



April 12, 2012

Issue No. 17

Local Ph.-780-451-1196

WEBSITE:

www.local54.teachers.ab.ca

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The April 17th Council Meeting of School Representatives has been rescheduled to Tuesday, May 8th beginning at 6pm in the auditorium at Barnett House.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Greetings everyone!

I hope this past Easter weekend was joyful for us all. The Lenten journey every year gives us Catholic teachers a special lens for viewing our lives and our work. It is also the time of the year when staffing is uppermost in our minds and for our temporary contract folks it is a time of concern and worry about the coming year. For many, there is the knowledge that, as of the end of June, they will have no position for September. I have the greatest admiration for these teachers who continue to give of their time and talent every day and give their best to the task at hand and to the children they serve! To teachers who are looking for a new challenge, our hats are off to you as you step into the world of change and to those who will have to be placed on priority placement lists, we hope that the new year with new communities will be life giving.

In his first reflection on Lent this year, Father Ron Rolheiser introduced us to the idea of "liminal space". The term refers to special times in our lives when our "normal situation is uprooted so that it is possible to plant new roots and take up life in a whole new way." His examples of these times are wide ranging from health concerns including imminent death, to losing friends and lovers, losing positions and jobs along with the associated status, to being betrayed, humiliated and rejected. I am willing to bet that each of us falls into one or more of these few categories and we are challenged to face them head on and come out better than when the "space" began to unfold. If we are able to bathe these experiences with our faith story, we can find solace that our Teacher faced this liminal space in one shot and experienced all the above and more on his Holy Thursday and Good Friday!

Father Ron goes on to say there is never a good time to receive such news and we know that the human reactions of anger, sadness, disappointment and regret are perfectly normal--which is why we resist such news in powerful ways. In community this is a perfect time for us to be aware of our fellow staff members and friends who are receiving unwanted news and give them the gift of time, a listening ear and words of encouragement that all will be well.

You teachers of this local are an incredible lot who are nearing the end of another wonderful year of service. You have been an amazing tribute to our profession and have given amazing service to fellow teachers through your support of this local. I encourage you take special care of each other at this stressful time of year and take every opportunity over the next couple of weeks to have your voice heard in the upcoming provincial election. In a couple of weeks we will have a good idea of what the next four years will look like. We are blessed to be able to do the work we do.

Take good care of each other,

Sandy

ENTER THIS CONTEST! WIN A GREAT PRIZE!

We know that many of you have been regular attendees of the Catholic Education discussion series at St. Michael Resurrection Parish. Do some digging to find out who the next presenter will be and what the date of the next session is. Email sandy.gillis@ecteachers.ca with your response.

Meetings & Events

Wednesday, April 18, 2012

Nominations open for Local Vice President position

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

PD New Teacher Mentorship Session on iPads, SMARTBoards, Virtual Classrooms, 4:30pm, Location: St. Anthony, 10425-84 Avenue

Wednesday, April 25, 2012

School Opening Mass Committee Mtg., 4:30pm, Local office, Barnett House

Saturday, April 28, 2012

Newman Faith, Fitness and Fun Run/Walk at Rundle Park. To volunteer email: espositosandra01@gmail.com

April 29 – May 6, 2012

Education Week
*Opening Doors
Unlocking Potential*

Wednesday, May 2, 2012

Nominations close at 4pm for Local Vice President position

Wednesday, May 2, 2012

Executive Meeting #8, 4:30pm, Local office, Barnett House

Tuesday, May 8, 2012

Council Mtg. #06, 6pm, Auditorium, Barnett House. Candidates' speeches will be heard for position of second Vice President.

Wednesday, May 9, 2012

Ballots out to schools/sites.

Thursday, May 10 – May 16

Voting to take place at schools/sites.

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

5pm-Deadline for return of ballots to Local office. Counting of ballots begins at 5pm by Elections Committee.

Words of Inspiration

"Don't compromise yourself. You are all you've got."
~Betty Ford

BY-ELECTION FOR LOCAL VICE PRESIDENT

Congratulations, once again, to Greg Carabine (Austin O'Brien) who was elected as the new President of our Local. Jonathan Sharek (St. Hilda) was acclaimed as one of our Vice Presidents. Since there were no nominations for the second Vice President position, the Local Administrative Guidelines require us to hold a by-election. If you are interested in running for this position, please go to www.local54.teachers.ab.ca for the nomination form and the election timeline. As always, feel free to call Kathy MacIsaac @780-451-1196 for additional information.

IS YOUR CHILD GRADUATING THIS YEAR?

Your Edmonton Catholic Teachers' Local is pleased to offer 10 scholarships (\$1000 each) to grade 12 students attending a post-secondary institution in the fall. Application forms will be available on April 16 at www.local54.teachers.ab.ca or through the counselor at any of our District's high schools.

FAITH, FITNESS, AND FUN RUN

Your ECT Local is, once again, a proud sponsor of the 7th Annual Faith, Fitness and Fun Run/Walk in support of St. Joseph Seminary and Newman Theological College on April 28, 2012, at Rundle Park. To participate, you may register at events@caedm.ca or to be part of our volunteer group, email: espositosandra01@gmail.com

NEW TEACHERS! TECHNOLOGY PD!

Our New Teacher Mentorship Committee, in partnership with Emerging Technologies, is offering a session entitled:
Technology Support for Teachers
April 24th 4:00 – 6:30 (includes dinner)
St. Anthony Centre: 10425-84 Avenue
Session choices: iPads in the classrooms, SMARTBoards, Virtual Classroom
RSVP to jan.bossmine@ecteachers.ca by April 18th
Mentor teachers are also welcome!