

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT: Greetings everyone

Last night's Council meeting was one of celebration and good news. Carol Henderson, our new ATA president, gave a great update on the ongoing happenings between us and government. We are very grateful for her gift of time to us, given her hectic schedule and the number of items she has to deal with on behalf of all teachers. Thank-you, Carol!

Our "Hot for Teachers" team was in attendance and a huge thank-you to Chris Ferguson for his presentation on the Dragon Boat Race. Good news continued to flavour the evening as Rhonda Nixon was congratulated on receiving the ATA doctoral fellowship by our District Representative, Markiana Hrychuk. Amber Nicholson presented a cheque for over seven thousand dollars to Sandra Danco of the WIN House. Kyle Porter representing REMEC, presented an award of merit to Amber Nicholson for her outstanding work in the area of social justice in the local, her school, and the greater Edmonton community.

Please note this as well: Our superintendent Joan Carr and your Local are supplying five substitute afternoons each this Thursday so that ten of our high school Math and Science teachers can attend a symposium to support our president Carol when she speaks to the elimination of the written response portion of the diploma exam.

Last night we had 131 of our peers in attendance. This outpouring of support for the Local is indicative of the support we give each other in our schools. Please thank your school representatives for their gift of time on your behalf. As we travel together in these times of political and economic unrest, let us be mindful that together we work in the most wonderful profession. The added benefit of working within our Catholic context gives us the freedom to express our work in terms of vocation. To be able to meet the inclusive educational needs of the poor and marginalized adds a deep and abiding dimension to our work which we should never take for granted.

Good luck to our VP candidates as they now await the results of the voting that takes place this coming week. Continue to care for each other. ~Sandy

KUDOS TO OUR LOCAL PRESIDENT!

Our sincere congratulations to Sandy Gillis for receiving the William D Hrychuk Award. This award recognizes outstanding achievement and distinguished service in the field of religious and moral education in Alberta. Well done, Sandy. You make us proud!

ON NOVEMBER 4TH, MAKE YOUR VOICES HEARD!

On November 4th from 6:30-8pm at Barnett House, we will be co-hosting a round table discussion to gather teacher input regarding the government's proposed cuts to education. In order to ensure that your voice is heard, we urge you to send one or more teachers from your school. Executive members of our Local will be joined by Superintendent, Joan Carr, and Chief Financial Officer, Barry Devlin. Please join us for these important discussions. Confirm your attendance by email to kathy.macisaac@ecteachers.ca

OPPORTUNITY FOR NEWLY APPOINTED ADMIN!

Included in ATA school mailing was a poster advertising the ATA's 2009 *Leadership Essentials for Administrators Conference*, Nov. 16-17, in Calgary. This conference is organized in conjunction with the Council on School Administration and will offer workshops as well as an opportunity to network with your colleagues. The Local will offer a grant-in-aid of \$250 each to two new administrators who would like to participate in this conference. If you are interested in sponsorship, please email kathy.macisaac@ecteachers.ca. A draw for the 2 grants will be made at noon on Friday, October 30th. For more information and to register, please visit: www.teachers.ab.ca>Resources for School-Based Administrators.

NEW TEACHER WELCOMING AND INDUCTION CEREMONY

New teachers have received their invitations to this year's New Teacher Welcoming and Induction Ceremony being held on Thursday, October 29, 2009 at 7pm. This evening will provide an official welcome to teachers who are new to the profession. Principals, mentor teachers, and guests are most welcome to attend.

Meetings and Events

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, BH

Monday, Oct. 26, 2009

PD Committee Mtg., 4:30; Book Share 5-6:30pm, Room 140, BH

Tuesday, Oct. 27, 2009

Ballots returned to Local office by 4pm, Room 402, Barnett House

Wednesday, Oct. 28, 2009

Counting of ballots for Local VP, 4:15pm, Room 402, BH

Thursday, Oct. 29, 2009

New Teacher Welcoming and Induction Ceremony, 7pm, Auditorium, Barnett House

Monday, November 2, 2009

Executive Mtg. #3, 4:15pm, Room 406, Barnett House

Website:

www.local54.teachers.ab.ca

Kathy MacIsaac, Exec. Director
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Sandy Gillis, Local President
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Jan Bossmin, Office Manager
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Council Dates:

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