



UPCOMING EVENTS:

An invitation to all Council Reps-please mark your calendars to join us at the next Council meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 20th 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: We teachers are well into the Advent season. I have been thinking a lot about our key roles in the lives of our children and the people we work with and for. We have listed many of the roles in the past but the one that springs to mind these days is the role of story teller. This is the time of the year in our church calendar when this role is in the forefront. What a gift it would be to be able to craft a story that captivates our audience, compelling the hearers to make a difference in their own lives and in the lives of each other!

A large number of us were given the gift of listening to a world famous story teller this week. Robin Sharma invited us to reflect on our lives through the language of leadership and, in a nutshell, asked us to make 2012 the best year of our lives. There is not enough space or time to address the whole of his talk but he suggests that in order to prepare ourselves to be our best we must first clean up our mess. Our obvious mess of course is our workspace!!! (made me blush a bit). He spoke of the real messes in our lives as those that lie in broken relationships and the fear that overtakes us as we acknowledge and attempt to fix things between ourselves. Is there a connection here to us Catholic teachers and our Advent journey?

Father Mike McCaffery and Sandy Prather led a group in an Advent preparation that focused folks on the meaning of the Incarnation and the importance of readying ourselves each year for celebrating the birth of Jesus. These two spiritual leaders invite us to look at our lives so that we can be our best. Their invitation is to examine ourselves and see who we need to forgive, including our own selves. They suggest finding quiet time and listing those that we have hurt and those who have hurt us in any way and pray for the strength to find the words "I forgive." This makes our Advent journey very difficult but if we take this on and find the quiet in our souls that from a cleaned un-messy conscience, then we will have the best Christmas ever.

Take care of each other in special ways this Advent, ~Sandy

NOTIFICATION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY 6pm – Dec. 20th

ALL teachers are invited to a General Assembly beginning at 6pm just prior to the business of our regular Council meeting. The 2 agenda items will deal with proposed amendments to our Local Constitution. See attached agenda.

DECEMBER 20TH COUNCIL MEETING

School reps: Mark your calendars, invite a colleague and join us for our Council of Christmas Cheer on December 20th! The agenda includes the presentation of the Local's scholarships followed by a Christmas social. The meeting will begin at 6pm in the auditorium of Barnett House and will adjourn at 8:00pm.

WE WILL PAY FOR YOUR SUB!

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 and email the completed form to Jan at jan.bossmmin@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. 20th Council meeting.

Meetings & Events

Tuesday, December 13, 2011
ARA Mtg. #02, 4:30pm, Room 213, Barnett House

Thursday, December 15, 2011
Substitute Committee Mtg. #02, 4:15pm, St. Joseph HS, Room TBA. A SMARTBoard PD session will follow the mtg. Email marygiampa@shaw.ca to register.

Tuesday, December 20, 2011
General Assembly and Council Meeting #03, 6pm, Auditorium, Barnett House.

December 24 – January 8, 2012

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS
Local office closed

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

Wednesday, January 11, 2012
Executive Mtg. 4:30pm, Room TBA, Barnett House

WEBSITE:

www.local54.teachers.ab.ca

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Just an observation:

"You grow up the day you have your first real laugh – at yourself." ☺

~Edith Barrymore

Local 54 of the Alberta Teachers' Association

DRAFT Council Meeting Agenda

December 20, 2011

Barnett House 6:30 – 8:00 PM

Followed immediately by Christmas Cheer!

Activity		Speaker	Notes
Prayer/Welcome		S. Gillis	
2. Approval of agenda		S. Gillis	
3. Presentations		S. Gillis	Grade 12 Scholarship winners Educational Trust Award winners
4. Approval of Minutes		S. Gillis	
5. Business arising from minutes		S. Gillis	
5. Announcements		K. Maclsaac	
6. President's Report		S. Gillis	
7. D.R. Report		Q. Yardley	
8. Liaison/Committee Reports			
a) Teacher Welfare		W. Prokopiw	Upcoming contract negotiation news
b) Member Services		C. Ferguson	
c) Professional Development		A. Ghali	
d) Communication		M. Martin	
e) Governance		D. Bauer	
f) Social Justice		S. Esposito	
g) GETCA		C. Bowers	
h) Substitute Teachers		M. Giampa	
i) - Employee Relations - Board meetings		J. Sharek G. Carabine	
j) Finance		K Maclsaac	Financial report ending November 30, 2011
9. New Business			
ARA Motion: capital expenditure Question Period		S. Gillis S. Gillis S. Gillis	
10. Closing Prayer /Adjournment		S. Gillis	