

ECSSA News

Edmonton Catholic Support Staff Association

May 2011



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Support quality education in Alberta. It has been the trend for the Provincial government to underfund education in each and every budget they have set.

Don't kid yourself; this underfunding affects ALL Albertans.

If you are a mother, father, sister, brother, uncle, aunt, grandmother or grandfather the children you are invested in are at risk. Continually underfunding means continual erosion of support.

CEP along with the Alberta Federation of Labour are spearheading a campaign to protect quality education in Alberta. AFL represents the interests of unionized men and women and their families. They speak out on behalf of organized workers in the province. As education support staff we understand the daily realities of working in Alberta's schools. Like all Public employees we work to protect against waste and to improve the quality of care and attention given to the needs of Alberta's Children. This campaign will help us continue to do our important work and fight back for students and quality public education.

ECSSA is inviting you to become involved.

In Solidarity,

Wilma

"Cautious, careful people always casting about to preserve their reputation or social standards never can bring about reform. Those who are really in earnest are willing to be anything or nothing in the world's estimation, and publicly and privately, in season and out, avow their sympathies with despised ideas and their advocates, and bear the consequences."

—Susan B. Anthony

MMMM Cookies

Last month we asked “How you are politically active?” We received many responses with a variety of levels of involvement:

“One way I am politically active, as a full time single mother of 4, is that I VOTE!”

“I do what I can, sometimes I’m told I do too much.”

“I did return my parent survey to ECSD, and am very proud of that!”

“I follow the media and discuss any political issues with my colleges to have a broad knowledge to make an informed decision”

“One way I am politically active is by canvassing for the party that I support”

“One example of how I am politically active is I took the on-line Vote 2011 test to determine which political party stands behind the issues that are important to me and my family. The test was very informative and gave me a much better insight as to who I want to represent me as the Prime Minister of Canada.”

”One way I am politically active is by.....being appreciated and valued with my opinion!”

“One way I am politically active is by following the campaigns so I can make an informed choice on voting day.”

“One way I am politically active is taking part in ...civic functions and events”

“One way I am politically active is by reading articles on the candidates/parties and by voting on election day.”

“One way I am politically active is by voting on Monday May 2nd!

“One way that I stay politically active is to ensure that I never miss a televised leaders debate on TV, I also visit the web site of all the local politicians on my ballot”

We are encouraged by the amount of our members who are politically involved. ECSSA and CEP are asking you to take the next step. We will be distributing a brochure with information and questions for you to talk about at the next barbeque, family gathering, or neighbourhood event. It is important that all Albertans hear our message “Don’t let them “KID” you, Education Support Workers benefit Alberta’s future.”

The winners of the last contest will be announced in the next newsletter.

This month’s contest is about summer and hope. To be entered in the draw please email your name, site and the answer to this question, “What I hope to do this summer?” to ecssa@shaw.ca Individual entries only; winners will be picked by a random draw. Contest deadline will be June 5th.

Did You Know?...

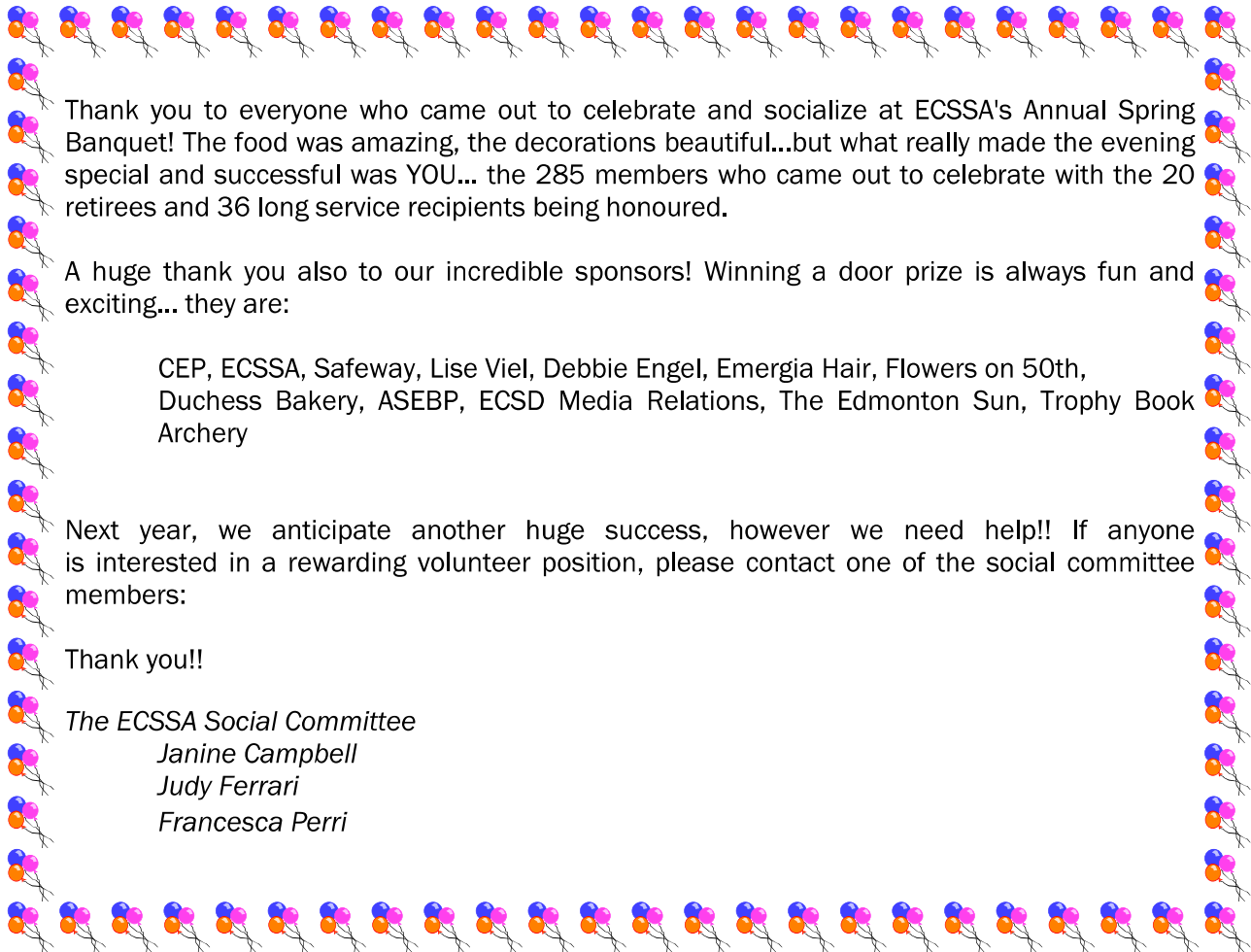
that we need to hear your voices through the survey that was sent out with last month’s newsletter. The Members of the Women’s Committee are committed to finding out what you our members would like us to address. This is your chance for us to hear your voice but, we need those surveys returned, please. Encourage the Support Staff at your workplaces to take a minute and fill them out and send them through IMC to Vicky Bastide @ St. Clement School.

