



and now...your “Local” news!

April 22, 2010

WHAT'S NEW in NEW TEACHER MENTORSHIP?

The April session for beginning teachers in our mentorship program was a timely and informative one, focusing on the staffing process, timelines and contracts. This session, presented by Charolette Player, was followed by dinner courtesy of Human Resource Services. At the same time, our mentor teachers participated in an interactive workshop led by Francoise Ruban of the ATA's Professional Development department. The final session of the year, to which all beginning teachers and their mentors are invited, will be held on **May 13th from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at the Highlands Golf Club**. Our presenter will be Heather Jamieson of Religious Ed Services. Stay tuned to your email and the Intercom for all the details!



this issue

Celebrate Education Week

Learning Our Way...

Mentorship Program Update

Message from our President

Trivia Contest

“Education: The Heart of Our Communities”

Education Week – April 25- May 1, 2010

Education Week was established more than 75 years ago to call attention to the importance of education and to show the public some of the good things happening in Alberta schools. We encourage you to celebrate the week by showcasing the Edmonton Catholic school in which you teach and spreading the message about the value of education in the community.

LEARNING OUR WAY TO THE NEXT ALBERTA

Two public lectures that will help shape our shared future

Gwynne Dyer- independent journalist, documentary filmmaker, syndicated international affairs columnist and author of *Climate Wars*

David Peat-physicist, author of *From Certainty to Uncertainty: the Story of Science and Ideas in the Twentieth Century*, Director of the Pari Center for New Learning

Scott Murray-senior advisor, Human Resources and Technology, Statistics Canada and director the International Adult Literacy

In conversation with **Donna Kennedy-Glans**, lawyer and businesswoman, founder and executive director of Bridges Social Development

When: Tuesday, June 1, 2010

Time: 5:30 pm Registration and reception

6:45 pm Public lecture and discussion

9:30 pm Reception continues

Location: Mayfield Inn, 16615-109 Avenue, Edmonton

Tickets: \$10.00; table of six - \$50.00

Visit learningourway.ca for more information

Our Local has purchased a number of tickets to this event. If you would like to attend, please contact Kathy at kathy.macisaac@ecteachers.ca

Council Reps---mark your calendars!

A reminder to all school representatives that our Council meeting for the month of May has been re-scheduled to Tuesday, June 8th at 6:00 p.m. Among the agenda items will be the Local budget for next year as well as the elections for our Area Liaison positions and Committee Chairs.

AMAZING ART!

Our sincere thanks to Val Boyko who has donated 3 pieces of her artwork to the Local office. As you might know, Barnett House is currently undergoing major renovations. We can't wait to display Val's creations on the walls of our soon-to-be renovated 4th floor office!

THIS MONTH'S CONTEST: PRESIDENTIAL TRIVIA

How much do YOU know about our President, Sandy Gillis?

-What is Sandy's given name? -In which Canadian town/city was he born? -What is his favorite sweet?

The first correct response to all 3 questions emailed to:

kathy.macisaac@ecteachers.ca will win this month's dinner at a local restaurant.



Message from our President

Hello everyone!
Spring Break is now a memory and I hope that everyone is back safe and sound, and entrenched in the happenings of the school day but keeping abreast of the news in the world of education in our province. The past two weeks have been very trying for all school staffs as we come to grips with the realities of budget. Our District, like all others, is making decisions based on no increase from provincial coffers and, therefore, schools are doing the same. At our respective sites we need to be keenly aware of the effects on our co-workers' lives as

teachers are placed on priority placement, temporary contract teachers are removed from our staff lists, and our support staff numbers are reduced. I am sure we can all find small ways to reach out ---and I urge us all to do just that.

This week we held our Annual General Meeting. There was such great energy in the room and I am so pleased to say that our members are very well-represented by the school reps chosen to attend local meetings once a month. They bring insight, knowledge, energy, and passion to our discussion and debate.

In addition, we have 25 of our teachers who will give up their long weekend in May to attend the Association's ARA (Annual Representatives' Assembly). It is three full days of meetings when our Association policies, including budget, are debated for the upcoming year. We are part of a terrific local that has much to be proud of because of the efforts of all our members. Thank you!

As we move into the formal "testing season" let us all take extra special care of each other and do what we can to ease any burden we can help carry.
~Sandy