

### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

On Monday morning my *Outlook* reminder let me know that Tuesday is National Teacher Day. I thought that I had missed a date and then Google informed me that the first Tuesday in May is National Teacher Day in the United States. The National Education Association describes it as "a day for honoring teachers and recognizing the lasting contributions they make to our lives."

"The origins of Teacher Day are murky. Around 1944 Arkansas teacher Mattye Whyte Woodridge began corresponding with political and education leaders about the need for a national day to honor teachers. Woodridge wrote to Eleanor Roosevelt who in 1953 persuaded the 81st Congress to proclaim a National Teacher Day." I believe that any opportunity to remind ourselves of the contributions that teachers make on a daily basis is an opportunity not to be missed. Take a few moments with each other this week and consider how vital a role we play as we interact with our students and each other. Some of the relational roles we play include: advisor, mediator, facilitator, counselor, advocate, role model and friend. I couldn't find a Canadian study to add to this but one done this year in the States purports that: Almost nine in 10 (88%) of the 1,000 Americans age 18+ who were surveyed said they had a teacher growing up who had a "significant, positive impact" on their life. Nearly all Americans (98%) believe that a good teacher can change the course of a student's life. In fact, outside of immediate family, teachers were seen by Americans as the group that had the greatest, positive impact on their lives growing up, even more so than friends. This is great news and something that we should cut and paste into our plan books as a reminder when things get tough and we are weighed down by the pressures of the day. We do make a difference! Happy Teacher Day every day! Take good care of each other. ~Sandy

### SCHOLARSHIPS FOR CHILDREN OF EDMONTON CATHOLIC TEACHERS

If your child is graduating from grade 12 and enrolling at a post secondary institution in the fall, he or she may wish to apply for one of the Local's scholarships. The forms will be made available on the Local's website at the end of May. Please visit: [www.local54.teachers.ab.ca](http://www.local54.teachers.ab.ca)

### WORLD FAIR TRADE DAY

*Be the change you wish to see in the world*, said Gandhi. World Fair Trade Day 2010 is about Fair Trade, about people, organizations, producers, consumers, supporters and all those who share its goals. But more importantly, it is about **you**. It is your day to draw attention to your power to change your community and your world for the better through Fair Trade. Together, we can improve the lives of small producers, farmers and artisans, around the world. World Fair Trade Day: May 8th.

### EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP ACADEMY OPPORTUNITY

The Educational Leadership Academy, directed toward principals, assistant principals, and aspiring leaders will be held at the Banff Centre from Monday July 5 to July 9, 2010. This year's keynote speaker is Dr. Robert Marzano who will present "The Art and Science of Leading." The Local will cover the \$900 cost of this conference which includes tuition, a resource book, program materials, some meals, accommodation and GST for one administrator or a teacher aspiring to leadership. If you are interested in this opportunity, please email Jan at [jan.bossmmin@ecteachers.ca](mailto:jan.bossmmin@ecteachers.ca). A draw will be held at the Local office on May 15. If you need further information, please phone Kathy: 780-451-1196 or visit [ELA@ata.ab.ca](mailto:ELA@ata.ab.ca)

### LIST OF 2009-2010 RETIREES and TICKET INFO

On Thursday, May 27 the Local and the Board of Trustees will be honouring the retiring teachers at our annual Teacher Retirement Reception which will begin with Mass at St. Agnes Church celebrated by Father Mike McCaffery followed by dinner and presentations at St. Basil Cultural Centre. Tickets for this special evening are available at the Local office at a cost of \$25 each. Please contact Jan for the details at [jan.bossmmin@ecteachers.ca](mailto:jan.bossmmin@ecteachers.ca). In addition to the list of retirees published last week, we wish to add the following: **Brian Ferguson** (Archbishop Oscar Romero); **Gail Kossowan**; **Val Boyko** (Sir John Thompson Jr HS); **Susan Drinkwater** (St. Alphonsus); **Maureen McGuire** (St. Vladimir) and **James Olson** (St. Joseph HS).

We wish to congratulate and extend our thanks to our retirees who have given so many years of dedicated service to Edmonton Catholic Schools.

### Meetings and Events

#### Wednesday, May 12, 2010

Economic Policy Committee Mtg.,  
4:15pm, Room 402, Barnett  
House

#### Thursday, May 13, 2010

PD Mentorship Final Wrap Up,  
Highlands Golf Club, 1-3pm,  
Guest speaker:  
Dr. Heather Jamieson

#### Wednesday, May 19, 2010

Final day to purchase tickets for  
the Teachers' Retirement Reception  
being held at St. Basil Cultural  
Centre.

#### Friday, May 21 –May 24, 2010

Annual Representatives' Assembly  
being held in Calgary, Alberta.  
Our Local is being represented by  
24 dedicated teachers. Thank you!

#### Thursday, May 27, 2010

Annual Teachers' Retirement  
Mass and Reception: 6:30pm Mass  
at St. Agnes; dinner and presenta-  
tions following at St. Basil Cultural  
Centre

**Sandy Gillis**, Local President

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### WORDS OF INSPIRATION

"Never regret anything that  
made you smile."