Past newsletters can be found on our website www.ecssa.ca and then click on the “Newsletter and Caring Forms” link.



What does it mean if I take an "Out of Scope" job?

If you "go Out of Scope" it means that you are no longer part of the ECSSA, CEP 52-A Local and any rights and guarantees provided within the Collective Agreement no longer apply. Once you accept an Out of Scope position if you wish to return to a support staff role you would need to start as a new employee.



Thank you to everyone who came out to celebrate and socialize at ECSSA's Annual Spring Banquet! The food was amazing, the decorations beautiful...but what really made the evening special and successful was YOU... the 285 members who came out to celebrate with the 20 retirees and 36 long service recipients being honoured.

A huge thank you also to our incredible sponsors! Winning a door prize is always fun and exciting... they are:

CEP, ECSSA, Safeway, Lise Viel, Debbie Engel, Emergia Hair, Flowers on 50th, Duchess Bakery, ASEBP, ECSD Media Relations, The Edmonton Sun, Trophy Book Archery

Next year, we anticipate another huge success, however we need help!! If anyone is interested in a rewarding volunteer position, please contact one of the social committee members:

Thank you!!

The ECSSA Social Committee

Janine Campbell

Judy Ferrari

Francesca Perri

Remembrance Day Pay Adjustment

It has come to ECSSA's attention that if you work less than 1.0 and normally do not work all or part of Thursday you can claim time-in-lieu for November 11, 2010.

If the employee works the morning (Thursday), then it isn't a regularly scheduled day off, but an afternoon off. So they would be entitled to be compensated for the pm.... (full day) x (FTE) / 2 = T in L hrs..... $7 \times .8 = 5.6 / 2 = 2.8$ hours.... (For a 0.8 employee.)

Please contact your admin for clarification.



He who opens a school door, closes a prison.

Victor Hugo

Don't "Kid" Yourself! Education Workers Benefit Alberta's Future!

Education Minister Hancock recently admitted that Education in Alberta is underfunded by over 100 million dollars. We are concerned that this underfunding will be at the price of Education Support Staff workers and the vulnerable students they work with. We need you to raise this issue with your neighbour, your trustees and your MLA. Do not accept their arguments that this is a "deficit" problem. We believe that Alberta has the resources. We need to know who will benefit from them. We encourage you to take part in the Join Together Alberta Town Hall meetings scheduled for later this month and into June. Please go to jointogetheralberta.ca for more details.

ECSSA will continue to campaign and address these issues on behalf of our students and you.

Education is a better safeguard of liberty than a standing army.
Edward Everett

Caring Report

We extend our prayers and sympathies to **Wendy Wharry** of St. Richard on the passing of her father, **Monique Gravel** of Ecole Bishop Savaryn on the loss of her sister, **Debbie Stocks** of Monsignor Fee Otterson on the passing of her mother-in-law and **Elizabeth Rzechowka** of Austin O'Brien on the passing of her mother-in-law.

Flowers and wishes for a speedy recovery were sent to **Vesna Stevanovic** of St. Mark, **Lisa Diedericks** of St. Gabriel, **Loretta Maddalena** of Archbishop Joseph MacNeil, **Muriel Smolarchuk** of Austin O'Brien, **Susan Waschuk** of Human Resource Services and Carol Kaiser of Holy Family.

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 you.

*Support Staff
The glue that holds it all together!!*

