



February 16, 2012

Issue No. 13

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

All teachers: you are invited to an Evening with the Minister of Education Feb 21, Government House, from 6-8pm
RSVP to: jan.bossmmin@ecteachers.ca

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: Hi everyone,

If we have all survived the sudden intake of sugar from the Valentine snacks yesterday, then the hyper-activity should take us through to Friday and our Family Day weekend. ☺ This has been an interesting month for our Local with changes to our constitution being passed at an assembly that resembled our annual ARA. Our Governance Committee deserves high praise for their work in making our constitution and administrative guidelines the living documents that they were intended to be. This month continues to be exciting on the political front as our new Education Act is presented along with budget. We also get to meet with our Education Minister, Thomas Lukaszuk, this coming Tuesday. He is expecting at least one hundred and thirty of us at Government House on the 21st at 6 pm. Please remember to call us at the office (780 451 1196) if you are planning to attend. Our two hours with him should prove interesting as he would really like to hear stories of our classrooms.

It is hard to believe that Teachers' Convention is just about upon us, giving us the wonderful opportunity to recharge the batteries with a great line-up of speakers and sessions that can only improve and inform our practice. The added bonus is that we get to spend time with both present and former colleagues. The wonderful buzz of teachers meeting each other in such a great environment is something that our public should get a chance to behold. As teachers in this amazing province, we get the chance to share knowledge and ideas that benefit students throughout the year.

In closing, I am remembering the words of David Wells --- that everything is a blessing! This Monday I had the opportunity to visit the Science Fair at St. Angela. The children's displays were simply amazing and a credit to a fabulous staff. Daria Izio was lead teacher for the event and the organization for the judges was super-efficient. The work done there is the tip of the iceberg in describing the daily work done by teachers throughout the district. Additionally, I want to express congratulations to Kathy Dekker of St. Francis of Assisi for being recognized nationally for her work and the dedication of her staff. Take a few minutes and revisit this past Sunday's Journal for the story and the celebration that awaits her in Toronto.

These and untold blessings occur every day in our schools and I invite you all to take a moment each week at staff meetings to give voice to them, thereby acknowledging your work of service to all of our children. Continue to care for each other in all you do.

~Sandy

Meetings & Events

February 12-18

Random Acts of Kindness Week

Monday, February 20, 2012

FAMILY DAY HOLIDAY

Tuesday, February 21, 2012

Political Engagement
Committee Mtg., 4:30pm,
Room 402, Barnett House

Tuesday, February 21, 2012

Economic Policy Committee
Mtg., 4:30pm, Room 402,
Barnett House

Tuesday, February 21, 2012

Meeting with the Minister of
Education, 6-8pm-Government
House. All teachers are invited.
RSVP by email to:

jan.bossmmin@ecteachers.ca

Wednesday, Feb. 22, 2012

Nominations open for the
Local's Table Officer positions
To access the nomination
forms, visit:

www.local54.teachers.ab.ca

Monday, Feb. 27, 2012

Calling all teachers to the
BUGM: Join in the discussion
about our opening proposal
for negotiations on Monday,
February 27 at 4:30pm, in the
auditorium of Barnett House.

INTERESTED IN RUNNING FOR PRESIDENT OR VICE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL?

Nominations for these positions of President and (2) Vice-Presidents of the Local will open on Wednesday, February 22, 2012. Nomination forms will be available on the Local's website: www.local54.teachers.ab.ca Our Local Admin Guidelines dictate that completed forms must be returned to the Local office 14 days after the call which will be 4pm on Wednesday, March 7th. Candidate speeches will be delivered at the Council of School Representatives meeting on Tuesday, March 13. If you are interested or have any questions about the commitment etc., please phone Kathy MacIsaac: 780-451-1196.

STOP BY OUR DISPLAY AT TEACHERS' CONVENTION

The Local's convention display will be located just outside Hall C at the Shaw Convention Centre. Stop by for a visit and be sure to sign up both Thursday and Friday for our draw to win a substitute for a day. See you there!

BUGM (Bargaining Unit General Meeting) – Monday, February 27, 4:30pm

If you are interested in the items your Economic Policy Committee is **proposing** for this next round of bargaining, please mark your calendars and plan to attend the Bargaining Unit General Meeting being held at 4:30pm in the auditorium of Barnett House on Monday, February 27. The week before the BUGM, the proposal will be emailed to all teachers who have supplied the Local office with a personal email address. Hard copies of the proposal will be available at the Local office. Please come prepared to discuss and vote.

HELPING THOSE IN NEED

Youth Emergency Shelter is looking for support! If your staff or school is interested in taking on an initiative in support of the YESS, please contact Sandra Esposito (Social Justice Liaison) via e-mail at espositosandra01@gmail.com to hear about some of the areas of need for the YESS. Initiatives include, but are not limited to: Safeway gift cards, warm clothing drive, food donation, workshop presentations.

If you are interested in volunteering at the Newman College Faith Fun and Fitness Run/Walk with a group of Edmonton Catholic Teachers, please contact Sandra Esposito (Social Justice Liaison) via e-mail at espositosandra01@gmail.com to put your name forward! The Run/Walk is on Saturday, April 28th.

WEBSITE:

www.local54.teachers.ab.ca

Time to Chuckle

"Trying to define
yourself is like trying
to bite your own
teeth."

~Alan Watts