



# and now...your "Local" news!

February 15, 2011

## \$1000 BURSARIES AVAILABLE TO TEACHERS!

Did you know that your Edmonton Catholic Teachers' Local has a total of \$12,000 available to teachers who are pursuing their studies in Catholic faith formation or other post-secondary or graduate level courses? The application form is available on the Local's website: [www.local54.teachers.ab.ca](http://www.local54.teachers.ab.ca) and must be submitted by Friday, March 18<sup>th</sup>.

We are proud to support your continuing professional development!

## MENTORING OUR NEW TEACHERS

Our most recent session for teachers new to the profession was held at Barnett House in January. Marv Hackman of the ATA---Member Services gave a presentation on the appropriate use of technology and social networking sites, followed by an energetic and practical session given by Danny Burrell entitled "Strategies for Challenging Behaviours."

We also wish to thank all of our mentor teachers for the constant support and encouragement they provide.



EDMONTON CATHOLIC TEACHERS' LOCAL EXECUTIVE 2010-2011

## GETCA (Teachers' Convention) NEWS

Teachers' Convention is fast-approaching---March 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. This year, instead of a convention booklet, you will be receiving a nametag attached to a lanyard, which is your "ticket in" to Convention. Check the website [www.getca.com](http://www.getca.com) to see the variety of sessions offered. Remember that it is every teacher's professional responsibility to attend Convention. Be sure to stop by our display booth, located near the stairs at the Shaw, for a visit and a chance to enter our draw to win a sub for a day!

## INTO THE SUNSET...



She began 26 years ago in something that was called the Binding Department at Facilities Services. In 1993, she moved to a management position in Printing Services where there was one machine and the beginning of the era of rapid and evolving technology. I first met her with a printing request at 4:45 am in 1994. My principal at the time had called her the previous evening with an "emergency newsletter" that just had to get to the parent community. Because of the lineup of work in the queue, she suggested a "pre-work" job and I volunteered to meet her at the blue building. By 6:30 that morning, I was on my way back to school with the newsletter in hand, having just met Gladys Woitas---the printing lady☺. As we all know, the printing department has touched the lives of every teacher in the District at one time or another, and, in turn, the lives of thousands of students. In the schools I have been in--- and I am sure that in many others--- the statement "I'll call Gladys" was a familiar sound at many critical times of the year, especially during Christmas and spring concert seasons and graduations. She always said "we are here for the teachers who care for our kids" and this kept her going with tremendous energy all these years. I extend kind wishes for a peaceful and healthy retirement to Gladys and a huge "thank-you" for the many years of faithful service.  
~Sandy

## this issue

Money for Studies

Teachers' Convention News

Into the Sunset...

School-Community Relations Awards

Trivia Contest

Intervisitation Opportunities

Message from our President

## TRIVIA CONTEST

Here are 2  
Convention  
trivia

questions:

-Who are the 2  
keynote  
speakers in  
Hall D on  
Thursday and  
Friday at 9:00  
am?

-Name an  
Edmonton  
Catholic  
teacher who is  
giving a session  
at this year's  
convention.

There will be 2  
winners this  
month. Be the  
first to email  
Kathy with the  
correct  
response to  
either of the  
above

[kathy.macisaac@ecteachers.ca](mailto:kathy.macisaac@ecteachers.ca)

Last month's  
Trivia Contest  
winner was  
Shannon  
McElroy from  
LST, who  
guessed that  
the ECT Local  
is 90 years old!



# Message from the President

Greetings everyone,

Now that the tripartite discussions have been formally laid to rest, we need to look to the next sitting of the Legislature. I suggest we contact our respective MLAs and let them know how important our Catholic system is to us and to remind them that nothing should be done that will negatively affect our present status. As frontline stakeholders, it is critical that we are able to articulate the importance and relevance of Catholic education in present-day Alberta. I believe that Catholic education is a precious gift that should not be taken for granted. Any of our staffs that read this and are moved to discussions might consider *"The Religious Dimension of Education in Edmonton Catholic Schools: A Manifesto for Catholic Education 1999."* I further believe that the definition of Manifesto as it applies to this document is very fitting for our present political and economic climate. Manifesto: a public statement of purpose of an organization by an authoritative body of persons. Please consider revisiting this document and invite facilitators with expertise in the theological and philosophical underpinnings of the contents to lead us in making this our own. Just imagine the kind of community that can be created if we define ourselves based on the characteristics contained therein.

We are nearing our Family Day weekend and day off to celebrate the gifts in our lives. On behalf of the Local Executive, I wish you all a weekend of relaxation and joy. Take care of each other and thank you all for continuing to make our Local strong and vibrant.

~Sandy

### **NOMINATE A SCHOOL OR TEACHER FOR EXCELLENCE IN SCHOOL-COMMUNITY RELATIONS!**

The School-Community Relations Awards competition is sponsored annually by the ATA to recognize schools and teachers who excel in building relationships and making contributions to their community. There are three categories: The School Award of Excellence, The Teacher Award of Excellence, and Merit Awards. Applications must be received by March 4, 2011. Go to [www.teachers.ab.ca](http://www.teachers.ab.ca) for additional information.

### **DON'T FORGET!**

The Local is offering 200 Intervisitation grants this year. If you would like to observe a teacher in another educational setting (not necessarily an Edmonton Catholic school), the Local will cover the cost of a substitute teacher for one half-day. Call the office (780) 451-1196 and we will email you a form.