

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

Candidate speeches for the Local's Election being heard at February's Council Meeting of School Representatives on **Feb. 16 at 6pm**. Laurie Pelkie, Asst. Superintendent, District Ed. Services, will be in attendance.

**MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:** Hi everyone!

I hope you are all doing well and have had time to mull over some of the thoughts of our Faith Development Day speaker, Jerry Goebel. The day continues to be that wonderful mid-year experience when we meet and greet colleagues we have not seen since Opening Mass. In a district our size, these special days provide us the opportunity to see folks we have worked with in the past and for a few moments "relive the memories". The generosity of everyone at the Offertory is another clear sign of how we care for others. Way to go! To the planning committee and to all staff who gave so much time in preparation of all that we experienced, our **heartfelt thanks for a wonderful, uplifting day.** :)

Random Acts of Kindness Week is upon us and we might spread the "Goebel words" of intentional courtesy to our students as we make kindness the basis of all our actions. The celebration of Valentine's Day this weekend affords us another time to think about how even better we would all be if our efforts to be in right relationship with each other and our environment became our *raison d'être*.

Continue to care for and be gentle with each other. ~Sandy

**2010 LOCAL TABLE OFFICER ELECTIONS**

Nominations for the positions of President and (2) Vice-Presidents of the Local opened on Monday, February 1, 2010. Nomination forms are available from the Local office. 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 nominations forms until 9am on February 16th. Candidate speeches will be delivered at the Council of School Representatives' meeting that evening, Tuesday, February 16. Please call Kathy MacIsaac for more information: 780-451-1196.

**STOP BY OUR DISPLAY AT CONVENTION!**

The Local's convention display will be located by the stairs, next to the Alberta Teachers' Association booth at the Shaw Convention Centre. Stop by for a chat and be sure to sign up both Thursday and Friday for our draw to win a substitute for a day. Looking forward to seeing you all!

**HERE'S A TAX TIP FOR YOU**

If you have had occasion to take a personal leave which required you to pay the cost of a substitute, whether one was needed or not, you can deduct this as an employment expense on your income tax form. All you have to do is visit [www.google.ca](http://www.google.ca): type in "T2200 Canada" and download the form. Send the completed form to Theresa Reich, Controller with Edmonton Catholic District for verification, and enter the expense on your tax return at "Line 229 - Other employment expenses". The amount is actually on your December pay information under "Deductions year to date". Your income is reduced by that amount. ~Kathy MacIsaac, Executive Director

**POLITICAL UPDATES**

If the educational political scene intrigues you, the ATA website posts timely articles you might want to read. Log on to: [www.teachers.ab.ca](http://www.teachers.ab.ca)

**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 review committee, 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.

**CONVENTION 2 DAY BUS PASSES**

The final day for purchasing the \$8 ETS 2-day convention bus pass will be at Council on February 16. Cash only. Edmonton Northlands has agreed to allow free parking during convention to encourage the use of the LRT.

**Meetings and Events**

**Monday, February 15, 2010**

**FAMILY DAY HOLIDAY**

Local office closed-Nominations close for Local elections at 4pm.

**Tuesday, February 16, 2010**

Due to the Family Day Holiday and the fact that the ATA building is closed on Feb. 15, nomination forms for Local elections will be accepted up to 9am on Tuesday, February 16.

**Tuesday, February 16, 2010**

Scholarship/Vocations Ad Hoc Review Committee Mtg., 4pm, Room 402, Barnett House

**Tuesday, February 16, 2010**

Social Justice Committee Mtg., 4pm, Room TBA, Barnett House

**Tuesday, February 16, 2010**

Council Mtg. #5, 6pm, Auditorium, Barnett House. Sandwiches will be available at 5:15pm.

**Wed., February 17, 2010**

Ash Wednesday

**February 21—27, 2010**

Random Acts of Kindness Week

**Website:**

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

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**WORDS OF INSPIRATION**

"A balanced diet is chocolate in both hands."

**Included in this mailing:** Alberta Retired Teachers' Association (ARTA) letter re: retirement benefits for teachers (white) 3 per school; please post and share