

**MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:** Hello everyone,

One of our parents commented yesterday how long January seems and that parent was very high in his praise of teachers' patience at this time of year. The anticipation of travel to the warmer climes is mentioned at least once a day and I am sure this is a common wish for us all as we traverse the ruts of our various communities in getting to work each day. It is wonderful to be able to take a look at the happenings in a school and see how varied an experience it is for everyone involved. Teachers in our Catholic schools have the job of bringing the world into their classrooms and helping our students sift through the news of the day and view it through a religious and moral lens. (No small task). The disaster of Haiti has spurred everyone to reach out in special ways to help raise funds for the massive relief that is going to be needed for many years to come. Stories of loss, joy, relief, sorrow and violence in Haiti fill the newscasts and not since the Marshall Plan in 1947 has the world seen a concerted effort to rebuild a country from the ground up. Our students and our staffs should consider making notes on their role in this massive effort for you are "making history" that will be retold in the next century.

I am making this point because I believe that all you teachers should congratulate yourselves and each other for the work you are doing in addition to your scheduled duties. A first class education is being delivered by all of you and yet, with all the preparation and follow up that this involves, you still make time for the numerous clubs, activities and teams that you have taken on at the school. This level of dedication feeds the myth that "teachers don't eat". :) Teachers of our Catholic Local...you are amazing!  
Take care of each other. ~Sandy

**AD HOC SCHOLARSHIP REVIEW COMMITTEE**

As you know, every year, our Local awards nearly \$8000 in scholarships and vocations. If you would like to be part of an ad hoc committee to review these scholarships, please email [kathy.macisaac@ecteachers.ca](mailto:kathy.macisaac@ecteachers.ca) The committee will meet on Tuesday, February 16 at 4pm, in Room 402, Barnett House.

**AAWE UPDATE**

The arbitration hearing to settle teacher salaries for the 2009/10 school year took place last weekend, January 23rd and 24th. Mr. Andrew Sims, Q.C., who was named arbitrator, will render his decision within a month. We will keep you posted. ~Kathy

**PD SESSION FOR ADMINISTRATORS**

The Local's PD Committee invites all interested administrators to a one-hour session: "Understanding the Collective Agreement" to take place on Wednesday, February 10th at 4pm at Barnett House (Room 302). Presenters: President, Sandy Gillis and Executive Director, Kathy MacIsaac. Please register by email: [jan.bossmmin@ecteachers.ca](mailto:jan.bossmmin@ecteachers.ca)

**2010 LOCAL TABLE OFFICER ELECTIONS**

Nominations for the positions of President and (2) Vice-Presidents of the Local will open on Monday, February 1, 2010. Nomination forms will be available from the Local office on that date. Our Local Admin Guidelines dictate that completed forms must be returned to the Local 14 days after the call. Because February 15 is Family Day and Barnett House is closed, we will accept nomination forms until 9am on February 16th. Candidate speeches will be delivered at the Council of School Representative meeting that evening, Tuesday, February 16. If interested, please call Kathy MacIsaac for more information: 780-451-1196.

**MATERNITY LEAVE INFORMATION NIGHT—Monday, February 8, 2010**

If you are expecting a baby, or planning to start a family soon, we invite you to register for our Local's Maternity Leave Information Night being held Monday, February 8, 2010, Room 502, at Barnett House beginning at 7:00pm. Topics covered during the evening will include: the Collective Agreement, Employment Insurance, ASEBP, and recent developments regarding maternity leaves. You and a guest are most welcome to attend. Refreshments will be served. Please register by emailing: [jan.bossmmin@ecteachers.ca](mailto:jan.bossmmin@ecteachers.ca)

**Meetings and Events**

**Monday, February 1, 2010**

Mentorship Session for new teachers, 4pm, St. Peter's (LSS)

**Monday, February 1, 2010**

Nominations for President and Vice Presidents of the Local open today. Nomination forms available from Kathy at the Local.

**Tuesday, February 2, 2010**

Faith Development Day

**Wednesday, February 3, 2010**

Marcel Evaristo's PD session: Smart Board: Notebook 10 for Beginners. THIS SESSION IS FULL.

**Monday, February 8, 2010**

Executive Strategic Planning Day, 8:30-3:30pm, Room 406, Barnett House

**Monday, February 8, 2010**

Maternity Leave Information Night, 7pm, Room 502, Barnett House

**Tuesday, February 9, 2010**

PD Book Club Mtg., 4pm, Room 402, Barnett House

**Wed., February 10, 2010**

PD Information Session for Administrators, 4:15pm, Room 302, Barnett House

**Wed., February 10, 2010**

Teachers Retirement Reception Committee, 5pm, Room 402, Barnett House

**Website:**

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

**WORDS OF INSPIRATION**

"Be the change you wish to see in this world."