

ECSSA News

Edmonton Catholic Support Staff Association

January 2008



Mmmmmm Cookies!

ECSSA would like to congratulate the winners of the Site Contact Contest. **Vera Kwasniewski** knew that **Joanne Pruss** is the Site Contact at St. Cecilia and **Yvonne Van Elst** knew that **Line Savard** is the Site Contact at Archbishop O'Leary.

All four people received a dozen cookies by George. Mmmmmm, cookies.

This month's contest is about our very extensive Professional Development Library. If you look on our website or check in the new index sent to your schools, you will be able to tell me one of the two books about "Happiness".

Email your name and site and the title of one of the books about "Happiness" to ecssa@shaw.ca before February 11, 2008. Winners will be randomly chosen.

Mmmmm Cookies.

Support Staff Conferences

In the last round of bargaining ECSSA was able to secure one professional development day for support staff. This day will cover the district's conferences during Teacher's Convention held at Lake Louise or West Edmonton Mall.

To be able to access this opportunity, you must first register for one of the conferences. On the registration form there will be a line for your principal or director to sign. This must be signed before you send in your registration form. Those who attend must enter a code 91 in AESOP for Thursday, Feb. 28 (no sub required for SNTA's). At the conference you must sign in.

"Their February pay will not be affected. Those who attend will have an extra pro-rated day added to their June cheque. In other words, if the support staff works full time, it will be an extra full day. If they work 0.5 then it will be an extra 0.5 added in June.

The cost of the extra day will be absorbed into the fixed staff cost. Schools/sites will not see an identifiable extra charge for those who attend on that day." Paul Gagne.

The next ECSSA Board of Directors meeting will be Wednesday, February 6, 5:00 pm at St. Joseph High School.

Come out and share your talents and your views.

Communication Energy and Paperworkers Union - CEP Scholarship Opportunities

CEP Scholarship awards for 2008

CEP is now accepting applications for the CEP Scholarship awards for 2008. These scholarships are available to members in good standing, their children or the children of retired or deceased members who were in good standing at the time of their retirement or death. Applicants must be entering or undertaking study at college, university CEGEP or technological institute for the 2008/2009 session. Three scholarships of \$2000.00 each will be awarded in every region of the CEP. Applicants must submit an essay of 1500 to 2000 words on the topic: "What the labour movement means to me".

deadline is March 31, 2008.

Contact Cheryl Andrews at St. Benedict for more information and application forms.

Promoting Equality: A CEP Scholarship for Women in Male Dominated Fields

One scholarship promoting equality worth \$2000.00 in recognition of the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence against Women (December 6) is made available each year to women pursuing full time post-secondary education at a recognized institution such as university, college, CEGEP, technical or other schools in non-traditional fields of trades, technology, operations and blue collar careers.

These scholarships are available to members in good standing, their children or the children of retired or deceased members who were in good standing at the time of their retirement or death.

deadline is March 31, 2008.

Contact Cheryl Andrews at St. Benedict for more information and application forms.

Did you know...?

CEP (your national union) represents over 150, 000 workers across Canada, and over 2500 education support staff workers in Alberta.

Caring Report

We extend our prayers and sympathies to:

Sharon Roy of St. Justin on the loss of her mother, Fran Kraychy of St. Gabriel on the passing of her brother-in-law, Dorothy Clifford of Fresh Start Downtown on the loss of her father in May and her mother in January and Mr. Michael Bajic and family on the loss of his wife, Colleen Bajic, a member of ECSSA.

Flowers and wishes for a speedy recovery were sent to: Pauline Lamontagne of St. Gabriel School and Marilyn Moses of Archbishop O'Leary High School.

Job Fairs

Edmonton Catholic Schools is once again holding support staff job fairs. February 19 & 26th at St. Anthony, 7:00—8:30.

If you know anyone qualified people that would enjoy full or part-time work with ECS, please invite them to attend.

The Provincial Election and Your Responsibility

A provincial election is expected to be called in early February with the election occurring the first week of March. As workers in education and care givers to our very needy children it is your responsibility and opportunity to be a part of the Alberta's future. Become involved. Become informed, tell your stories to your family, your friends, your community. Attend forums, ask questions (*how come the present government thinks a child can have special needs less than 0.4 of the time?*), expect answers. Vote.

"If you don't vote, you can't complain."

Anonymous.

Who Cares?

A Crisis

Alberta's community agencies-such as women's shelters, disability support associations, and child and youth centers are in a crisis. With a drastically increasing population there is a growing demand for these services. Unable to pay a competitive wage many organizations are forced to cut programs and turn people away. To continue serving our communities and individuals they need the support of the provincial government to pay their staff a competitive wage and maintain vital services.

Go to the Website www.WhoCaresAlberta.com to learn more about this campaign and send a message to ;your MLA. Share your stories about what this crisis means to you and your family members.

You have to take care of **democracy**. As soon as you stop being responsible to it and allow it to turn into scare tactics, it's no longer **democracy**, is it? ...

Sam Shepperd

Public Interest Alberta

Education and Alberta's Future:

Developing the Full Potential of All Albertans

Public Interest Alberta is presenting three forums on Alberta's educational system. Each forum will also feature a short talk by a local panel of three speakers with expertise in advocating for early childhood education, kindergarten to grade 12 and post-secondary education. The forums will also provide an opportunity to share strategies on how to advocate for building our education systems to develop the full potential of all Albertans.

All three forums take place from 7:00 -9:30 PM

- Lethbridge -January 29, 2008 - Ball Room, Students'Union Building, University of Lethbridge (4401 University Drive)
- Calgary -January 30, 2008 - Best Western Village Park Inn, Foothills Room (1804 Crowchild Trail NW)
- Edmonton -January 31, 2008 - Lister Hall Conference Centre, University of Alberta (87 Avenue and 116 Street)

Registration is \$10 or free for students or people with low-income.

For more information and to register - contact Public Interest Alberta at (780) 420-0471, E-mail pialta@telus.net, or visit the website at www.pialberta.org

“Be the change that you want to see in the world.”

Gandhi

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Support Staff

The glue that holds it all together!!