

UPCOMING EVENTS:

The 2-part Pre-Retirement Workshop being held in the auditorium of Barnett House on Monday, January 24 & 31. Dinner will be available at 5:15. Workshop sessions begin at 5:30pm. Both sessions are full!!!!!!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hi everyone

I have been thinking a lot about the proposal from the Government regarding the Tripartite discussions. When a formal document is presented, possibly this week, I would respectfully offer this suggestion for all of us teachers within our local. Read it carefully, take ten or fifteen minutes to sit with it and then begin to highlight sections that jump out at you. Make some notes, and then begin the task of questioning for clarification. Based on our conversations last weekend, there appear to be tremendous possibilities for changing the way education is delivered in our province for many years to come. As teachers, we will have the opportunity to be directly involved in making changes to our profession that will affect our workload and opportunities for professional development. I am sure this will be the "hot topic" for many weeks to come and we will pass on any new information that becomes available. Our EPC (Economic Policy Committee) is meeting this week to discuss what we know thus far.

We do live in interesting times ☺ Take care and enjoy the snow. ~Sandy

ONLINE SURVEY-www.flexteaching.ca

What does flexible teaching and learning look like for you as a teacher? If you teach in an environment where digital technologies are used as a component of students' learning; if you teach in primarily digitally mediated learning environments such as online learning, e-learning and/or distributed learning; or if you teach in outreach schools or distance learning, your professional organization is asking that you take a moment to complete this online survey. The ATA, in collaboration with the U of A, would like you to add your voice to this research study. You also have an opportunity to volunteer to participate in a focus group being held during teachers' convention. Please take 10-15 minutes to do this important survey! Presently most of the data received has been from Calgary; Edmonton deserves a voice!

TRADE A BOOKLET FOR A LANYARD-SAVE A TREE!

This year your convention committee has taken a bold step to reduce the amount of paper used at GETCA. In place of a convention booklet, each certificated teacher will receive a lanyard for ID purposes. These lanyards will be sent to the schools in the middle of February. Substitute teachers will have a lanyard available for pick up at the Local office if they wish to attend convention. The "Convention at a Glance" website will be available for pre-registration in the near future. A representative from GETCA will be available at the February 15 Council meeting to answer any questions you may have. Please check www.getca.com for regular updates.

MATERNITY LEAVE INFORMATION NIGHT—Wednesday, February 16, 2011

If you are expecting a baby, or planning to start a family soon, we invite you and a guest to register for our Local's Maternity Leave Information Night being held Wednesday, February 16, 2011 at Barnett House beginning at 7:00pm. Topics covered during the evening will include: the Collective Agreement, Employment Insurance, ASEBP, and recent developments regarding maternity leaves. Refreshments will be served. Please register by emailing: jan.bossmmin@ecteachers.ca

SEARCH THE NET BETTER, FASTER: GOOGLE AND BEYOND!

The Local's PD Committee, chaired by Marcel Evaristo (St. Alphonsus) has organized a tech session for you! Do you feel overwhelmed when you do a Google search? Do you have trouble finding what you're looking for? Help has arrived! During this session you will learn about the exciting and surprising resources available through the ATA Library website! The ATA Librarian will show you tips and tricks for getting exactly what you want out of Google. You'll see other search engines and learn why you may want to use them instead of Google. Join us on Wednesday, February 9 at St. James School at 4:30pm. Please register by email: jan.bossmmin@ecteachers.ca Refreshments will be served.

PROVINCIAL ASSOCIATION NEWS

Our sincere congratulations to the following members of Provincial Executive Council who have been acclaimed to their positions for a second term: Carol Henderson – President; Sharon Armstrong-Vice President; Mark Ramsankar – Vice President; Markiana Cyncar-Hryschuk, Christine Harris and Quintin Yardley- Edmonton McMurray District Representatives. We are grateful for the good work you do in support of teachers throughout Alberta.

Meetings & Events

Monday, January 24, 2011

Part I of the Local's Pre-Retirement Workshop, 5:15 (dinner)-5:30 start time, Auditorium, Barnett House

Monday, January 31, 2011

PD Mentorship Steering Committee Mtg., 4:30pm, Annunciation School

Monday, January 31, 2011

Part 2 of the Local's Pre-Retirement Workshop, 5:15 (dinner)-5:30 start time, Auditorium, Barnett House

Tuesday, February 1, 2011

District Faith Development Day-Shaw Conference Centre

Tuesday, February 8, 2011

Executive Mtg. #6, 5-7pm, Boardroom, Barnett House

WEBSITE:

www.local54.teachers.ab.ca

Sandy Gillis, President

sandy.gillis@ecteachers.ca

Kathy MacIsaac, Exec. Director

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Jan Bossmmin, Office Manager

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QUOTE OF THE DAY:

"Teachers really make lives happen when they do their thing."

~Al Pacino

Included in this mailing:

1 Member Diary
"Know Your Rights"-1 per ATA-Booklet: "We are teachers. Teaching is our profession
Maternity Information Night
Poster-please post

The following excerpt was taken from the article “Alberta government, teachers and school boards in discussions about the future of teacher collective agreements” appearing on the Alberta Teachers’ Association’s home page: www.teachers.ab.ca:

Securing long-term labour peace, protecting education programs and enabling meaningful education transformation, all in difficult financial circumstances, have been key topics in ongoing discussions initiated by the Alberta government and involving representatives of the Alberta Teachers’ Association (ATA) and the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA). The Alberta government has asked teachers and boards to consider reopening and replacing those agreements with new ones extending to 2015.

The government, faced with managing a \$5 billion budget deficit, is asking teachers to forgo that increase, now estimated to be 4.3 per cent, in return for other benefits.

In return for teachers giving up their 4.3 per cent increase and accepting limited salary increases in subsequent years, significant and enforceable limits on the amount of time teachers will be responsible for instructing students would be implemented. As well, limits on the amount of additional time that teachers could be formally assigned to other duties beyond instruction would be established. Such restrictions on hours of work would be attractive to teachers as they would help rebalance teacher workloads, allowing additional time for lesson preparation, collaboration, professional development, community and parent outreach, and other board and government initiatives. Total assignable time, which includes instructional time, does not represent the entire workload of teachers.


A guarantee of a minimum number of professional learning days in the school year, the establishment of a standing government-ATA-ASBA consultation committee to address issues relating to the government’s transformation agenda, a disputes resolution process for enforcing the agreement, maintenance of the class size initiative and a commitment to provide necessary funding to school boards are also in the mix.




Attention Art Teachers:

Here’s a contest for the budding artists in your school! We are looking for student artwork for the cover of the Teachers’ Retirement Reception booklet. The art should reflect the theme: “Live on in my love.” (John 15:9)

One entry per school may be submitted to the Local via IMC. Deadline is Tuesday, February 22nd. For further information, contact Kathy MacIsaac (780-451-1196).

A prize will be awarded to the winning entry!



Integrating   
Citizenship Education
Into Alberta Classrooms

Join us and get inspired to teach citizenship education! This event will feature valuable resources, workshops and networking opportunities for Alberta elementary and secondary teachers and education students.

January 28, 2011
Barnett House
11010 142 Street NW, Edmonton
9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
\$75 Registration (\$60 for Students)
(includes lunch & parking passes)
Registration Deadline: January 16
LIMITED SPACE
To register, please go to
http://www.surveysmonkeys.com/s/pd_day_jan28
or call www.teachers.ab.ca or www.jmacisac.ca for more information