

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENTHi everyone

This week we find ourselves sandwiched between two very important events: Catholic Education Sunday and Remembrance Day. At first glance they might appear to have little in common and I may be stretching things, but the fact that we live free and have access to our Catholic system of education could very well be one of the results of thousands of people giving their lives in global conflict in the preservation of freedom for us all.

There is no need to list the advantages and benefits of working in a Catholic system, since any of us within Edmonton Catholic could do justice to such a list. In our schools we celebrate Remembrance Day every year and we always add a religious flavor to it that is not replicated in other school systems. In adding one of our Church's prayers for the dead, we honour the fallen in a special way...lest we forget.

This past week I attended a conference on the topic of Character Education which seems to be gathering a lot of ground in our province. The benefits of such a program are self-evident and all I want to say is that within our Catholic schools, this whole idea should be reflected in the way we teach anyway. The presenters emphasized that Character Education should not to be seen as an add-on but as something that is "infused" in the regular curriculum and in the life of the school. Hey! This sounds rather familiar, but like our Characters of Catholic Education and Core Values, anything of this nature has to be intentional and lived out by everyone. (Great staff conversation starter!) I am thinking of changing the sign outside our school this month and announcing to the public that "Character Education is Catholic Education!"

Last Wednesday night, our round table discussions regarding budget and cuts to education were very well attended. On behalf of our Executive, I send sincere thanks to everyone who came together to make their views known to District senior administration.

Many of our staffs are being affected by the flu, so please take every precaution to care for yourself and each other. We pray for one our teaching peers in Calgary Public who died as a result of H1N1 last week. We also pray for her husband who teaches in Calgary Catholic.

~Sandy

LOCAL SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED:

At the December 15th Council Meeting the following scholarship recipients will be honoured:

- Harold A. MacNeil Scholarship – **Connie Louise Smith** (St. Stanislaus, J.H. Picard)
- Patrick J. Quinlan Scholarship – **Mathew Guterson** (St. Paul, St. Rose and Archbishop Romero HS)
- Bishop D. Greschuk Scholarship – **Adam Porisky** (J.J. Nearing, V.J. Maloney and Bellerose St. Albert)
- Joseph Durand Memorial Scholarship – **Kyle Craig** (St. Vladimir, Mary Butterworth and O'Leary)
- Donna Swiniarski Scholarship– **Jaclyn Bedard** (Good Shepherd, H.E. Berialt and Romero HS)
- Bernie Lemay Scholarship– Not awarded-No applicants

\$3000 IN BURSARIES AWARDED TO SEMINARIANS

The Scholarships/Vocations Committee awarded vocational bursaries to the following seminarians in the amount of \$750 each: **Luan Vu, Dean Dowle, Miguel Irizar** and **Thai Pham**. Committee: Angie Bober (Chair), Lisa Reeves, Troy Davies, Simone Desilets, Susan Sarich, and Roland Zimmermann

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TO HELP YOU SHOP LOCALLY DURING NOVEMBER AND BEYOND

A list of the stores available in our area to help you shop locally can be found on these web-sites: for businesses (kepedmontonoriginal.com) for restaurants (originalfare.com) for food suppliers, producers and retailers (eatlocalfirst.com)

Meetings and Events

Monday, Nov. 16, 2009

New Teacher Mentorship Steering Committee Mtg., 4:15pm, Room 402, Barnett House

Tuesday, Nov. 17, 2009

ARA Committee Mtg., 4:15pm, Boardroom, BH

Wednesday, Nov. 18, 2009

Debrief meeting of the 2009 Teacher Retirement Reception Committee, 4pm, Room 402, BH

Monday, Nov. 23, 2009

ARA Committee Mtg., 4:30pm, Boardroom, Barnett House

Thursday, Dec. 3, 2009

New Teacher Mentorship Program Meeting for mentors and teachers, 1pm, site TBA

Monday, Dec. 7, 2009

Executive Mtg. #04, 4:30pm, Room 406, Barnett House

Website:

www.local54.teachers.ab.ca

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

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

Jan Bossmin, Office Manager
jan.bossmin@ecteachers.ca

Council Dates:

- Tuesday, Dec. 15/09
- Tuesday, January 19/10
- Tuesday, Feb. 16/10
- Tuesday, March 16/10
- Tuesday, April 20/10
- Tuesday, May 18/10