

# ECSSA News

Edmonton Catholic Support Staff Association

May 2010



## President's Message

I met many amazing women at the ECSSA Banquet however one stands out. This woman enjoyed 36 years with the district. She was not ready to retire but arthritis and pain has taken over her life.

As this woman and I were speaking, I could see the sorrow in her eyes of having to leave a career she loved. She is in pain daily but is accepting of carrying her cross. All of us have some kind of cross that we carry whether it is physical or emotional. One of the mysteries of life is that a grace accompanies every cross. A cross is painful but with prayer and the help of other people we can carry it.

If we can give thanks to God after carrying our cross then we know we are healed. You can think of a grace as a healing. I believe the grace that we receive is in proportion to our cross. If I know the pain of being hurt by someone then I become more sensitive to others not wishing to inflict hurt upon them. That is my grace.

I think there is something holy about our cross. It keeps us close to God. When there is some pain in our lives, we depend more on God. Mother Teresa of Calcutta said that sufferings are the kisses of Jesus in our lives. If that is the way Jesus wishes to kiss me, I will accept. Will you?

*Wilma Ellenburgh*

*One looks back with appreciation to the brilliant teachers, but with gratitude to those who touched our human feelings. The curriculum is so much necessary raw material, but warmth is the vital element for the growing plant and for the soul of the child.*

**Carl Jung**

### General Meeting Reminder

May 25th

5:00 p.m.

St. Joseph High School

Auditorium

Minutes from the last General Meeting and other information are available on our website

### Site Contact

Our most important link in communication between our members are our site contact people. If you are a site contact person who will be unable to continue this position for next year, please consider asking one of your fellow workers to take assume this important position. All sites will be contacted to update the information for the coming school year.

### Caring Report

We extend our prayers and sympathies to Paula Parkinson of St. Elizabeth Seton on the loss of her husband, Kristyn Wildeman of St. Mary on the passing of her grandmother, Anita Davis of Annunciation on the passing of her grandmother and Debbie Heller of Annunciation on the loss of her mother. Flowers and wishes for a speedy recovery were sent to Marcia Guerra of St. Mark, Rita Raimundo of St. John Bosco, Barb Kostal of Austin O'Brien and Vera Ussyk of Louis St. Laurent.

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](http://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 you.

### Banquet Thank You

A great time was had by the hundreds of people who attended the ECSSA Banquet. Good food, many smiles, hugs and some wine was shared among the old and new friends who spent the evening celebrating our Long Service, Retirees and each other. We must make sure we thank our Superintendent Joan Carr, our trustees Debbie Engel, Rudy Arcilla, Becky Kallal, Marilyn Bergstra, the many District personal and CEP executives, Jim Britton, Don Boucher and Wendy Soles who took time from their busy schedules to come spend an evening with us.

Thank you to those very intelligent, good looking principals who brought their support staff as their guests.

And a big, warm, thank you to our ECSSA Social Committee, Janine Campbell, Maria Bavaro, Francesca Perri and Vera Ussyk who spent many hours ensuring that all the small and big details came together.

### Cookies

Congratulations to the following winners of our last Cookie Contest: Yvonne van Elst of Archbishop O'Leary, Eileen Raczynski of Anne Fitzgerald, Jackie Gannon of St. Nicholas, Linda Rojas of St. Cecilia, Stephanie Rosati of Archbishop O'Leary, Denise Yasinsky of St. Gabriel and Caroline Caputo of St. Vladimir School.

This month's contest is about our website. To be eligible for the draw, email your name, site and the answer to this question; *The Caring Forms are on the website. Which one is listed first, the illness or the bereavement?*, to [ecssa@shaw.ca](mailto:ecssa@shaw.ca) Individual entries only, entries must be received by May 29th.

**10 year Long-Service**

Tara Allen	Patricia Gay	
Gillian Anderson	Cathy Gregoraschuk	Brandi Providence
Wendy M. Babcock	Ann Hammond	Simone Rodgers
Patricia Bruin	Barbara Kostal	Karin Stewart
Dorothy Buwalda	Marj Kuetbach	Hilda Schroeder
Jeannie Cetinski	Liz Lanuke	Marjorie Schreiber
Ivy Chaput	Maria Long	Denise St. Laurent
Carmela da Silva	Karin Merryfield	Monique Theroux
Maria De Oliveira	Colleen McCarthy-Durand	Brenda Tupala
Sherrill Flett	Deb McDougall	Alice vander Heide
Christine Gagnon	Vicky Murray	Arlene Webber
Cecilia Geraldes	Diana Nigro	

**15 year Long-Service**

Cheryl Andrews	Laura Fogden	Mary Skoreyko
Louise Dupuis	Jeri McKercher	Eleonor Tan

**20 year Long-Service**

Donna Bouwmeester	Bev Gregory	Jackie Orydzuk
Linda Carter	Pam Huber	Elizabeth Pickersgill
Brenda Eigeard	Judy Ible	Monica Plamondon
Maria Fabiano	Pat Landry	Eileen Sherburne
Catherine Foster	Djurdja Marjanovich	Jill Sherstobitoff
Jackie Gannon	Nancy McNally	Todd Stang
Brent Gallagher	Johanne Mercier	Nellie Vanhees
Janice Grabow	Glenda Narten	

**25 year Long-Service**

Cecile Amyotte	Debra Filevich	Martha Moore
Irene Davidson	Vicky Jinglyng	Laurene Pottruff
Deana Devine	Karen McCormack	Lorraine Ung

**30 year Long-Service**

Lori Bilyk	Jeanine Gates	Colleen Knorr
Yvette Beaudoin	Patricia Helmak	Laraine Korol
Marion Chaba	Barbara Kenwell	Sharon Moore

**35 year Long-Service**

Bianca Campbell

## ECSSA Report

- ◆ April was a busy month. The District began their staffing for next year. This year there were many cuts to our member's time. There were many, many phone calls and emails and meetings with our members regarding staffing. This involved reassuring our members and explaining the procedure and their rights to them. There were instances where incorrect information was given to our members by their supervisors and instructions were needed to correct the situation. ECSSA was able to reinstate a member's FTE after it was discovered that the correct procedures were not followed
- ◆ Our office also was involved in two situations of staff conflict and possible harassment. This involved emails and phone calls with the member, member's principal and Sean McGuinness in HR.
- ◆ Our Employer Liaison Officer was present at the District's information meeting with those members on priority placement.
- ◆ ECSSA was contacted by the media for our view on the current cuts to education.
- ◆ ECSSA's executive and Board of Directors attended many meetings on the behalf of you, our members. Our Employer Liaison Officer was present at a Public Interest Alberta meeting to discuss the current cuts to education with other stakeholders. ECSSA had their monthly meeting with the District to discuss issues through-out the district. ECSSA was present at the Board of Trustee Meetings. Caring wishes were sent out to our ill and bereaved members, and Professional Development items were sent out by our PD library.
- ◆ This will continue to be a busy and confusing time of year. There is a lot of fear and rumours about next year's budget and the effects on us. Please take the time to phone the ECSSA office (780 456 3277) to ensure that you have the correct information and understanding of the processes.

*"I pretty much try to stay in a constant state of confusion  
just because of the expression it leaves on my face."*

Johnny Depp



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*Support Staff*

*The glue that holds it all together!!*