



and now...your "Local" news!

June 9, 2011

"Laughter is the Best Medicine"

Need a way to unwind and de-stress as we come to the end of the school year? Celebrate with your colleagues at the Local's Comedy Night, featuring comedians Matt Wojcicki (teacher at Holy Trinity High School), Kent Tilley (winner of the 2011 "Funniest Person with a Day Job") and many others!

Where? Walkabout Pub
10439 Whyte Avenue

When? Thursday, June 23
Doors open at 7:00 pm
Show starts at 7:30 pm

Tickets: \$10 on-line
www.sites.google.com/site/ectcomedy

\$15 at the door

Every dollar from ticket sales goes to the Canadian Mental Health Association (www.canwetalk.ca)



Mark your calendars!

SCHOOL OPENING MASS

Wednesday,
August 31st
9:00 am

Winspear Centre

this issue

- Comedy Night
- Scholarships Available
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Scholarships Available

Teachers! If your child is graduating from Grade 12 and will be enrolling in a post-secondary institution, he or she may wish to apply for one of the Local's scholarships, each in an amount of \$1000. Forms can be found on our website. Please visit www.local54.teachers.ab.ca

Leadership Academy

The Educational Leadership Academy for principals, assistant principals, and any other teachers aspiring to leadership will be held at Banff Park Lodge from July 11th to July 15th, 2011. This year's keynote speaker is Dr. Betty Garner who will present "Getting to 'Got it': Helping Students Learn How to Learn." The Local will cover the \$900 cost of this conference (which can be used for graduate course credit) for one administrator or teacher. If you are interested, send an email to jan.bossmmin@ecteachers.ca. Additional information can be found at ELA@ata.ab.ca

THANKS FOR SUPPORTING MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS DAY

We had excellent participation in our *Hats On! for Mental Health* contest. Thanks to all schools who sent us such great photos of both students and staffs! A draw was made from all of the entries and \$200 for a "healthy" staff social was awarded to each of these schools: St. Vladimir, Archbishop Joseph MacNeil, and Austin O'Brien. Check out this link <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iUdNHo2HEuk> to see the AOB stage band in their hats at the *ECSD Celebration of the Arts* on May 4th.



Archbishop MacNeil



St Vladimir

TRIVIA CONTEST

Win a \$25 gift card to a local restaurant by answering this question:

Which teacher won the iPad 2 in our Political Engagement Committee's contest: "Why I teach in a Catholic School?"

Be the first to email Kathy with the correct response!
kathy.macisaac@ecteachers.ca

Last month's Trivia Contest winner was Kris Hodgins, who identified Ken Campbell as the mystery employee in the "World's Longest Hockey Game" photo.



Message from the President

Happy Easter for the last time this year everyone!

With Pentecost Sunday upon us, I have been thinking of how pertinent the "upper room" narrative is at this time of year for us and our children. Many are gathered in fear as we await the coming school year and all the ramifications of budget shortfalls. Others are in the same room wondering about job prospects for the new year---for, as new teachers, many are worried that there will be no work for them in their chosen profession for the coming year and possibly the next. Adding to the mix is the simple fact that the month of June is the most hectic of the year because of the innumerable tasks that have to be completed under strict timelines. I have used the word *amazing* several times this year to describe teachers and I use it again as I, and so many others, see how amazing our staffs are as they go about their daily work with such a positive attitude and due diligence. The teachers of this Local always rise to the occasion. ☺ I invite you, as community, to take stock of how well you are managing the many stressors in your lives and pat each other on the back for a job well done and how well you support each other. We all know that this is the time of the year when the children who need our love and attention the most cause us the most frustration. We need gentle reminders to each other that they are acting out because the place where they receive recognition, support and unconditional acceptance is going to be taken away from them for the summer. Rather than enter into discussion with us about their own fears (their upper room) they tend to act out in frustration. Being cognizant of this can give us a way to engage them and give them coping skills for the summer. In some of our sites, it may be finding the monies for them to attend summer camps or finding other supports in the community for them and their families. It is comforting that, in a Catholic system, we can refer to ourselves as an Easter people and that we project this to the public in the many ways we minister to our children. Collectively we know wherein our hope resides.

As we wind down our year, I invite as many as possible to attend our evening of comedy on the 23rd to celebrate the good work done this year. Bring a friend or many friends and add to the cause of good mental health for the children of Alberta!

Continue to care and count down the "sleeps!"

~Sandy