

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Hi everyone! A couple of things to consider...

As we drive around the city, we see all of our schools advertising report cards and dates for demos of learning. If only there was some way for our parents to see the hours upon hours of preparation that went into the comments that describe the learning that has occurred in this past reporting period!

I never cease to be amazed at the amount of energy that goes into conversations by staff about the kids who "just don't seem to get it" and the worry that "perhaps we could just could have done more". The amazing professionalism of our teachers who never give up on students is accentuated during our reporting times and I am concerned about our teachers who are doing more and more with less human resources to support them. Another thing that would amaze all parent bodies is the collaboration, caring and teamwork that is so evident as staffs take care of each other by assisting with a bit of coverage, tech help or advice when their peers encounter the inevitable difficulties that occur at every site.

Billboards and newspaper inserts announcing a plethora of programs designed to entice students and parents to "come and see" are everywhere we look these days as we all go about the business of filling every possible seat in our buildings for the coming year.

When I ask parents why they come to us, they give reasons like: *"we like the discipline; we like the 'feeling' in the building; there is something special here but I can't put my finger on it or, I don't know how to explain it but is special."* I often think that if, during canning season, we were able to capture the "special feeling" and spread it around the community, there would be no need for expensive advertising. It is incumbent on each of us to put words to the 'special' part of our Catholic schools as we become more competitive in this day and age. We might do well to remember that whenever there is competition there are winners and losers! Dare I say that it is what staffs do throughout this district in their individual sites that makes the Catholic school special. Is it that teachers are living out their faith on a daily basis and modeling God's love to all they encounter that creates the feeling experienced by those who enter our buildings? Keep talking, keep praying, and continue to care for each other. ~Sandy

2010 TEACHERS' RETIREMENT MASS AND RECEPTION

This year the Teachers' Retirement Mass and Reception, chaired by Denis Gauthier (Holy Trinity High School) will be taking place on **Thursday, May 27, 2010**. The Mass will be offered at St. Agnes Church and the dinner will be at St. Basil Ukrainian Cultural Centre. Updates will be published regularly in the Intercom.

SCHOOL REPS! DON'T MISS OUR MARCH 16TH MEETING!

Be sure to attend our Council meeting on March 16th. The 'business' portion of our agenda will be kept short to make room for two important guests: the ATA's Cory Schoffer, whose topic will be "Shhhhhhhhhhhhh...It's Private" (which will take a look at confidentiality issues related to the digital world, social networks and other areas of interest) and Assistant Superintendent Laurie Pelkie, who will address our issues and concerns during Question Period. The meeting will be followed by some St. Patrick's Day cheer. See you then!

Meetings and Events

March 15-19, 2010

SUBSTITUTE APPRECIATION WEEK.

Tuesday, March 16, 2010

Political Engagement Committee Meeting, 5pm, Room 402, Barnett House

Tuesday, March 16, 2010

Council Meeting #6 begins at 6PM with sandwiches available at 5:15 PM. Cory Schoffer, ATA, Teacher Welfare, and Laurie Pelkie, Assistant Superintendent, District Educational Services will be in attendance

SPRING BREAK & Easter

March 29-April 5

Local office will be closed for Spring Break & Easter Holidays. We will reopen on Tuesday, April 6, 2010 at 8:30am.

Monday, April 12, 2010

Executive Meeting #08, 4:30pm, Room 406, Barnett House

Sandy Gillis, Local President

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Kathy MacIsaac, Exec. Director

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Jan Bossmin, Office Manager

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WORDS OF INSPIRATION

"When you're having a bad day, tell someone. A shared burden is always lighter."

CONGRATULATIONS!!!!

The following candidates have been acclaimed to their positions at the Edmonton Catholic Teachers' Local for a 2 year term beginning July 1, 2010.

President: Sandy Gillis (St. James Elementary School)

Vice President: Greg Carabine (Austin O'Brien High School)

Vice President: Jonathan Sharek (St. Hilda Junior High School)

Congratulations to all! We know you will serve us well!

MARCH 15—19th IS SUBSTITUTE APPRECIATION WEEK

Do something kind for your sub this week to say thanks for all they do!

DELEGATES SPONSORED - SPICE AND BLUEPRINTS CONFERENCES

Once again the Local office will sponsor two delegates to attend SPICE (April 29-May 2) and one delegate to attend BLUEPRINTS (May 4 -7) at The Delta Lodge, Kananaskis. This sponsorship will be for complete registration which includes accommodation (double occupancy), conference registration, materials and meals. Coverage for the cost of your substitute will be your responsibility. If you are interested in conference sponsorship from the Local, we ask that you print your name, the conference you wish to attend and your email address on your school's letterhead and fax it in to the Local office (780-454-1250) by Monday, March 22. The draw will be made at noon on Monday, March 22, 2010. Winners will be notified following the draw and registration forms will be faxed to the schools. Based on the number of applicants, preference will be given to those who have not received Local sponsorship for this conference in the past.

For more information on the conferences visit: www.acsta.ab.ca or phone 484-6209.

CARING FOR OUR MEMBERS

Please advise the Local office (451-1196) of instances of bereavement, illness or births, so the Local can recognize them accordingly.

ECONOMIC POLICY COMMITTEE NEWS

"Wayne's World"

(News items related to your collective agreement will feature regularly in this space.)

Our Economic Policy Committee (EPC) has kicked off its work this year with a productive Strategic Planning Meeting in order to begin preparing for our next round of collective bargaining in 2012. It may seem like a long way off, but we all know how fast time flies. Your committee will be occasionally asking you for input as to fairly represent all teachers in our Local. Please look at this weekly "Intercom" for tidbits of information which will make you more aware about various aspects of our collective agreement. ~ Wayne

EPC Members and who they represent:

Dean Cockburn, Simon Pryma — College of Principals

Ron Zachacko — Assistant Principal

Sean Gregg — Counselor/Chaplain

Cathy Miller — Department Head

Linda Coulthard — Substitute Teacher

Greg Carabine — High School

Greg Chin — Junior High

Suzanne Rosko — Upper Elementary

Melanie Mercier — Primary

Kathy MacIsaac—Local Executive Director

Sandy Gillis — Local President

Wayne Prokopiw — EPC Chairperson