



## THE INTERCOM

December 1, 2011

Issue No. 8

Local Ph: 780-451-1196

Local Fax: 780-454-1250

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

An invitation to all Council Reps-please mark your calendars to join us at the next Council meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. We will be hosting Christmas Cheer. You are invited to bring a friend to Council and a backpack for those in need. See below.

#### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: Hello everyone,

This past week I had several discussions about my last message regarding the four letter word! Many of my conversations with folks were about the dignity of work, our place in the world as laborers, and the purpose of true service to each other. I want to give one of my vice- presidents, Jonathan Sharek, kudos for his comment to me. He said "I am not **just** a teacher but I am a '**just** teacher'." An amazing insight and one that we can all take to heart! The quality of justice is often seen merely through the lens of civil law but when viewed through our teachings on labor and unions in society, it can make our work with each other truly sacramental.

This might be my week of mentioning names for the first time in the Intercom message! I was giving my other VP, Greg Carabine, the gears about football and---lo and behold--- he and the Austin O'Brien team return from Lethbridge with the Provincial Championship! I am now eating crow, Mr. Carabine, but I take this opportunity to say "thank-you" to you and all our teachers who go the extra mile every day for kids when they take on all of these extras. The number of school clubs, extracurricular events involving the arts, team play and travel would astound our public if they were all listed.

As begin our Advent season and our new liturgical year, let us pray for each other every day that this Christmas season will bring us closer to each other in community characterized by service to each other.

Take care of each other, ~Sandy

#### PRE-RETIREMENT WORKSHOP-full to capacity!

Thank you so much to all 75 teachers who registered for the two-part pre-retirement workshop being offered on Monday, January 23 and 30, 2012. We are now full to capacity. The Local will offer another workshop in January of 2013.

#### WE WILL PAY FOR YOUR SUB! – Only 125 grants left!

Are you interested in a half day professional development opportunity? 150 Intervisitation grants are available to you to observe a colleague in another educational setting of your choice. The Local will cover the ½ day cost of your sub. To apply, please access the form on our website:

[www.local54.teachers.ab.ca](http://www.local54.teachers.ab.ca) and email the completed form to Jan at [jan.bossmine@ecteachers.ca](mailto:jan.bossmine@ecteachers.ca)

Once received, you will be assigned a grant number. You MUST have a grant number before you can do your Intervisitation.

#### ONE BACKPACK PER SCHOOL!

Here's a social justice activity we hope every school will take on! The Mustard Seed needs winter backpacks. Please collect these gender neutral items from teachers on your staff and place them in a backpack: Wool/thermal socks; gloves, toque & scarf; toilet paper; 2 bus tickets; soap; deodorant; travel toothbrush & toothpaste; small, warm blanket (attach to the outside if it won't fit inside.); \$5 coffee gift card; lip balm; emergency candle and matches and pocket hand warmers. Your school rep will bring your backpack to our Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> Council meeting.

#### CARING FOR OUR MEMBERS

Please advise the Local office of instances of bereavement, illness or births, so that the Local can have a Mass offered, flowers or a gift sent on behalf of all teachers. Contact: [jan.bossmine@ecteachers.ca](mailto:jan.bossmine@ecteachers.ca)  
The Mass request form is on the Local website.

#### HELPING WOMEN IN NEED. . .

If you have a hotel stay planned for the coming months, please consider bringing home the extra soap and shampoo. The Local is collecting these items for women's shelters. You may either send them to our office thru IMC or with your school rep to any Council meeting. The collection box will always be there.

#### Meetings & Events

##### Tuesday, December 6, 2011

Economic Policy Committee Meeting, 4:15pm, Room 402, Barnett House

##### Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Executive Mtg. #4, 4:30pm, Room 218, Barnett House

##### Tuesday, December 13, 2011

ARA Mtg. #02, 4:30pm, Room 213, Barnett House

##### Thursday, December 15, 2011

Substitute Committee Mtg. #02, 4pm, St. Joseph HS, Room TBA. A SMARTBoard PD session will follow the mtg. Email [marygiampa@shaw.ca](mailto:marygiampa@shaw.ca) to register.

##### Tuesday, December 20, 2011

Council mtg. #03, 6pm, Auditorium, Barnett House. This is our Christmas Council Cheer; 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](http://www.local54.teachers.ab.ca)

#### Sandy Gillis, President

[sandy.gillis@ecteachers.ca](mailto:sandy.gillis@ecteachers.ca)

#### Kathy MacIsaac, Exec. Director

[kathy.macisaac@ecteachers.ca](mailto:kathy.macisaac@ecteachers.ca)

#### Jan Bossmine, Office Manager

[jan.bossmine@ecteachers.ca](mailto:jan.bossmine@ecteachers.ca)

#### Just an observation:

The quickest way for a parent to get a child's attention... is to sit down and look comfortable. ☺