



November 17, 2011

Issue No. 6

Local Ph: 780-451-1196

Local Fax: 780-454-1250

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES:

Join Sandra Esposito and the Local's Social Justice Committee and come out on Tuesday, Nov. 22 to the Mustard Seed Church to prepare and serve the evening snack for the needy of our city. If interested, email Sandra.Esposito@ecsd.net

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: I've been lately thinking about my lifetime..... wait a sec! There is a song in this. See the postscript ☺

In my entire working career as teacher I have had to scold at least one adult once a week for using the four letter word! This word has crept into our working language with a regularity that really bothers me. I believe the word is demeaning in a way that generally goes un-noticed and unless attended to it can affect a person's self worth and the way in which they view the work they do. I am thinking you now know that the four letter word is *JUST*. Here it is: I am just a teacher. This is spoken probably because the admin or senior positions are viewed as better or having more public recognition than the classroom teacher. I am just a custodian or I am just a secretary or I am just a teacher assistant or I am just a.... fill in the blank. I recently met a support staff member who, upon saying "just", and hearing my opinion on the word, showed an obvious sense of relief and gratitude for being acknowledged for the wonderful service she provides daily to all around her. I am thinking that as a collective we need to look at ourselves as parable and the one that works for me is that of the vineyard. We are all workers in this vineyard and every job done is necessary for a successful completion. One of our greatest gifts is to be able to speak of our work as being vocation and sacramental in nature and, in doing so, we relish and acknowledge the work and service of everyone. As we gather in community our observers should be able to say "My, how they love each other." Can you imagine this as a reality?

Continue to care for each other. Sandy

P.S. The first person who names the song I referred to gets a personal gift from me.

Directions: Email kathy.macisaac@ecteachers.ca Subject line: Sandy, song

In this way, Kathy only has to acknowledge the first and let me know!

SUBSTITUTES: HERE'S AN OPPORTUNITY TO GET CONNECTED

Any teacher substitute interested in being part of the Local's Substitute Committee email distribution list please email the chair, Mary Giampa: marygiampa@shaw.ca Communications will be sent out to you about such things as Local events, PD activities, meeting dates and reports, etc.

\$10,000 in LOCAL SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED-CONGRATULATIONS!!!

At the December 20th Council Meeting the following students will be honoured with \$1000 scholarships:

Bishop Greschuk Scholarship: Dorothy Smith (J H Picard)-parent: Shelley (St. Martha)

Bernie Lemay Scholarship: Mattia Poulin (Austin O'Brien HS)-parents: Ida (St. Brendan) & Michael (Austin O'Brien)

Arch. Joseph MacNeil Scholarships: Geoffrey Larochelle (St. Francis Xavier)-parent: Barbara (St Rose)

Marco Palazzo (Archbishop O'Leary HS)-parent: Sandra (Archbishop O'Leary HS)

Kimberly Craig (Archbishop O'Leary HS)-parent: Karen (St. Maria Goretti)

Justine Andrews (St. Francis Xavier HS)-parents: Lynne (St. Benedict) & Don (St. Edmund Jr HS)

MacNeil/Quinlan Scholarships: Emily Frost (Louis St. Laurent HS)-parent: Shannon (St. Mary)

Yvette Yakibonge (J H Picard HS)-parent: Rita Tshiluba (Holy Cross)

Marina Saporito (St. Francis Xavier HS)-parent: Gina Noce-Saporito (Archbishop MacDonald)

Adam Brilz (St. Albert High)-parent: Barbara Brilz (Monsignor William Irwin)

PRE-RETIREMENT WORKSHOPS SCHEDULED!

Heather Johnson, pension consultant, will be presenting a two-part Pre-Retirement Workshop from 5:30-9pm in the Barnet House auditorium on Monday, January 23 (Part 1), and Monday, January 30 (Part 2). The workshops are free of charge, sponsored by the Local, and are limited to 75 participants. Teachers are welcome to bring their spouses. Email to register: jan.bossmin@ecteachers.ca

HELPING OUR COMMUNITY

Sandra Esposito, our Executive's Social Justice Liaison, along with her committee, invite you to give a couple of hours in service to the needy of our community. The two events are preparing and serving a snack at the Mustard Seed Church – November 22 at 8pm and selling 50/50 tickets at an Oiler's game for Santa's Anonymous. If you can help, or have questions, please email Sandra.Esposito@ecsd.net

Meetings & Events

Tuesday, November 22, 2011
Social Justice activity: Prepare and serve the evening snack at the Mustard Seed Church at 8pm

Monday, November 28, 2011
ARA Committee Mtg., 4:15pm, Room 215, Barnett House

Tuesday, November 29, 2011
School Opening Mass Debrief Mtg., 5pm, Joey Tomatoes Restaurant, 112th & Jasper Ave.

Wednesday, December 7, 2011
Executive Mtg. #4, 4:30pm, Room 402, Barnett House

Tuesday, December 13, 2011
Economic Policy Committee Meeting, 4pm, Room 402, Barnett House

Thursday, December 15, 2011
Substitute Committee Mtg. #02, 4pm, St. Joseph HS, Room TBA. A SMARTBoard PD session will follow the mtg.

Tuesday, December 20, 2011
Council mtg. #03, 6pm, Auditorium, Barnett House. This is our Christmas Council Cheer and we invite you to bring a friend.

December 24 – January 8, 2012

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS
Local office closed.

Monday, January 9, 2012
Local office reopens at 8:30am. Happy New Year!

WEBSITE:

www.local54.teachers.ab.ca

Quote of the day:

"If your compassion does not include yourself, it is incomplete."

~The Buddha (563-483BC)