



and now...your "Local" news!

this issue

March 10, 2011

TICKETS AVAILABLE!

Learning Our Way as Aspiring Albertans: A Public Lecture

Thursday, March 17th
Sutton Place Hotel
10235-101 Street
6pm: Registration and reception (appetizers and no-host bar)
7pm: Public lecture and discussion

Michael Adams, President of the Environics group of research and communications group of consulting companies, along with Jean Twenge, professor of Psychology at San Diego State University, in conversation with Stephen Murgatroyd and Pasi Sahlberg, will pursue three questions:

- What is the Alberta that the world needs to see?
- What kind of Albertans do we need to become to get us there?
- How will leadership in learning help us become our best selves?

The ECT Local has purchased 20 tickets for this event. If you are interested in a free ticket, call Kathy by March 15th. (780) 451- 1196



First-year teacher, Julia Dytyniak (Sir John Thompson) enters our draw for "Sub for a Day" at Convention.

- Learning our Way as Aspiring Albertans
- Teachers' Convention Winners
- Lenten Project
- "Sub" Appreciation Week
- Trivia Contest
- Message from our President

GETCA WINNERS!

Thanks to all of you who stopped by ECT Local's information booth at Teachers' Convention. We appreciate that so many of you took the time to chat with us or sign the Anti-Racism banner. GETCA would like your feedback about this year's convention. Please take a minute to fill out the survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/GETCA2011> Congratulations to the two teachers who won a "Sub for a Day!" --- Carolyn Bouchard (St. Clare/Ben Calf Robe) and Cyndy Wosnack (St. Gerard). Enjoy your day!

Is Your School a *Bottled Water Free Zone*?

"Bottled water: safer and cleaner than tap water, easy on the environment...Maybe not! Look a little deeper and you'll see that these claims **don't hold water!** In fact, the very opposite is often true. The bottling and selling of water creates a culture where drinking water is viewed as a commodity or a private good---available only to those who can afford to pay for it. In the Global South, sales of bottled water are on the rise. At the same time, water sources are increasingly being privatized. Bottled water should never be viewed as an alternative to safe, accessible public water systems."

As we begin the season of Lent, our Social Justice Committee would like you to consider the following as a Lenten project: **Commit to creating a bottled water free zone in your school and your home. Choose tap water over bottled water, whenever possible.** We do not want to see two water systems in the future: one for the world's wealthy and one for everyone else!



TRIVIA CONTEST

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

How many teachers signed the Anti-Racism banner at our Convention booth?

Be the first to email Kathy with the correct response!

kathy.macisaac@ecteachers.ca

Last month's Trivia Contest winners were:

Dianne Nykolshyn
(St Justin)

Livia Paradis
(St Dominic)

Adam Sitsko
(Louis St Laurent)



Message from the President

Greetings everyone and déjà vu!!

A while ago, I mentioned Mr. King's letter regarding his opinion on Catholic education and, in conversations since, I have heard comments like "Forget about it, his letter and opinions hold no water" and "His opinions are dead in the water." I suggest, as I have done before, that this is **not** the case and the flare-up in Morinville could be the tipping point for us all. Newspapers in St. Albert, Morinville, and Edmonton have taken up the charge and with all that is happening provincially and globally, rest assured that this is not simply the "flavor of the day."

I have been following the Morinville case with interest and hopefully you have all taken extra interest in the opinions being expressed in letters to the various editors. Paula Simons' column in the March 8th edition of the Edmonton Journal, addressed it in these words: "By failing to acknowledge and respond to the changing demographics of Morinville, the Greater St. Albert Catholic Regional Division isn't just discriminating against Morinville's children. The division's uncharitable position undermines the premise of Catholic education itself." The Journal editorial that same day says "an increasing number of people in this ever more diverse country surely wonder why this one faith should have 'grandfathered' special dispensation, and a call on tax dollars they do not fully share"..... I could fill this Local News and others with quotes by folks who do not think about our school system like we do, but suffice it to say that each and everyone one of us should be able to clearly articulate why we deserve to exist as a separate school system and we all need to have the ability to dialogue with anyone who wishes to challenge us.

I have asked this before and I ask again: Can you find time as staffs to gather in community and bring the question of our Catholic schools to the table? This is not an easy discussion to have and we need the information and conviction to debate the Private Members' Bill tabled in the Legislature a couple of weeks ago. *Motion 597*, sponsored by Ken Allred (PC—St Albert), *urges the government "to solicit public opinion on the creation of a single public secular school board."* Additionally, take a look at the letter in the Morinville News of March 7th from Mr. Kirsop, a concerned parent. The debate cannot occur unless we can all look around our staffrooms, schools and our district and be content in our hearts with the way in which we care for each other. Let the conversations begin in earnest.

Be gentle with each other,

~Sandy

SUBSTITUTE TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK (March 14th to March 18th)

Every day, substitute teachers provide professional service in schools throughout our District. While the role of the "sub" is somewhat different from that of the regular teacher, it is equally essential and equally demanding. Where would we be without our substitute teachers? Take time this week to say "thank you" to the substitute teachers in your school. Let them know they are valued! Perhaps you might want to follow the lead of one of our elementary schools who treat their "subs" to "subs" from Subway during this special week!! ☺