

Greater Edmonton Teachers' Convention (GETCA) at the Shaw Conference Centre, February 25 & 26

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT: Hi everyone!

I am hoping that our Family Day weekend provided you with lots of snooze time:) We certainly hit the week running with you all preparing for Lent by flipping pancakes on Tuesday and distributing ashes on Wednesday. This Lenten season gives us yet another time to reflect on our relationship with each other and our God. In preparation, I have been spending time going over the words of Jerry Goebel, whose message offers a tremendous amount of wisdom that we can apply directly to our everyday working lives. Jerry's invitation to use "intentional courtesies" as our modus operandi would certainly change many of our workplaces, especially if we did so with the kindness of heart that he referred to so often.

On Tuesday I had the pleasure of joining in with all the admin folk of our District to listen to Father Max Oliva speak to the beatitudes and how to use them to foster effective relationships as we go about our ministry in our community and to each other. I am sure his book will be in our staffrooms and I encourage you all to take a peek and see how the ideas therein could be used as discussions with our staffs. There can be no better use of our time than looking at how we are doing with each other as we are all on a quest for integrity in our lives. Father Max spoke to the fourth beatitude and I quote him: "Blessed are single hearted; for they shall see God." *The matching virtue in attainment of this is integrity. "Integrity comes from the Latin 'integer', which means wholeness, completeness. Some opposites: a divided heart, duplicitous, lack of transparency, misleading. Each is deadly to keeping communication open clear and flowing."* Let us be truly mindful of each other for we know that working together toward a common purpose allows us to serve others in a manner that honours our calling. For all you do for each other and our Local...Thank you! Continue to care deeply for each other. ~Sandy

WINNERS OF THE ERASER CONTEST

We are pleased to announce two winners of our contest to guess how many erasers were signed and brought back to the Local for delivery to the Education Minister. Marc Motut (CES) and Kelli Ewasiuk (Archbishop J. MacNeil) were closest to the number of 1242 without going over. Congratulations! Each winner will receive a gift certificate to a local restaurant.

SMART BOARD PRESENTATION OFFERED

The Local's PD Committee has organized a Smart Board presentation given by Marcel Evaristo on Monday, February 22 from 4:30-6:30pm at St. James School (7814-83 St). This session is Notebook 10 for Beginners. We will uncover the basics of creating lessons and activities using Notebook 10. A one hour presentation will be followed by one hour of hands-on experience. Refreshments will be provided. Limited to 25 participants. Register by email: jan.bossmmin@ecteachers.ca ~Christine Bowers, PD Chair

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!

SCHOOL OPENING MASS

You are welcome to join the School Opening Celebration Committee. The first meeting will take place in Room 402 at Barnett House on Monday, February 22, 2010, at 4:15pm. This committee is once again being chaired by Floriana Bruni-Bossio. If interested in participating, please email Floriana: floriana.bruni-bossio@ecsd.net

WHEREFORE "ART" THOU?

The walls of the Local office need to be perked up! We are looking for art created by you—our teachers—which we will frame and display in the Catholic Teachers office at Barnett House. If you are willing to donate or even lend us a piece of your personal artwork—a watercolour, an oil painting, some photography, we would be proud to adorn our walls with it! Please email kathy.macisaac@ecteachers.ca for further information.

Meetings and Events

Monday, February 22, 2010
School Opening Mass Committee Mtg., 4:15pm, Room 402, Barnett House

Monday, February 22, 2010
PD Smart Board Presentation, 4:30-6:30pm, St. James School. Marcel Evaristo presenting a 2 hour session on Notebook 10 for Beginners.

Tuesday, February 23, 2010
Political Engagement Committee, 4:15pm, Room 402, Barnett House

Thursday, February 25 & Friday, February 26, 2010
Teachers' Convention-See you at the Shaw!

Monday, March 1, 2010
Executive Mtg. #07, 4:30pm, Room 406, Barnett House

Tuesday, March 2, 2010
PD Beginning Teachers Mentorship Program, 4pm, Auditorium, Barnett House for new teachers and mentors.

Thursday, March 4, 2010
Economic Policy Committee Mtg.-Strategic Planning, 9am-Noon Room 402, Barnett House

Sandy Gillis, Local President
sandy.gillis@ecteachers.ca
Kathy MacIsaac, Exec. Director
kathy.macisaac@ecteachers.ca
Jan Bossmmin, Office Manager
jan.bossmmin@ecteachers.ca

WORDS OF INSPIRATION

"Life may not be the party we hoped for, but while we're here, we should dance."

After reflecting on the message of Jerry Goebel at Faith Development Day, Hugo Sanchez, an employee of Edmonton Catholic Schools, was inspired to write this poem as a way to remember the day.



IT IS TIME

IT WAS NOT DESIGNED
TO BE A DREAM, BUT
TO BE A REALITY.

AS MODERN TIMES
TRAVEL FURTHER,
IT IS FADING AWAY,
AWAY FROM OUR SIGHT.

IT IS NOW BECOMING
MYTHOLOGICAL,
BECAUSE WE DO NOT REMEMBER
IF EVER EXISTED.

LIFE IS CHANGING,
SO ARE WE,
BUT WE ARE COMPLICATING
THE SIMPLICITY OF LIFE.

WE ARE LEAVING
BEHIND,
WHAT NEEDS TO BE
UP FRONT.

FORGETTING THE IMPORTANCE
OF JUSTICE AND LOVE, AND
ALSO THE VALUES OF LIFE.

WE HAVE NOT ONLY LOST
THE MEANING OF THESE WORDS,
BUT SADLY THE USAGE OF THEM.

YOU CANNOT DO
WHAT YOU DO NOT KNOW, BUT
AT THIS EXTRAORDINARY SPEED,
WHAT DO WE KNOW?

WHERE ARE WE HEADING?
LIKE JESUS SAID:
WHAT DO YOU SEEK?

BUT THIS NOT TIME FOR REFLECTION
IT IS TIME TO ACT,
TO BRING BACK LIFE
ON ITS ORIGINAL PATH.

IT IS IN OUR HANDS TO MAKE A CHANGE,
BECAUSE WE HAVE THE ABILITY,
CAPACITY AND FACILITY
TO MAKE THIS HAPPEN.

YOU ALONE CANNOT AND WILL NOT
CHANGE THE WORLD,
BUT UNITED
WE CAN ALL MAKE OUT OF THIS BEAUTIFUL
WORLD
A BETTER PLACE.

~Hugo Sanchez