



# and now...your "Local" news!

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## NEW TEACHER MENTORSHIP NOTES

The new teachers involved in our mentorship program participated in a valuable professional development session at Learning Support Services on February 1<sup>st</sup> at which they were provided a wealth of information about: the role of consultants, resources that can be accessed, what the lending library has to offer, and so on. We extend our thanks to Dr. Brenda Willis and the staff at LSS for providing our beginning teachers with this enriching opportunity!



Christine Goudreau, grade one teacher at St. James School, with some of her smiling students.

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## AT THE HALFWAY MARK!

Well, here we are having made it through the longest and coldest month of the school year. Yes...we are halfway there!

And so, we'd like to bring you up to date on a few of the activities of your Edmonton Catholic Teachers Local of the ATA from September until now:

- Involvement in the Association's "Stop the Cuts" campaign. We encouraged all teachers to speak up for education funding by urging them to write letters and emails to their MLAs and to sign the erasers sent out to every school.
  - Creation and delivery, in conjunction with the District, of a mentorship program for teachers new to the profession. As such, our 65+ beginning teachers have been able to access professional development sessions on a variety of topics and have been paired with mentor teachers who provide support and advice throughout the school year.
  - Financial support through professional development grants to teachers who wish to explore topics related to their areas of expertise; PD workshops on 21<sup>st</sup> century learning and the use of Smartboards; monies to cover sub costs so that teachers may access intervisitation opportunities in order to observe their colleagues in other educational settings.
  - Participation in grassroots social justice activities through the Greater Edmonton Alliance, support for Development and Peace, WIN House, and the Edmonton Food Bank's Christmas turkey drive.
  - Visits to schools by Sandy and Kathy for staff meetings, PD activities, presentations, as well as informal chats over coffee to discuss issues, talk politics, and get to know teaching staffs and their admin teams.
  - Involvement in community events and work with the Canadian Mental Health Association to promote the "Healthy Minds, Bright Futures" campaign.
- STAY TUNED FOR MORE NEWS ABOUT OUR FEBRUARY TO JUNE ACTIVITIES!**



## IT'S CONTEST TIME AGAIN!

If you are an avid Intercom reader, you will know that every "Local News" issue contains a trivia contest.

Congratulations to all of our winners so far. We hope you enjoy your gift cards!

Patti Liogier- Religious Ed Services

Marcel Evaristo- St James Elementary

Dave Bouma- St Nicholas Junior High

Joanne Stepney-St Francis Xavier High School

### THIS MONTH:

#### OUR ERASER CAMPAIGN

In December, the Local sent out approximately 1700 erasers to be signed by teachers and returned to our office for delivery to Education Minister Hancock. We thought it was important to reinforce that "cuts to education erase more than just deficits."

Exactly how many erasers were returned to our office?

The first correct response emailed to

[kathy.macisaac@ecteachers.ca](mailto:kathy.macisaac@ecteachers.ca) will win this month's dinner at a local restaurant.



# Message from our President

Hello everyone,

We have just completed two successive evenings of pre-retirement seminars at Barnett House which were very well attended by teachers of all ages! Our ATA pension consultant, Heather Johnston, and her presenters were both knowledgeable and engaging and the amount of information they shared with us was staggering! While the greater emphasis was on imminent retirement and covered such topics as: planning for retirement, schedules, benefits and plan options, there was significant financial information that our newest teachers should be aware of.

I asked a random number of participants about the benefit of offering a financial session to all of our teachers and the positive response was unanimous.

Please stay tuned for further details on such an information evening that will be open to as many as the auditorium at Barnett can accommodate!

A special thank you goes out to both Marcel and Elizabeth Evaristo who gave of their time to be greeters for us and to everyone who made the two evenings a success.

Our Kathy is away to a Western Staff conference in Winnipeg this week and we wish her safe travels and a productive work week. The theme of this year's conference is "The Ethical Organization." I am sure she will come away with some valuable insights and will share these with our Executive and Council upon her return.

Our local is the special place it is because of the efforts of so many and the support of you all. Take care,  
Sandy



Sandy awards \$800 Local Scholarship to Connie Louise Smith.