



and now...your "Local" news!

November 18, 2010

this issue

HOW ARE WE MENTORING OUR BEGINNING TEACHERS?

In addition to the day-to-day work being done by all staffs who have a brand new teacher in their school this year, your ATA Local, in cooperation with Edmonton Catholic Schools, is once again offering a formal mentorship program to its new teachers. The group has been invited to take part in 3 sessions so far:

- ~a "Meet and Greet" in September
- ~the ATA's Beginning Teachers' Conference held at the Fantasyland Hotel
- ~ an introductory session presented to both mentors and protégés by Francoise Ruban and Andrea Berg of the ATA

Our next session will take place at St Peter's Centre on **November 30th** where the district consultants of Learning Services-Innovation will provide information about the lending library as well as the services they offer.



New teachers inducted into the profession at the Highlands Golf Club- October 12, 2010

INDUCTION CEREMONY HONORS 50 TEACHERS NEW TO THE PROFESSION

"I will strive to achieve and maintain the highest degree of professional competence, and I will always uphold the honor, dignity, and ethical standards of my professional organization in order to further the welfare of the pupils entrusted to my care."

It was with these words that fifty young teachers took the professional pledge at a ceremony welcoming them to teaching---the most wonderful of professions. Joining our beginning teachers were family members and friends, principals, Archbishop Emeritus Joseph MacNeil, ATA President Carol Henderson, Vice President Sharon Armstrong, as well as school trustees and representatives of senior administration, including Superintendent Joan Carr.

Our thanks to Marcel Evaristo (St Alphonsus) and Elizabeth Evaristo (St Dominic) for their words of wisdom and Melanie Mercier, teacher at Annunciation School, who along with her committee, planned such a memorable event!

Have you sent us your personal email address?

Your Edmonton Catholic Local would like to be able to communicate directly with its members, mainly to provide you with information regarding contract negotiations which could be beginning sooner than 2012. When you send in your email address (not ecsd.net, which belongs to your employer) we will enter your name into a draw for one of several prizes including: a 42" LCD plasma TV, a West Jet travel certificate, and a number of gift cards to local Edmonton businesses. Deadline is DECEMBER 1st. You may email us directly (kathy.macisaac@ecteachers.ca) or provide your address to your school rep. Prizes will be awarded at our Council meeting on December 14th.

**THIS MONTH'S
TRIVIA CONTEST**

What important Alberta Teachers' Association document was read aloud to the new teachers at their Induction Ceremony?

Since November is "Shop Local" month, the winner will receive a gift card from an Edmonton business. Be the first to email Kathy with the correct response: kathy.macisaac@ecteachers.ca

**WHAT'S
"THE
POINT?"**

Father Mike (Catfish) Mireau invites young teachers (18-35) to explore their faith by gathering at The Point. To find out about upcoming events, visit thepointonline.ca



Message from the President

Let us use this week as celebration of all teachers in our district, with a special focus on those who are new to us in the past couple of years. By now, all new teachers are keenly aware that the work entails far more than delivering a set curriculum. If that was all that there was to it, then it would truly be a "piece of cake!" The role can become difficult as soon as we become members of a school community. We end up working with so many different personalities on staff which can sometimes lead to conflict. We end up caring for some kids who want nothing to do with us and yet need us more than those who excel in all they do. For those who excel, we become models for actions and decisions in their later lives and for those we struggle with, we become anchors for them and are remembered as people who refused to give up on them. We also run into some difficult parents and caregivers who resent us for whatever reason and, with all this in mind, we go into classrooms everyday with the expressed intention of making things better for students.

Our new teachers are submersed in preparing their first formal report cards and getting ready for their first parent-teacher conferences. And so, it is incumbent on us all to support them in any way we can. Let us take every opportunity to ensure that they make time to reflect on the benefits and beauty of this profession. It is unlike any other and, when done thoughtfully and professionally, it is the most admirable of all professions. We all need to make our workplaces the most safe and caring places possible so that our new teachers do not become part of the statistic that suggests so many leaving within five years. We have just celebrated Catholic Education Sunday and, if nothing else, have been reminded that our strength and solace comes from a place that brings eternal peace. In prayer and assistance from each other, we will be given all the strength and courage we need to excel.

Blessings to all. Take care,
~Sandy



"Sharing their light" at New Teacher Induction



Archbishop MacNeil addresses new teachers