



and now...your "Local" news!

May 27, 2010

LOCAL LEADERSHIP--- IT'S UP TO YOU!!

Would you like to share your talents, energy, and leadership skills to benefit Edmonton Catholic teachers?

Now is the time to consider how you might become involved in the important work of your professional Association at the local level. There are countless opportunities in areas such as:

- ◆Mentorship of new teachers
- ◆Social justice
- ◆Planning of School Opening Mass
- ◆Communications
- ◆Public Relations
- ◆New Teacher Induction
- ◆Scholarships
- ◆Teachers' Convention planning
- ◆Political Engagement
- ◆Professional Dev't
- ◆Teacher Retirement Reception
- ◆Social events
- ◆Book Club
- ◆Constitution
- ◆Elections
- ◆Diversity and Equity
- ◆Administrators' Committee

If you would like more information about specific roles or time commitments, please call Kathy MacIsaac: (780) 451-1196



Julie Dron, Heather Jamieson, Susan Makale, Cindy Vaselenak, Chair pf CCSSA

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"Recognizing Catholic Leadership..."

Teachers, administrators, school trustees, and other religious and educational leaders from across the province recently came together at the SPICE and Blueprints conferences held in Kananaskis. During the Thursday evening awards dinner, Edmonton Catholic Schools was honored with two awards for Excellence in Religious Education. Susan Makale, Principal, and Julie-Ann Dron, Assistant Principal, of Ben Calf Robe/St. Clare were on hand to accept the award on behalf of their staff for the committed and relentless work they do for their entire school community. Teaching as vocation is evident in the way teachers engage the students and community in answering their call to service. The entire staff's call to serve is exemplified by a living understanding of "the dignity of the human person". The gains made in the community have been quite remarkable and are signs of wonderful things to come!

Dr. Heather Jamieson, Assistant Superintendent of Religious Education Services, was also acknowledged for her dedication and leadership in religious education with particular praise for the religion residency program that has been a great success in Edmonton Catholic Schools for the past three years. Heather has been described as a "magnet" for those who seek guidance and understanding in difficult times. Also highlighted was the integrity, compassion and the pastoral care Heather provided to the entire District community during her tenure in our Employee and Family Assistance Program.



At the SPICE Conference, Troy Lamoureux, a teacher at St. Nicholas School, was honored as well for his dedication and exemplary work in Catholic education. In the words of his nominator David Bouma: "Troy is truly an inspiration to our students and staff, and is the 'spirit' of our school." Troy spoke about his work at St Nicholas in these words: "I continue to be humbled and inspired through the many moments of grace that have been bestowed upon me. I pray that I may be ever blessed and that I strive to fulfill my vocation as a teacher. Non Nobis Domine - To you alone, O Lord."

THANK YOU, LYNN!

Lynn Smarsh, teacher at St Joe's and Chair of our Diversity, Equity and Human Rights Committee, recently presented a session at the Metropolis Conference in Montreal. Her topic? The challenges faced by African students in the Canadian school system. Lynn worked with her own students to develop the presentation and spoke about the difficulties they have faced, as well as the interventions and programs that have assisted them. Although the challenges faced by any student with limited formal schooling are enormous, these students also bring qualities and determination beyond their years, which help them to succeed. The Metropolis Conference is held annually in Canada to bring academic researchers, government and business together to look at issues faced by immigrant groups including education and employment, as well as policy and its effect on people. You can now read the research papers from the conference online by googling Metropolis Conference Montreal.

"ARA" TRIVIA CONTEST

On the May long weekend, 24 teachers represented your Edmonton Catholic Local in Calgary at the Annual Representatives' Assembly. One of our newest delegates spoke so passionately to our proposed resolution regarding the policies adhered to by some corporations offering scholarships to students.

-What is this delegate's name and school?

To win dinner at a local restaurant, be the first to email Kathy at:

kathy.macisaac@ecteachers.ca



Greetings everyone!
Welcome back from a well-deserved long weekend! I hope that all campers were able to find sites free from snow and rain ☺ Your ARA committee was blessed with poor weather in Calgary so being confined all day wasn't as bad as it could have been were it sunny and warm in our southern city. On Friday night Minister Hancock, Deputy Minister Henke and MLA Sarich spent several hours with us listening to concerns from teachers across the province. High on the agenda was concern for special education and the loss of funding. The minister and his team made it very clear that there have been no cuts to special education from the government side and that school districts make decisions based on the monies available and there is nothing he can do about these local decisions.

Message from our President

His comments on Saturday morning money for teacher salaries got lots of attention in the news. I suggest that we pay attention to the full economic picture of our province, listen to the rhetoric that we hear locally and provincially and do our best to interpret events and comments with a view to post-2012. The revised School Act along with "Setting the Direction" will direct our activities for years to come and it is incumbent on all of us to be aware of the contents of these documents. In visits with our MLAs and trustees, ask questions and keep them informed of your particular teaching circumstances. The weeks ahead are filled with activity above and beyond the classroom. This Thursday we will be honoring our teacher retirees and practically every day there is an event of some sort in every

school that shows the dedication of every teacher to the job and to each other. Staffs everywhere are preparing farewell ceremonies for their peers, religious celebrations and grads for grade six, nine and twelve, staff year-end functions, just to name a few. All these efforts should be widely publicized as they all happen with no detrimental effect on teaching. The big questions??? How do you all do it? How does every function come off as a "class event"? The answer is simple: it all happens because our staffs put everything aside and pull together as community for the good of all. Take one opportunity each day to pat each other on the back and say to each other "My, but we are good!" ☺
Continue to care...
~Sandy