

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I hope you are all surviving this time of preparation and finding some time for yourselves in spite of all the work demands. Along with the excitement of the season, we, in schools, are keenly aware of the needs around us as it seems that the season of Christmas heightens the desperation and sadness of many of the children and families we work with. As they bring the tensions of home to us, be assured that the gift of patience and the many acts of kindness you, the teachers of our Local, carry out are deeply appreciated. You are simply awesome!

Amidst the busyness of our lives, I am urging everyone once again to make sure you have logged on to stopthecuts.ca and made your views known to our leaders. Please don't accept the premise of this government's logic that we need to cut budgets to education and health. Let our voice be heard that education is an expensive venture and the children of this province deserve to receive the best we have to offer. When we as educators examine spending, we can easily make the case for huge increases to the educational budget in order to improve facilities and classroom conditions in every jurisdiction.

We will be sending our minister a little gift as a reminder of our stop the cuts initiative and when this initiative hits the schools this coming week, please take the five seconds necessary to make sure the task gets done. Remember: "Cuts to education funding **er**ase more than just deficits!" Your school rep will have more information in this week's mailing.

Continue to care for each other. ~Sandy

INTERVISITATION GRANTS

We have received a number of inquiries regarding our half-day Intervisitation grants which allow teachers to observe a colleague in another school. In the past, these have been given out in the spring, however, we have had a number of requests to offer them earlier. Details along with the application will be posted in next week's Intercom.

PRE-RETIREMENT WORKSHOPS SCHEDULED!

Heather Johnson will be presenting a two-part Pre-Retirement Workshop in January for interested teaching staff. The sessions will include dinner and will run from 6-9pm on Monday, January 18, and Monday, January 25. Both sessions will be offered in the auditorium at Barnett House. The workshops are free of charge, sponsored by the Local, and are limited to 75 participants. Email Jan to register: jan.bossmmin@ecteachers.ca

COUNCIL REPS: CHRISTMAS CHEER –December 15, 2009

Our December 15 Council meeting begins at 6pm. Each school rep is encouraged to bring another staff member as a guest to this annual event. Our scholarship recipients, as well as those teachers who recently received ATA Educational Trust awards, will be honored. "Christmas Cheer" will FOLLOW — sandwiches will **not** be available before the meeting.

AND THE WINNER IS...

The contest in last week's "and now your Local news" was won by Marcel Evaristo, who was the first to correctly identify the two Edmonton Catholic schools which were backdrops for the *stop the cuts* television ads. Those schools were St. James and Austin O'Brien. Marcel wins a gift certificate to a local restaurant courtesy of the Local!!

WORDS OF INSPIRATION

"Whoever gossips to you will gossip of you." ~ SPANISH PROVERB

Meetings and Events

Monday, Dec. 7, 2009

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

Tuesday, Dec. 15, 2009

Council Meeting #03, 6pm, Auditorium, Barnett House. Council reps are welcome to bring a guest. The meeting will be followed by a Christmas social.

Dec. 19—January 3, 2010

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS.
Local office closed.
Office reopens at 8:30am on
Monday, January 4th.

Monday, January 4, 2010

Executive Mtg. #05, 4:30pm,
Room 406, Barnett House

Wed., January 6, 2010

PD Mentorship Steering Committee Mtg. Room 402, Barnett House

Website:

www.local54.teachers.ab.ca

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Council Dates:

Tuesday, Dec. 15/09*

*Christmas Social to follow

Tuesday, January 19/10

Tuesday, Feb. 16/10

Tuesday, March 16/10

Tuesday, April 20/10

Tuesday, May 18/10