

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT. . .

Greetings one and all
Celebrations abound throughout our schools. I had the pleasure of attending three such events and take this golden opportunity to extend congratulations and thanks to the teachers who have given hundreds of hours to support their students. At J.H. Picard, *Jonathan Shields* directed a very talented group of students in the play "Eurydice". From the reception at the entrance by *Michelle Dupuis* and the rest of her team to the final curtain everything spoke of hospitality and community. While sitting there, I only wished that our provincial leaders could experience first hand the extra time that is freely given to the students in our care. I know that our two trustees who were in attendance will spread the good word. The second event was a dinner theatre experience at Louis St. Laurent. The lead teacher for the play "Pippen: Life and Times" was *Vernon Slipetz* whose efforts with the students there delighted all in attendance. The warm and kind reception by *Brian Novosel, Duwayne Lang* and their supporting cast of teachers make our Catholic schools the inviting places that they are. At my own school, *Natalyia Rozhdestvensky* had our parent body enjoy the sights and sounds of the production of the "Unfriendly Beasts". She is now preparing for a production at St. Timothy with double the number of children. Natalyia represents many of the music teachers with shared school responsibilities who give so much to the community. Wonderful things are happening in our schools as a direct result of the gifts of teacher time and talent. With all this I want to highlight the professionalism of all the teachers in every school who support our colleagues who make students ready for their respective 'big night' at this time of year. Well done everyone!

The second week of Advent finds us in a deep freeze with no end in sight! As we light the Advent candles, we are reminded of the birth of our spiritual light that is celebrated every year at this time. "Out of the darkness" has a whole new dimension to us in this northern hemisphere and thus adds a lovely meaning to our Advent prayer. For all of us I pray: as we light the candles, may we continue to share our light of faith with those around us. In our school communities may we be a source of strength to our co-workers, students and parents. May the timeless promise of the Christ Child be ours. Merry Christmas everyone and continue to care for each other. ~Sandy

LOCAL PD - INTERVISITATION OPPORTUNITY

The Local's PD Committee is offering 100 Intervisitation Grant opportunities for members to observe a colleague in an educational setting. The Local will cover the cost of a substitute teacher for one half day. If you are interested in this valuable professional development opportunity, please copy and complete the form which is included in this week's Intercom and fax it to the Local office (780-454-1250). There is no need to put a covering letter. Once your completed form is received, an email will be sent to you with your grant number. If you have any questions regarding the Intervisitation Grant, please email jan.bossmmin@ecteachers.ca All assigned Intervisitation Grants must be used by Friday, June 11, 2010.

PRE-RETIREMENT WORKSHOPS SCHEDULED!- Only 30 spots left!

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

JOIN THE LOCAL'S TEAM AT THE RONA MS BIKE TOUR—JUNE 12-13, 2010

You are invited to participate in the MS Bike Tour. All you need is a bike and the passion to help end MS. A weekend of riding, fun and adventure can mean a lifetime of difference to over 11,000 Albertans living with MS. Contact Amber Nicholson at shoe-addict@hotmail.com or go to the www.mssociety.ca to sign up with the Edmonton Catholic Teachers' Local 54 team: *Teachers Ride*.

Meetings and Events

Tuesday, Dec. 15, 2009

Social Justice Committee Mtg., 4:30pm, Room 402, 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. 21—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

LOCAL OFFICE CLOSED FOR HOLIDAYS

The Local office will be closed for the holidays from Dec 21 - Jan 3, 2010.

The Local office will reopen at 8:30am on Monday, January 4, 2010.

The ATA staff will be available in case of an emergency (780-447-9400).

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



*Christmas Greetings from the Executive
of the Edmonton Catholic Teachers' Local*



The best to you
this holiday season!
Christine Harris

In the spirit, all the
best to you and yours

I hope you
have a fabulous
Christmas break!
Joyeux Noël

Wish the love
share in you
throughout this
Christmas season &
-Happy-

Wynne

Feliz Navidad!
Breg Carabine
Athbhlaith Faoi Mhaise
Daoribh

The very best to
you and your
families!
Jonathan

Pina wishes
Everyone
A blessed
Christmas and an
Exciting New Year
Buon Natale!

May God be
with you in
the Christmas
Season!
Kyle

Have a happy healthy break!
Quinn

Wishing you a
Merry Christmas
and a very happy
and healthy 2010
Joyeux Noël
Azaa Bahali

Wishing you
a blessed holiday
Walter

To You &
Yours...
The merriest of Christmas
The healthiest of holidays...
Glen

Let the spirit
of Christmas live
in your hearts
all year through!
Blanton

Merry Christmas
Enjoy the time off
Robert

May the blessings of
the season of the
celestial light, the
year of our Lord
and the joy of the
Merry Christmas
Enjoy a blessed &
wonderful holiday.
Pats

Merry Christmas
and Blessed
Wishes in 2010!
Amy Cooper