

ECSSA News

Edmonton Catholic Support Staff Association

October 2006



September Newsletter Delay

We would like to apologize for the delay for our members receiving the September ECSSA News. Since we began publishing the ECSSA News, Edmonton Catholic Printing Services has looked after the printing and distribution of our newsletter. During all those years, the service they have provided has been fantastic, and the newsletter is usually in your mailbox just a few days after we send it to Printing. In September, our colleagues in Printing Services were absolutely swamped with printing from the schools and worked many, many long hard hours to catch up with the backlog they were dealing with. Of course, the requests from the schools were their top priority, and therefore our newsletter was a bit late. We would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank the dedicated staff in Printing Services... and we sure hope things settle into a more manageable pace for all of you.

A few members were concerned that they received the newsletter after some published dates for PD opportunities. Edmonton Catholic Staff Development Department publishes a Staff Development calendar twice each year which contains all the information you need regarding these PD opportunities. Copies of this calendar are sent to every worksite, and the calendar is also available on the Human Resource Services website. If you are interested in what they are offering please visit the website to explore future workshops and seminars for support staff.

We would also like to remind our members that when we send out the September newsletter (every year) the only list we have for the location of our support staff is the one that we receive from the school district in June. We realize that many people move or retire and are no longer at the same location. As well, people move to a new location and their newsletter does not make it to their new worksite. We ask if you could do your best to forward on newsletters to those who may have moved, and try to share with those in your worksite who are new. While we understand this may cause some confusion, we are still able to send the newsletter to the majority of our members. Once October rolls around, we have a more current list. However, every month there are going to be changes in staff location, and we cannot always ensure that we will have accurate location information at all times. We would appreciate your assistance throughout the year, in helping with the distribution to members who are new to your worksite or to those who have moved.

As we express our gratitude we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.

John Fitzgerald Kennedy



Professional Development and Wellness Library

The ECSSA Library has recently purchased some new resources for our members. A list of these new additions is printed below. We have spent the last few years consistently adding to our collection. There are many different types of resources such as books, videos and audio tapes. The variety of subjects is quite comprehensive. Topics include physical and mental wellness, spirituality, parenting, special needs students, career skills, health, conflict resolution, interpersonal skills and many, many others. Please visit our website and follow the link to our library catalogue to see if we have resources that may be of interest to you in your personal or professional life. On-line order forms are also available on the website and resources can be borrowed for a period of three weeks.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Joanne Howell of Austin O'Brien High School for looking after our library and ensuring that we are continuing to renew and upgrade our resources. We would also like to thank Joanne for her hard work in bringing many of these resources to our General Meeting on October 4. The display was very interesting and many of our members in attendance took the opportunity to borrow the resources. Here are the new resources that have been added to ECSSA's collection:

DVD 0212	Keeping Fit in Your 50s: Flexibility
DVD 0213	Yoga for Beginners
DVD 0214	15-Minute Workouts for Dummies
DVD 0215	Struggle for Control: Child and Youth Behavior Disorders
DVD 0216	XS-Stress: Teens Take Control
DVD 0217	Fighting Their Fears: Child and Youth Anxiety
DVD 0218	Autism: The Road Back
PB 0219	Allen Carr's Easy Way to Stop Smoking

CEP National Convention

Every second year, our national union (Communication, Energy and Paperworkers Union of Canada) holds a convention. This year it will be held from October 15—19. Denise White (President), Danny Burrell (Vice-President) and Veronica Slavik (Employer Liaison Officer), will be attending to represent the members of ECSSA. This convention is held to discuss, debate and vote on changes to our national constitution and changes to the processes and procedures which govern the national union. Approximately 1500 CEP members from across Canada attend this convention to represent the members of each of their locals. Elections will be held for national executive officers, for rank and file positions, as well as committee representatives. Watch for a full report on the convention in the November newsletter.

Feeling gratitude and not expressing it, is like wrapping a present and not giving it.

