

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello everyone. Jan tells me this is our last Intercom for the year: (There was a chant in the playground this morning of "nine more sleeps to go". Interestingly enough, those children that we know to be at risk are not singing the same tune. For many years I have noticed that before our school breaks and especially before summer vacation these children seem to go "off the rails". They might not articulate it, but the reason for their anxiety and sometimes acting out is because the time away from school is very stressful and they miss the structure, calmness, gentleness and kindness that teachers, *you teachers*, offer to them. Our patience is put to the test at this most stressful time for all of us and the paradox is that this is when we are called upon to be models of patience and understanding as we help them work through their feelings they are unable to articulate. Knowing that they will miss us might be just enough for us to make it to the end.

This is also the time of year when we take time to honour those who are retiring or who are leaving for other reasons. Farewell parties and staff gatherings abound as we bid farewell to another school year. The triumphs and disappointments that mark our individual stories get woven into our lives as we look forward to a summer of rest and rejuvenation. On behalf of your Executive and staff I wish you all a safe and blessed summer. Congratulations on a job well done! Now go and count your number of sleeps.

Continue to care for each other, ~Sandy

LOCAL OFFICE CLOSED FOR THE HOLIDAYS

The Local office will close on Tuesday, June 30 and reopen on Monday, August 31, 2009.

Should you require immediate assistance over the summer while the Local office is closed, the following websites and phone numbers are available to you:

Alberta Teachers Association: www.teachers.ab.ca (780-447-9400)

Alberta Teachers Retirement Fund: www.atrf.com (780-451-4166)

ASEBP: www.asebp.ab.ca (780-431-4786)

TO ALL DRAGON BOAT RACE PARTICIPANTS AND SPECTATORS!

Don't forget that Edmonton Catholic Teachers are participating in the Dragon Boat Festival- **August 21-23, 2009**. Come cheer on the rowers and be sure to stop by our booth in the Louise McKinney Riverfront Park. If you have a "Healthy Minds, Bright Futures" t-shirt, be sure to wear it!

WOW!

Over the course of this school year the ATA has given the Edmonton Catholic Teachers Local as well as 6 of our teachers, grants and bursary money totaling nearly \$25,000! Congratulations to Lisa Hailes (Anne Fitzgerald), Kristina Kastelan-Sikora (H.E. Beriault), Colleen Ring (St. James), Julie Francois (Sir John Thompson), Brandi Clark (LSS), Shauna Rebus (Father Michael Troy), Cecilia Fenrich (LSS) and Rhonda Nixon (St. Teresa).

Be sure to check the ATA website for information on how you can apply for bursary money to continue your education.

AND THE WINNERS ARE....!

The Alberta Teachers' Association has recognized Dr. Heather Jamieson (Religious Ed Services) with a Religious and Moral Education Council Award of Excellence and the Social Studies Council Award of Excellence was presented to Roland Zimmermann (Fresh Start Millwoods). Well done!

WORDS OF INSPIRATION

"If you want to save face, keep the lower half shut." ~Ann Landers

Meetings and Events

Tuesday, June 30, 2009

Local office closes for summer holiday! We will reopen at 8:30 am on Monday, August 31, 2009 to start a new year!

Monday, August 31, 2009

Rehearsal for School Opening Mass: Ushers at 5pm; Choir at 6pm at the Winspear Centre.

Tuesday, Sept. 1, 2009

School Opening Mass: Winspear Centre, 8:30 doors open - 9am Mass begins.

If members require **assistance over the summer** while the Local office is closed, the following websites and numbers are available:

Alberta Teachers' Association:
(780-447-9400)
www.teachers.ab.ca

Alberta Teachers' Retirement Fund (780-451-4166)
www.atrf.com

ASEBP
(780-431-4786)
www.asebp.ab.ca

Website:
www.local54.teachers.ab.ca

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Printed on the back: Names of 417 volunteers directly involved in the Local during the 2008-2009 school year.