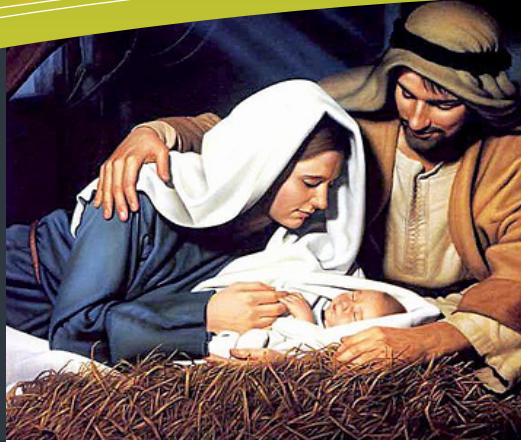




and now...your "Local" news!

December 15, 2011



this issue

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\$10,000 in Scholarships to Children of Teachers!

Our Scholarship Committee, under the leadership of Angie Bober (Fresh Start), has chosen the 10 recipients of our Local scholarships. At our Council meeting on December 20th, these students will be awarded \$1000 each to put toward their post-secondary education.

Congratulations to:

Dorothy Smith (JH Picard)
Mattia Poulin (Austin O'Brien)
Geoffrey Laroche (St FX)
Marco Palazzo (O'Leary)
Kimberly Craig (O'Leary)
Justine Andrews (St. FX)
Emily Frost (Louis St Laurent)
Yvette Yakibonge (JH Picard)
Marina Saporito (St. FX)
Adam Brilz (St Albert High)

Thanks to our committee members for their many hours of dedication to this important work: Angie Bober, Simone Desilets, Sarah Fedoration, Walter Kowalchuk, Sue Leveille, Rosemary Melchior, Lisa Reeves, Susan Sarich, and Erin Yarmuch.

If you are a teacher whose child is graduating in 2012, be sure to read the *Intercom* and *Local News* in April for information about the application process.

Message from our President

Greetings everyone

It is amazing how time flies in our busy lives. Here we are entering our fourth week of Advent with the joy of Christmas ahead of us and we are still caught in a flurry of activity in our schools and personal lives. Since listening to Robin Sharma a couple of weeks ago, I have been toying with the idea of imagination and how powerful a force it is and can be for us. Our imagination can be one of our greatest blessings or our greatest curse. We can imagine ourselves being anything, doing anything, or accomplishing anything. We can imagine a world of peace, of no strife, no poverty ...the list is endless. Our imagination can also have us imagine the worst scenarios possible and see the world, including our workplaces and homes, as harmful places for us. Every year, as we begin anew, we are encouraged to imagine the year ahead as the best yet. Sharma echoes the sentiment or cliché: "What if today was the last day of our lives? How would we be?" Perhaps we could give each other the best Christmas present ever and imagine the best for each other and then take particular steps to make it happen. Can we imagine for ourselves, as teachers, workplaces where we come every day with a smile and an attitude that we can do anything as long as we are working together in community? Do we dare imagine schools where there is no rancor, and if there is, then we deal with it through a reconciliation process that leaves everyone's spirit intact? The list is endless so I invite you, individually or in groups, to add to the list of imaginations and post them for all to see! The story of Nazareth is supposed to inspire us to understand the meaning of a God who chooses to become incarnate for us, for all time. As we near Christmas and see the outpouring of generosity to the poor of our city, we should be heartened by the work being done by our Local in our justice activities. We should be very proud that, as Catholic teachers, we not only serve our poor and marginalized in our classrooms, but we actively invite them into our schools, giving them the Christmas message of hope all year! How blessed we are!

Take care and have a most blessed Christmas with family and friends.

~Sandy



TREAD CAREFULLY! Technology, E-mail and Social Media

Digital technology has changed the way we live and work. Although new technologies have become invaluable tools for 21st century learning, they may also create potential risks. Teachers are responsible for their conduct as professionals and for their on-line reputation. Our advice is to keep ethical standards in sight at all times. Represent yourself in social media the way you would in person. As educators, we model professionalism and responsibility in both the real AND virtual worlds.

TRIVIA CONTEST!!

Margo Marciniak (St Basil School) won last month's \$25 gift card for being the first to submit (and spell correctly!) the name of our new Minister of Education: THOMAS LUKASZUK
This issue's trivia question is: *In November (with 21 teaching days), guess how many Local committee meetings we hosted?!*

First correct answer in Kathy's inbox will win a \$25 gift card!
kathy.macisaac@ecteachers.ca

Edmonton Catholic Teachers Open Their ♥♥♥♥♥ to the Homeless

This fall, our Social Justice committee, chaired by Sandra Esposito (Sister Annata Brockman School), has put its energy into bringing hope to the homeless of our city. On November 22nd, twenty teachers---elementary, secondary, substitutes, administrators and consultants---prepared an evening snack at the Local office then served it to about 75 people at the Mustard Seed Church. The highlight of the evening for all of us was having the opportunity to share a cup of coffee and a conversation with so many individuals---and in doing so, learn their 'stories.' As a follow-up activity, we are asking teachers in all 87 schools to purchase a backpack and fill it with "winter" items including: wool socks, gloves, toques and scarves, a warm blanket, toiletries, bus tickets, a coffee card and pocket hand warmers. School reps may bring their backpacks to our Christmas Council meeting on December 20th at 6:00 p.m. Thank you all for your generosity of spirit!



FIRST-YEAR TEACHERS...Mark your calendars and plan to attend this excellent New Teacher Mentorship session!

What: Meet your consultants and find out what Learning Support Innovation has to offer.

When: Monday, January 16th 1:15 pm

Where: St Peter's Centre

7330- 113 Street

Please use code 41 (Service to the Local ATA) when booking your half-day sub.

Don't forget!

We are collecting shampoo, conditioner, and soap for women's shelters. Please send through interschool mail to ECT Local, Barnett House (or with your school rep to our Dec 20th Council meeting.)

