

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings everyone and Happy Thanksgiving!

As we approach Thanksgiving weekend and consider all that is happening around us politically and economically, one wonders about the “thanks” part of the aforementioned phrase! A long litany could be recorded of the number of decisions recently made by our leaders that affect the most vulnerable of our province in a profound negative way. As teachers, I believe we are asked to be the Voice for all who cannot speak for themselves and take every opportunity to make our views known. Too often we hear from our peers “What can I (we) do against this behemoth?” If we have this sense of powerlessness then just imagine the sense of hopelessness and despair that the vulnerable must have...if they could speak. So, what to do? As a Catholic community of faith, we latch on to the fact that we are the Easter people who believe that prayer, reinforced by consistent action will affect change where it is most needed. Let’s get to it J, we know how to do it.

I thumbed through a book last week entitled “14,000 things to be thankful for” and I am sure that collectively we could easily add an appendage of 14, 000 more. May I begin by saying how thankful I am to represent our teachers who enrich and inspire the lives of our 33,408 students? 13,999 to go.....

Happy World Teachers’ Day and continue to care for each other. ~Sandy

THANK YOU, SPORTS FACTOR!

Our teachers’ Local thanks Terry and the crew at Sport Factor (5713-99 St., 450-0576) for the skipping ropes, ball hops, rubber soccer balls, etc. that were sent to Annunciation School after the fire. Their kindness is much appreciated. One more thing to be thankful for ...13,998 to go! ~Sandy

EXCITING EVENTS PLANNED FOR OCTOBER COUNCIL MEETING

Be sure to attend October’s Council meeting!

- Hear the speeches of the candidates (Greg Carabine-Austin O’Brien HS and Azza Ghali-Annunciation School) running for Vice President in our Local’s by-election
- Meet our silver medal winning Dragon Boat Team and find out how to be up the creek without a paddle!
- Applaud the Director of WIN House as she receives our \$7,331 donation and explains how the money will be used.
- Recognize our recipient of the ATA Doctoral Fellowship in Education, Rhonda Nixon.

SPECIALIST COUNCIL MEMBERSHIPS

Just a reminder, that all active members are eligible for one free Specialist Council membership. These free memberships expire August 31 of each year and must be renewed by logging on to the ATA website: www.teachers.ab.ca The memberships do not automatically renew.

MATERNITY LEAVE INFORMATION NIGHT—Mon., Oct. 19, 2009

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, Oct.19, 2009, Room TBA, 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 with the Local office by calling 780-451-1196 or by emailing: jan.bossm@ecteachers.ca

Meetings and Events

Monday, Oct. 12, 2009

Thanksgiving Day Holiday

Thursday, Oct. 15, 2009

New Teacher Mentorship Program, 9-3pm, Barnett House

Monday, Oct. 19, 2009

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

Tuesday, Oct. 20, 2009

Council Mtg. #2, 6pm, Auditorium, Barnett House (ballots for by-election will be distributed)-sandwiches at 5:15pm

October 21-26, 2009

Voting will take place at school sites for Local Vice President. Substitutes are asked to vote at the Local office-information will be posted on AESOP.

Monday, Oct. 26, 2009

Scholarship Committee Mtg., 8:30-4:30pm, Room 406, Barnett House

Monday, Oct. 26, 2009

PD Committee Mtg., 4:30-6:30pm, Room 140, BH

Website:

www.local54.teachers.ab.ca

Council Dates:

- Tuesday, Oct. 20/09
- Tuesday, Dec. 15/09
- Tuesday, January 19/10
- Tuesday, Feb. 16/10
- Tuesday, March 16/10
- Tuesday, April 20/10
- Tuesday, May 18/10

BY-ELECTION FOR ECT LOCAL VICE PRESIDENT

Included in this week's mailing are posters for the candidates for the by-election position of Local Vice President. To lessen our paper consumption we are distributing each poster based on the number of reps for your school (1 rep for every 10 teachers). We ask that you display the posters on your ATA bulletin boards. Candidate speeches will be delivered at the Council of School Representatives meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 20. Voting will take place from Oct. 21-26 with ballots returned to the Local office by 4pm on Oct. 27. The ballot count will occur on Wednesday, Oct. 28.

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

We are looking for teachers to join the Local's Social Justice Committee. We would meet 3 or 4 times per school year to discuss how the Local can be involved with Social Justice initiatives. Please send your contact info to Amber Nicholson: shoe-addict@hotmail.com

CARING FOR OUR MEMBERS

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

ASSOCIATION WORKSHOP FEES HAVE DECREASED

As a result of a decision at the 2009 ARA, the fee for workshops offered by ATA Instructors has been reduced from \$200 to \$100. If you would like to book a PD workshop for your staff, visit: www.teachers.ab.ca

DID YOU KNOW?

- One in seven women in Canada lives in poverty.
- Women living in poverty are more likely to experience violence and abuse.
- 51% of Canadian women age 16 and up have experienced at least one incident of physical or sexual violence.

Thanks for your help toward ending the cycle of violence and poverty.

At the October 20th Council meeting we will be collecting some items for donation to the WIN House. We ask that you send with your school rep any of the following items:

Kitchen items: pots, pans, can openers, spoons, baking sheets, etc...

Women's underwear and socks

Children's pajamas and socks.

*Please limit your donations to the above.

~Amber Nicholson, Executive Liaison, Social Justice

Join faculty, staff and students as they offer a

TRIBUTE TO

Professor Gwen Miller (MacKinnon) PhD



Friday, Oct. 16, 2009 at 7:30 PM

at

Newman Theological College
2257 Premier Way #172
Sherwood Park, AB T8H 2M8

Please RSVP to: 780-467-5858