



and now...your "Local" news!

March 15, 2012

OUR EVENING WITH MINISTER LUKASZUK

Our thanks to the 75+ teachers who responded to Sandy's invitation to meet with Thomas Lukaszuk at Government House on February 21st. Not only did the Minister greet every teacher personally, he also spoke about his "10 Point Plan," the future of education in Alberta, and spent more than an hour listening to teachers' real-life stories of the classroom and responding to their questions. All in all, an excellent evening of meaningful conversation!



Sandy Gillis, Minister Thomas Lukaszuk, Kris Hodgins

NEW TEACHER MENTORSHIP NEWS

Our first year teachers and their mentors came away from their March 8th session at Sacred Heart with some invaluable insights focussing on First Nations, Métis, and Inuit. Thanks to the team at LSE and to Assistant Superintendent Joe Naccarato for facilitating this important afternoon.



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Message from our President

Greetings everyone!

The past week has been very exciting for your Local as we embark on a couple of weeks of political intrigue!! We have a race for presidency with two worthy candidates, Carabine and Hopchin (both Gregs). Good luck, gentlemen, with speeches this evening at our Council meeting and with getting your word out before the ballots are cast. On March 21st we will know which one of you will be leading us forward through our negotiations and into what will prove to be an exciting future.

In the meantime, I will be able to explain my decision not to run as events unfold. I am grateful for the many calls of concern that have come my way and I assure everyone that I am well. I know that everything works out for the best and the fact that life is so good, is enough to stay positive and hopeful.

The big picture story here is that we have a fantastic Local that continues to grow in member engagement. Your executive and many committees continue to address issues and plan for the future while attending to ongoing commitments. Your school council representatives attend meetings faithfully and dutifully report back to their sites. Our ARA committee members who surrender their May long weekend represent us all in a truly democratic process that makes our Alberta Teachers' Association one of the most influential teacher organizations in the country.

So my friends: as we move forward, we can wrap ourselves in the security blanket we call our faith. It is our faith-filled response to challenges and disappointments that makes our communal Lenten journey a genuine expression that we are an Easter people who seek a scriptural response in assisting us to be the best we can be.

Continue to care deeply for each other and the children we serve.

~Sandy



SERVING SNACKS AT THE MUSTARD SEED

Once again, our Social Justice Committee has arranged for members of our Local to prepare and serve an evening snack to the homeless at the Mustard Seed Church on April 2nd at 8:00 p.m. If you would like to join us, please email sandra.esposito@ecsd.net

TEACHER RETIREMENT RECEPTION

Planning is now underway for this year's Teacher Retirement reception. Our committee will be meeting on Wednesday, April 11th at 4:15 p.m. in the Local office. If you have a talent for event-planning and would like to be part of our committee, email our Chair: denis.gauthier@ecsd.net

GETCA WINNERS OF SUB FOR A DAY!

Thanks to all of you who stopped by our booth at Convention last week. Winners of our "Sub for a Day" draw were: Shelley Hillaby (Our Lady of the Prairies) Suzanne Rosko (AJM)

TRIVIA CONTEST!!

Who are the two candidates running for President of our Local? First correct answer in Kathy's inbox will win a \$25 gift card! kathy.macisaac@ecteachers.ca

SUB APPRECIATION WEEK

Edmonton Catholic Teachers' Local says "THANK-YOU" to our

dedicated subs!

DOES YOUR LIFE HAVE BALANCE?



Linda Duxbury is currently researching the work-life balance of more than 30,000 Canadian workers. Her final report will evaluate the health of Canadian workers and their companies. The ATA is collaborating with Duxbury in a groundbreaking study on how changing circumstances at work and home affect teachers and schools. Teachers are invited to complete a survey about their work-life balance before March 31, 2012. The survey is posted on the ATA website (www.teachers.ab.ca).

The survey asks questions about four different life-cycle stages:

(1) no dependents (2) child care only (3) child care and eldercare and (4) eldercare only. Suggestions on how employees and organizations can best address these issues will be provided. The information gained from the survey will be used to advocate for changes in policies and practices to address workload, use of technology, employee well-being and work-life balance.

Duxbury will present her initial findings on the data from Alberta teachers at two public lectures: April 18, in Calgary, and April 19, in Edmonton. Information about the lectures is posted on the ATA website and the Learning Network for Research and Policy website

Ferguson, our member services liaison, invited From Down Under to the Great White North -- to welcome our two Australian exchange teachers who are here for a year. Christine Cupitt is teaching at Annunciation School and Samantha Adams at St Anne. We wish you both a wonderful year experiencing the classrooms of Edmonton Catholic and are glad that you are part of our Local!

