



and now...your "Local" news!

October 14, 2010

SCHOOL OPENING MASS

Our wonderful tradition of beginning the school year by celebrating Mass together, as we did on August 31st at the Winspear, almost seems like a distant memory now! Our sincere thanks to all of you for your generous donations to the Society of St Vincent de Paul, an organization which serves the poor of our community. Our offertory collection totalled \$7777.95, which will be presented to a member of the Society at the December meeting of the Council of School Representatives. Special acknowledgements go to Floriana Bruni-Bossio (Ecole Frere Antoine) and her committee for their many hours of planning and preparation.



Mark Martin facilitates the conversation with candidates Brad Lohner and Debbie Engel, Ward 74

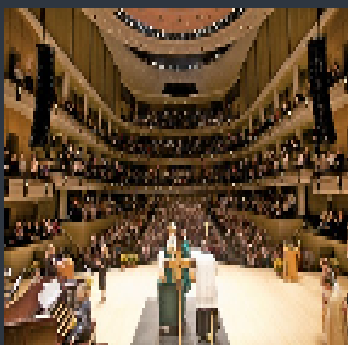
CATHOLIC SCHOOL TRUSTEE FORUM ENGAGES CITIZENS

On October 4th, your Edmonton Catholic Teachers' Local, under the capable direction of Mark Martin, teacher at St. John Bosco School and Chair of our Political Engagement Committee, hosted a forum at Barnett House for Catholic school trustee candidates. With close to 200 attendees---teachers as well as other interested Edmonton citizens---the evening was a resounding success! Aptly named "An Evening of Conversation," trustees met in small groups with constituents from their respective wards where they answered questions and engaged in dialogue on a variety of issues such as: education funding, standardized testing, class size and class composition, inclusive education, full-time kindergarten programs, schools in mature neighborhoods, and mentorship of teachers new to the profession. These conversations were followed by an informal "Meet and Greet" social event, which allowed for further conversation. Our thanks to the following candidates who were in attendance that night: Ward 71: Becky Kallal; Ward 72: Patricia Grell, Larry Kowalczyk, Carla Smiley; Ward 73: Cynthia Bossmine-Davis, Jennifer Chahal, Cindy Olsen; Ward 74: Debbie Engel, Brad Lohner, Ward 75: John Acheson, Rudy Arcilla, Lauri Friesen; Ward 76: Marilyn Bergstra, Bev Heisler, Michael Savaryn; Ward 77: Danny Kinal, Kara Pelech, Laura Thibert. Many of these candidates also participated in the Local's survey, copies of which were sent to each school. We hope these helped you make an informed choice at the polls on Monday, October 18th!

EDMONTON CATHOLIC LOCAL WINS 2 AWARDS AT THE ATA SUMMER CONFERENCE!!
We are proud to announce that Edmonton Catholic Teachers were recognized by the Alberta Teachers' Association with a Public Relations Award for our campaign entitled "Paddling Up River: Increasing Member Engagement" (Congratulations to Communications Chair Chris Ferguson of St. Francis Xavier High School, who organized our team's presence at the Edmonton Dragon Boat Festival) as well as an Award of Merit for this publication: "and now...your Local news!"

this issue

- School Trustee Forum a Success!
- Awards for ECT
- International Peace Day
- Message from our President
- School Opening Mass
- Trivia Contest



PEACE IN OUR WORLD.

World events threaten peace around the planet and if we can trust the facts posted on the Internet, we have 42 wars going on at present with trillions of dollars being spent on inflicting pain on our brothers and sisters in some of the most impoverished places on earth.

The good news, though, is that as teachers, in our classrooms as well as in our staff rooms, we become peace brokers and have all the skills needed to let our students (our future) know that there is a peaceful way to deal with conflict.

One of our teachers has made tremendous strides in this area. Last school year, Colleen Ring, of St. James School, applied for and received a special grant from Alberta Teachers' Association. She produced a peace book of pictures and verse depicting signs of peace from a child's perspective, helped create a peace corner in the school library and continues to keep the project alive through various communications throughout the world. The book has received recognition from Pope Benedict's office, the Dalai Lama and the United Nations along with local recognition from ATA President Carol Henderson, Archbishop Smith, Mayor Mandel and our provincial government. Our local extends warm congratulations to you, Colleen. Best wishes as you continue your path of peace!



Greetings everyone!

Can you believe how quickly this school year is going and that so much has happened in a month and a half --- or two and a half for our friends at St. Catherine School? (who, by the way, are now enjoying their first two-week break from school.) Your Local is alive and well with all committees fully engaged in activities designed to assist members in personal and professional growth.

This past week we welcomed 59 new members into the teaching profession of Alberta. It was a very exciting evening for all of us at the Highlands as our new inductees were greeted by our ATA President Carol Henderson, blessed by Archbishop Emeritus Joseph MacNeil, and introduced to District trustees and administration. I am always moved by this celebration of new teachers and, this year, I wondered what the many members of the golf club were thinking as they were in earshot of the entire proceedings.

Other professions have induction ceremonies for new members which, like ours in the past, are held in a private setting. This year, we held the event in public, and I believe that even if only *one* person made note of the proceedings, then we did something that heightened our wonderful profession in the public eye. A huge thank-you goes out to everyone who made the evening a tremendous success!

Message from our President

By the time you are reading this we should know who our new Board of Trustees will be and the excitement of our municipal elections will have passed. I pray that all our new leaders be blessed with the gifts of compassion and wisdom as they begin a new three year term in our beautiful city.

In the spirit of thanksgiving, let us all do our part to make our schools the most peaceful and caring places possible. Take care of each other.

~Sandy

THIS MONTH'S TRIVIA CONTEST

Of the twenty Catholic school trustee candidates in this year's civic election, how many of them were once teachers? First correct answer in Kathy's inbox will win a restaurant gift card! Email your answer to:

kathy.macisaac@ecteachers.ca

FREE P.D. FOR ALL 87 SCHOOLS!

This year, the Local's Professional Development fund will pay for each of our schools to access an ATA workshop for their teachers. Choose from over 50 different topics, including: Teaching in the Culturally Diverse Classroom, Classroom Management—What Works?, The Art of Questioning, Connecting the Digital Dots, Brain Research, Tools for Collaborative Teams and many more! Email or call Kathy (780 451-1196) to get more information.