

WHAT COULD YOUR SCHOOL DO WITH \$5000?

The ATA is promoting the value of and need for adequate funding for Public Education in Alberta. Win \$1000, \$1500, or \$5000 by telling your story about your favourite school. Visit www.myalbertaschool.ca for guidelines and a list of prizes. The contest is open to both students and teachers. We know you teachers have great stories to share. Good luck!

BLOG THE KING

In last week's Intercom President, Sandy Gillis, invited you to visit dkingofAlberta to read and respond to Mr. King's blog concerning separate school education being an anachronism. Please stand up, blog and be heard as to why your Catholic schools should remain viable in Alberta.

LOCAL'S NEW TEACHER MENTORSHIP PROGRAM TO VISIT LSI

The Local PD Committee's New Teacher Mentorship Program will be offering an afternoon session to participants, their mentors and committee members on Tuesday, November 30th from 1pm – 3pm at St. Peter's Education Centre (Learning Support Innovations). The afternoon will consist of an introduction to the facilities, a tour and time to look at the resources offered by LSI. Immediately following all are invited to the Walkabout Pub on Whyte- a locally owned business (former Edmonton Catholic student)- to welcome the Christmas season with refreshments and good cheer. Please register for the afternoon by emailing: jan.bossmmin@ecteachers.ca

LOCAL PD - INTERVISITATION OPPORTUNITY

The Local's PD Committee is offering 200 Intervisitation Grant opportunities for members to observe a colleague in an educational setting. The Local will cover the cost of a substitute teacher for one half day. If you are interested in this valuable professional development opportunity, please complete the form which is included in this week's Intercom and fax it to the Local office (780-454-1250). To save paper and ink we ask that only the grant be faxed (no cover page). Once your completed form is received, an email will be sent to you with your grant number. Because of the immense popularity of the Intervisitation Grants, the Local has **doubled the number** available this year. If you have any questions, please email jan.bossmmin@ecteachers.ca All assigned Intervisitation Grants must be used by Friday, June 10, 2011.

PRE-RETIREMENT WORKSHOPS SCHEDULED!

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, and Monday, January 31. 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.bossmmin@ecteachers.ca

“E-Liability”

All substitute teachers are invited to a meeting and PD opportunity at St. James School on Thursday, November 18th at 7pm. This session entitled “E-Liability” will be presented by Brian Andrais of the ATA's Teacher Welfare department. The impact of existing and emerging technologies on teachers, including 24/7 accessibility, cyberbullying, privacy concerns (Facebook and YouTube) and maintaining appropriate boundaries with students in chat rooms and blogs will be assessed. Also, the session will examine court cases of cyber-libel against teachers, as well as restricting cell phone use in schools. The session will draw on existing case law and specific incidents involving member services' staff during the past few years.