

ECSSA News

Edmonton Catholic Support Staff Association

March 2011



President's Message

When are we going to see signs of spring? We need these to give us hope and inspiration. Can you remember the warmth of the spring sun beating on your back as you did your scheduled supervision? Do you remember the sound melting snow makes running down a drain pipe. Think hard and you can hear the children's squeals of delight to be free of winter jackets, boots and mitts. Remember sounds of rubber boots forging mud puddles.

Ah spring, a time for rebirth, new beginnings and fresh starts. God gives us this season to prepare us for the whole year. He wants to awaken your spirit, warm your heart, energize your body and uplift your soul. Your life was given to you for living and loving. I do hope that this season gives you an opportunity to evaluate the new beginnings and joys in your life.

**If we are not happy and joyous at this season,
for what other season shall we wait and
for what other time shall we look?"**

Abdul-Baha

In solidarity,

Wilma Ellenburgh

CEP Scholarships

ECSSA CEP 52-A is very excited to offer these CEP scholarships to our members. Our members have been successful in securing scholarships in the past. Please complete the scholarship application and essay and send it to either Wilma Ellenburgh at Facility Services or Danny Burrell at St. Alphonsus for the necessary signature. We will then forward it to CEP on your behalf. Deadline for submission to CEP is April 15, 2011.

More details are available on our website www.ecssa.ca. Look under the Professional Development Fund.

2011–2012 Staffing

It is so hard to believe that it is that time of year again. An e-mail has been sent to all ECSD users which outlines all the procedures and timelines for staffing for the 2011-2012 school year. We recommend that you access this e-mail. The staffing timelines are also available on myECSD on the Human Resource page and on the www.ecssa.ca webpage under the newsletters and caring forms link. We will take the opportunity here to highlight a few items of importance. First some important dates:

April 18—the deadline for reassigning Support Staff

April 21—Information Meeting for Continuous Contract Support Staff (St. Anthony 4:30 pm)

We want to emphasize the importance of being pro-active and informed throughout this process. First, you must ensure you have been notified of your status for 2011-2012 **prior to April 18**. If your supervisor has not contacted you with this information, be sure to ask. If your FTE is being reduced by more than 0.1, you have two choices: accept the reduced hours or ask to be placed on the reassignment list. If you choose to be placed on the reassignment list, you will be giving up your current position and seeking a new one through the reassignment process. If you choose reassignment, we highly recommend that you attend the information meeting on April 21. Unless your assignment is guaranteed **in writing** for next year, do not pass up the opportunity for reassignment. Do not accept verbal assurances that your position will be increased next year. If it is not in writing you need to assume that it will not happen. **If you are asked to sign a document that you do not understand or are unsure of the consequences, ask for some time to consider your decision and then contact the ECSSA office.**

This is also an excellent time of year to consider a change in your assignment even though your position may be available to you next year. There are many circumstances which may have you considering a change. Are you starting to feel overwhelmed by your job? Is the stress of your position too much to handle? Do you have an on-going conflict with a co-worker or supervisor? Do you find yourself bored or lacking challenge in your position? If you answered yes to any of these questions, you may want to consider a move during this round of staffing. Getting too attached to our job, our co-workers and our workplace often makes us afraid of change. Even when feeling dissatisfied, we are reluctant to face a move. A move can be a very positive experience by providing new friends, new surroundings, new challenges...learning, growth and development. Is it time for a change?

Remember that ECSSA is here for you if you need any guidance, support or information during the staffing process. Remember that seniority is based on your service within the district not school specific. Staffing issues can be very confusing and can be very specific. **If you are asked to sign a document that you do not understand or are unsure of the consequences, ask for some time to consider your decision and then contact the ECSSA office.** Do not hesitate to call if you need any assistance.

ECSSA 780 456 3277

ecssa@shaw.ca

ECSSA Annual Spring Banquet



You are cordially invited to come and celebrate
with your fellow ECSSA members

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Santa Maria Goretti Community Center, 11050-90 Street

Cocktails at 5:30 pm - Supper at 6:30 pm.

Cash bar.

E-mail Janine Campbell at janine.campbell@ecsd.net or
jmcamp@telus.net for tickets **By Thursday, April 21.**

\$25.00 for members \$35.00 for non-members.

Tables for 10 people available.

Please make Cheques payable to ECSSA and sent to
Janine Campbell at Our Lady of Mount Carmel School

A tribute to our retirees and long service recipients will take place during the evening.

Caring Report

We extend our prayers and sympathies to **Rosemarie Humniski** of Austin O'Brien on the loss of her brother-in-law, **Emma Zanon** of St. Matthew on the passing of her father-in-law, **Yvonne Baillie** of Mary Hanley on the loss of her brother, **Sandra Green** of Sister Annata Brockman on the loss of her mother and **Edna Auld** of St. Francis of Assisi on the passing of her mother-in-law.

Flowers and wishes for a speedy recovery were sent to **Colleen Pasay** of Facilities, **Francesca Perri** of St. John Thompson, **Ollie Karpiak** of St. Gabriel, **Jeannie Cetinski** of St. Pius X and **Colleen Rolheiser** of St. John Bosco.

Please remember to notify ECSSA if someone at your site has experienced a loss or is ill. The caring forms can be found on our website www.ecssa.ca and then click on the "Newsletter and Caring Forms" link. Please ensure that all information requested on the form is filled out. Thank



MMMM Cookies

The winners of the last contest were Tara Allen of St. Pius X, Wilma Ellenburgh of Facility Services, Adele Drouin and Denise St. Laurent of St. Dominic and Dianne Buga of Sister Annita Brockman.

This month's contest is about the staffing timelines for next year. To be enter the draw please email your name, site and the answer to this questions to ecssa@shaw.ca "What is the deadline to inform support staff about changes to their position for the 2011-2012 school year?" Individual entries only, winners will be picked by a random draw.

Edmonton Catholic Support Staff Association

P.O. Box 1323
Edmonton, AB
T5J 2N2

Phone: 780 456 ECSS (3277)

E-Mail: ecssa@shaw.ca

Website: www.ecssa.ca

Support Staff

The glue that holds it all together!!