

THE INTERCOM

December 9, 2010

Issue No. 12

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*This is the final Intercom before
the Christmas break!*

December 14, 2010

Council Meeting of School Representatives with Christmas Social to follow! Draws for prizes for participation in the personal email share. School reps are invited to bring a guest.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Merry Christmas Everyone,

We are into the second week of this season of Hope. As we all prepare our homes, hearts and souls for the joy that comes with Christmas, we come face to face with the stark reality that face so many in our midst. The only preparation that many of the poor of our city will be making is how to find a bit of shelter and comfort for their numbed minds and bodies. This is one of the countless times of the year when Catholic teachers shine brightly to those around them as beacons of light and Hope. In the stress of the next couple of weeks, teachers calmly enter classrooms and coordinate efforts to offer food to the hungry, clothes to those in need, and items to the shelters that house the homeless and women and children forced from their homes because of ill tempers and violence. Teaching staffs throughout our local continue to raise the question of why! Why, in one of the most secure and wealthy jurisdictions in the world, do we have so much poverty? Why do we have a food bank with a huge increase in numbers who need it and a twenty percent decrease in donations? These and other questions are put to our children through our retelling of our gospel stories in the Hope that the future will be forever changed by their efforts. We teachers Hope to inspire them to make the difference that our generation has failed to do. What we ask them to do is to make our Christmas efforts, year-long efforts. In doing so, we Hope to achieve the deep structural change needed that will guide leaders of every stripe to make the poor and the marginalized their central concern when any decision is made. This is the lesson that our Catholic schools can teach to all by example...no one left out or attended to. So teachers... let us do our best to be Hopeful for each other and do all we can to build a community of affection wherever we work or play.

A Holy Christmas to all...

~Sandy

SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS' ONLINE SURVEY

The Alberta Teachers' Association is conducting a provincewide survey on the worklife experiences and opinions of substitute teachers. The survey is being conducted until December 17, 2010 at www.substitutesurvey.ca. This survey is a follow-up to the 2008 survey conducted by the Association in determining how to most effectively meet the needs of substitute teacher members. We encourage our substitute teachers to participate in this opportunity to have their voices heard.

LOCAL OFFICE CLOSED FOR THE HOLIDAYS

The Local office will be closed the for the holidays from December 18 – January 2, 2011. We will reopen for business on Monday, January 3 at 8:30am. In case of an emergency, the ATA staff officers will be available: 780-447-9400.

PRE-RETIREMENT WORKSHOPS SCHEDULED! Only 23 spots left!

Heather Johnson, pension consultant, will be presenting a two-part Pre-Retirement Workshop in January for interested teaching staff. The sessions will include dinner and will run from 6-9pm on Monday, January 24 (Part 1), and Monday, January 31 (Part 2). Both sessions will be offered in the auditorium at Barnett House. The workshops are free of charge, sponsored by the Local, and are limited to 75 participants. Email Jan to register: jan.bossmin@ecteachers.ca

MESSAGE ABOUT HEALTH SPENDING ACCOUNTS

If you have not yet filled out your Direct Deposit Form for ASEBP, please go either to MyECSD, HR Documents, or to the ASEBP website to find the form, fill it out and return it to ASEBP. They can NOT reimburse your Health Spending Account Credits without your banking information. If you have any questions, please phone ASEBP directly: 780-431-4786.

Meetings & Events

Tuesday, Dec. 14, 2010

Council mtg., 6pm,
Auditorium, Barnett House.
Presentations to scholarship winners, St. Vincent de Paul Society, Spiritan Fathers (Father Michael Troy) and the Ed Trust Award winners.

Monday, January 3, 2010

Local office reopens at 8:30am. Happy New Year!

Tuesday, January 4, 2010

Executive Mtg. #05, 5pm,
Boardroom, Barnett House

Tuesday, January 18, 2010

PD Mentorship for New Teachers, Auditorium, Barnett House. Watch the Intercom for more details in the New Year.

WEBSITE:

www.local54.teachers.ab.ca

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LIFE'S HANDBOOK OF WISDOM:

"Don't knock
something. Build
something."