' RETIREMENT MASS AND DINNER

On Friday, May 29, 2009 the teachers' retirement Mass will be celebrated at St. Agnes Church at 6:30pm and will be followed by dinner and presentations at St. Basil Cultural Centre. Please add **Joanne Stepney (St. Francis Xavier HS)** and **James Ritter (Austin O'Brien HS)** to your list of retirees for this year. Tickets are now on sale to the public at a cost of \$25.

**Included in this mailing:** List of Local Elections for 2009-2010: Executive/Committee Chair positions .... (ultra lemon)...one per teacher

**Printed on the back:** Economic Policy Committee message from Chair, P. Clancy-Novosel

## Meetings and Events

### Friday, May 15, 2009

Draw for Local sponsorship to the Educational Leadership Academy, July 12-16, Banff Centre

### May 16 - 18, 2009

Annual Representatives' Assembly, Westin Hotel, Edmonton, Alberta

### Monday, May 18, 2009

VICTORIA DAY  
HOLIDAY

### Friday, May 29, 2009

Teachers' Retirement Reception- 6:30pm Mass at St. Agnes and dinner to follow at St. Basil Cultural Centre

### Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Executive meets to approve the Local 2009-2010 budget, 4:00pm, Room TBA, Barnett House

### Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Council Mtg. #8, 6pm, Auditorium, Barnett House. Sandwiches available at 5:15pm.

### Website:

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

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### Council Dates:

Tuesday, June 2/09

### President's Reception:

Thursday, June 11/09