



# and now....your “Local” news!

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## OPENING MASS 2009

Our wonderful tradition of opening the year with Mass continued on September 1st at the magnificent Winspear Centre. It was during Jan Dunnigan’s term as Local President (1987-1993) that a request was made to begin the school year with an Opening Mass for all Edmonton Catholic teachers. Since that time, this event has grown to include **all** District staff, retirees, and special guests. We were honored by the presence of our presiders, Archbishop Richard Smith and Bishop David Motiuk, as well as the participation of 18 members of the clergy. In addition to the organizing committee, 117 staff volunteered as singers, instrumentalists, leaders of song, acolytes, candle bearers, cross and incense bearers, readers, gift bearers, parking attendants, and ushers. The Local is pleased to announce that a record amount of money (\$7,331.00) was donated and will be presented to the WIN House at October’s Council meeting. Thank you all for your generosity and for your continued support of this Catholic community-building event.



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## Row, Row, Row Your Dragon Boat!

### DRAGON BOAT RACES

This summer, an amazing group of teachers representing the Edmonton Catholic Teachers’ Local, battled the North Saskatchewan River as part of the first ever ECT Dragon Boat Racing Team. Practicing once a week for the months of July and August allowed the team to peak for the festival (August 21-23) where they won the silver medal in the Milo Division. Not only did the team have great success on the river, but each member did a fantastic job representing the profession of teaching. We were even featured on CBC television with lead anchor, Tiffany Burns, joining us for one of our races. To raise awareness about the ATA’s campaign “Healthy Minds, Bright Futures,” we had teachers along with representatives from the Canadian Mental Health Association volunteer at our tent on the riverbank to provide information to the public. This certainly helped to showcase our teachers as caring and dynamic professionals. The ECT Local thanks all who participated and looks forward to seeing a team in next year’s Dragon Boat Festival!

~Chris Ferguson, Organizer/ATA grant recipient



**Dragon Boat Team:** Christopher Ferguson, Nicole Lafreniere, Jill Tucker, Wendy Andrews, Gord Hoff, Dana Bodmer-Hoff, Macy Bredo, Gregory Carabine, Genevieve Carolan, Marianne Darlet, Kelli Ewasiuk, Sarah Mandolesi, Rose-Marie McGee, Bradley Ostopowich, Jeremy Posteraro, Lorraine Press, Maria Suchocki, Erin Yarmuch, Michael Bambrick, Matthew Ferguson, Anne Fierheller, Johanne Renaud, Chuck Jenkins, Deanne Ferguson, Tanith Hodgkinson-Owen, Monica Posteraro, Maria Lobo, Solange Pahud, Markiana Hryschuk, Brad Tyler and Melissa Milakovic.

## \$3000 in Educational Trust Awards granted to Catholic teachers

The Local is pleased to announce that 6 of our teachers were awarded ATA Educational Trust Bursaries in the amount of \$500 each.

Congratulations to Lisa Hailes (Anne Fitzgerald), Kristina Kastelan-Sikora (HE Beriault Jr HS), Colleen Ring (St. James), Julie Francois (Sir John Thompson Jr HS), Brandi Clark (St. Peter Education Centre), and Shauna Rebus (O'Leary HS). You, too, can apply for money toward additional post-secondary studies by visiting the Association's website: [www.teachers.ab.ca](http://www.teachers.ab.ca)

## \$1500 GRANT RECEIVED!

Colleen Ring, teacher at St. James School, received one of the ATA's Inclusive Learning Communities Grants for her application entitled *Peace Works*. Well done, Colleen!

## CELEBRATE WORLD TEACHERS' DAY on OCTOBER 5th

This year's theme is: *Peace. Live it. Teach it.*



# Annunciation School gets doused with kindness!

## ECT Local shows support for its teachers...

Last week, Kathy and I had the pleasure of delivering lunch and assorted goodies to the Annunciation School staff on behalf of all Edmonton Catholic teachers. What a pleasure it was for us to meet a community that has embraced "caring for each other" in every way! As a result of August's fire, the students are being housed in work trailers while they wait for renovations to their school to be completed. Picture, if you will, long narrow classrooms with 2 teachers attempting to teach two different grade levels as they contend with all the noise that thirty-plus children can make... and you begin to appreciate one of the many challenges facing the staff. The only obvious bonus during our short-lived September heat wave was that each trailer was air conditioned!

### Meet the All Star Team at Annunciation School!

Support Staff: Rhonda, Janine, Linda, Debbie, Karen, Mary, Sharon, Vicky, Maria, Anita, Fiorella, Yolanda, Sharon, Monica, Tracie and James  
-Custodial: Richard and Raymonde-  
Teachers: Andrea, Christie, Carmen, Melissa, Alison, Troy, Kathleen, Peggy, Melanie, Monique, Nadine, Deb, Patti, Renee, Leslie, Azza, and Ashley.

All of the teaching materials which should have been be at hand for school start-up, were lost to smoke damage; hence everyone had to scramble at the last minute to get the necessary items to begin teaching on the first day. Despite the tight confines of space, the lack of computers and Smart Boards, the absence of a library, art room and gymnasium---not to mention the necessity of having to accompany each child to the "washroom trailer" ---

*"I've chosen to see this as an opportunity for me to discover my potential as a teacher."*

we met a staff with an amazing sense of community, seasoned with patience and wonderful humour! Principal Troy Davies received some of the following comments from his staff as a reflection on their first weeks at school:

"If I can do this, I can do anything!"

and  
"It just takes a bit of creativity, perseverance and humor."

Our hats are off to all staff at Annunciation School as well as to everyone who has assisted them in the past month.

~Sandy