William Arthur Ward

Did You Know? Benevolent Fund



We recently received an inquiry from one of our members about Edmonton Catholic Schools Benevolent Fund. Once or twice each year you may notice a \$1.00 deduction from your pay listed as "Benevolent Fund". This amount is deducted from all employees. Many of our newer members may not be aware of the history behind this deduction. In 1988, when Edmonton Catholic Schools celebrated its centennial, ECSSA decided to mark the occasion by developing this fund. All other employee groups were consulted, and all were more than happy to participate in this gesture of caring for our colleagues. The fund was designed to assist the families of any current Edmonton Schools employee who passes away. Often, the death of a loved one brings with it many difficult financial burdens. With processing wills and estates sometimes taking months, families often do not have readily available funds to deal with immediate costs. The fund is given directly to the family immediately following the employee's death. ECSSA is very proud of this initiative and sincerely thanks all our members, as well as all other Edmonton Catholic employees for their continued support and endorsement of this Benevolent Fund.

Negotiations

Once again, we are beginning to prepare for our next round of negotiations. Our current agreement expires August 31, 2007. We are hoping to be having meetings with the District in the spring. As always, we rely on our members to provide input for our discussions. If you have any issues you wish to see brought to the bargaining table, please contact ECSSA by e-mail with your suggestions.

ecsaa@interbaun.com

Collective Agreement Information Session

Wednesday, November 15
5:00 p.m.
St. Joseph High School
Archives Room

- How does staffing work? How do I get probationary/continuous status?
- How do I calculate my hours of work?
- When should I be paid for overtime?
- What breaks am I entitled to?
- What kind of leaves am I entitled to? Sick leave, vacation leave, parental leave, compassionate leave...
- What benefits do we get?
- How do I file a grievance?
- How does the pay grid work?
- What is CEP? What is ECSSA?
- What services can I expect from my union?

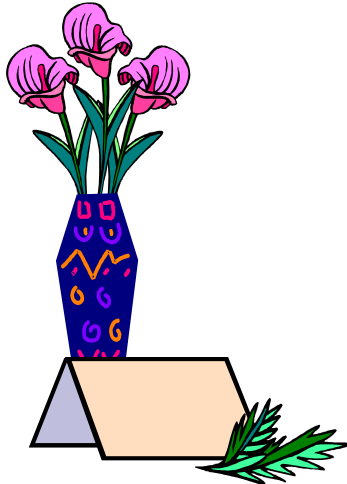
If you have ever asked yourself any of these questions—this is the session for you. We highly recommend this session, particularly for those of our members who may be newer employees of the District. We will give you a brief outline of CEP and ECSSA, the services we provide and then will review the collective agreement and most importantly, take time to answer all your questions. You will also have the opportunity to meet your Executive and Board of Directors...so you can put some faces to those names!!

We will be providing refreshments and snacks at this session, so will need to know how many people will be attending. Please RSVP to Lise Viel by e-mail to:

viell@ecsd.net

I do not think of all the misery, but of the glory that remains. Go outside into the fields, nature and the sun, go out and seek happiness in yourself and in God. Think of the beauty that again and again discharges itself within and without you...and be happy.

Anne Frank



Caring Report

On behalf of all our members, we extend our sympathies and prayers to: Ute Muchortow of St. Elizabeth on the loss of her mother; Pat O'Connor of St. Elizabeth on the passing of her mother; Shannon Hennig of Mother Teresa on the loss of her father-in-law; Marian Chaba of Mother Teresa on the loss of her mother; and to Loretta Maddalena of Archbishop MacDonald on the loss of her father-in-law.

We would also like to pass along our best wishes for a speedy recovery to Meaghan Deitz of St. Cecilia and Marie-Line Savard of Archbishop O'Leary.

Meetings

- Tuesday, October 10 Public Interest Alberta Education Funding Meeting
- Sunday, October 15—Thursday, October 19..... CEP Biennial Convention
- Wednesday, October 25..... Liaison Meeting
- Monday, October 30 Trustees/ECSSA Dinner Meeting
- Monday, October 30 ECSSA Executive Meeting
- Wednesday, November 1 ECSSA Board of Directors Meeting
- Thursday, November 2—Sunday, November 5 CEP Annual Fall School

Thank God every day when you get up that you have something to do that day which must be done...whether you like it or not. Being forced to work to do your best will breed in you temperance and self control, diligence and content...and a hundred other virtues...which the idle will never know.

Basil Carpenter

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Support Staff
The glue that holds it all together!!

