

# PARK PLAINS POST

Park Plains East Local #31

Fall 2012

Volume 2, Issue 1

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:**

Welcome to another school year!

Teachers in Park Plains East local 31 are already working hard and are well into the school year. This will turn out to be a busy year in the local - local bargaining is underway in both Buffalo Trail and East Central Catholic; Communications has plans to build on our award the local won at the 2012 ATA Summer Conference (yay!); and we are eagerly awaiting the outcome of tripartite talks between the ATA, ASBA, and Alberta Government.

Please keep your ears and eyes open for bargaining updates from your EPC chairs. As always, if you have any questions, concerns, or comments about local matters, please contact myself by phone (780-581-0062) or by email ([majer25@hotmail.com](mailto:majer25@hotmail.com)). And don't forget, Park Plains East has a Facebook page!

Lorne Majer

## **IMPORTANT MEETING FOR BTPS TEACHERS!!!**

Bargaining Unit General Meeting

November 12, 2012

4:30 Start time

Wainwright Communiplex

Topics include:

- Local Bargaining Update
- Tripartite Bargaining Update
- Future Bargaining Strategies



Your EPC will be updating all members on provincial and local bargaining at this time. Please make it a priority to attend. If you have any questions/need more information, please contact Kevin Elliott BTPS EPC Chair at [wildcatcoach1@gmail.com](mailto:wildcatcoach1@gmail.com) or by phone 780-856-3881.

***It is not what is poured into a student that counts but what is planted.**"Linda Conway.*



## LOCAL COMMUNICATIONS

It is so wonderful to be back! We have some great things planned for our Local this year and I am excited to share them with you! The theme for this year's Park Plains East Local 31, Special Project is "Creating Balance."

We are often so busy taking care of our students, attending meetings, and running our own families to events that we forget to take some "me" time. This series of Creating Balance challenges will be all about creating that me time and regaining some balance in your life... if only for one small moment in time. There will be a monthly challenge posted on our website, and points awarded to each participant, as the tasks are completed. So what do you do?

It is quite simple...

**Step 1** – Check out our Local website at [local31.teachers.ab.ca](http://local31.teachers.ab.ca) for that month's challenge.

**Step 2** – create a team of ATA members who will complete the Creating Balance Challenge with you. This team does not have to be the same group for each challenge/month, so mix it up and have fun!

**Step 3** – Complete the challenge and email in a picture and names of those who participated. This is my proof, and will also be a great collection of pictures to use in our Local publications! (If you have FOIPP issues, please blur your face in the picture).

**Step 4** – I will record the points for each participant and keep a running calculation for the 2012-2013 school year.

The 6 ATA members with the most Balance points at the end of June will be the champions and be rewarded with some great gift certificates! Everyone who participates in at least 7 out of the 9 challenges will also receive a participant gift!

Watch for our other program for Local Communications, detailed in the next newsletter, which will be to nominate a teacher for a 10 question survey to be posted in local newspapers and our website, starting in January 2013!

Thank you!

Rebecca McCullough



## **ECONOMIC POLICY COMMITTEE BTPS**

The Negotiating Sub-committee has been meeting with the School Board to negotiate our contract for the last two months we have decided to hold a bargaining unit meeting to inform you of the developments and challenges that have occurred in the initial stages of bargaining. Some of the challenges surround the provincial bargaining tactic of ASBA (Alberta School Boards Association) called 'transparency', which has included publishing initial bargaining proposals in other jurisdictions. We don't believe that you should have to defend our proposal in public.

### **Who should attend?**

All teachers working for Buffalo Trail Public Schools... see information on the front page!



### **Why should you attend?**

At that meeting we will provide a detailed summary of the history of negotiations, discuss future actions, and we will also vote on an authorization for the application of a government appointed mediator. This does not mean we are proceeding to mediation, this only gives the committee the authorization to move this direction if we feel we have reached impasse.

Kevin Elliott

Any questions email me at  
[wildcatcoach1@gmail.com](mailto:wildcatcoach1@gmail.com)  
Or call me at 587-281-0096



*"There are three things to remember when teaching: know your stuff; know whom you are stuffing; and then stuff them elegantly"*

*~ Lola May*

## **ECONOMIC POLICY COMMITTEE ECACS**

Negotiations with East Central Catholic have been pushed back to this fall with the first meeting scheduled for Friday Oct 19.

The members of the NSC (negotiating committee) are Dave Sader, Gil Kohle and Dwayne Coffey.

Things will be updated as information becomes available.

Blaine Woodall, Chair East Central EPC.



## CONVENTION BOARD

CEATCA Convention is scheduled for March 7 and 8, 2013. The date in the ATA diary is incorrect so please take note of our date. As well, the Brier is on in Edmonton at the same time, so please get your hotel booked. Westin phone number is 780-426-3636. Some of you have already booked your hotel and Westin may have told you to pay upfront. This is not a direction from CEATCA. Our facilities chair has looked into it and the Westin is removing this condition immediately. I believe that they will reverse the charge for those who have already made the deposit.

Our title this year is "Diversify Your Learning" and the gathering of speakers has begun. We have ordered lanyards from Morgex (free to us) to be used as identification. On the lanyard will be a Morgex ad, CEATCA logo, and perhaps convention at a glance. We will decide this latter part at our November meeting.

Please feel free to send us any ideas/speakers information as it is important to us.

Thanks,  
Linda Rathwell

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

This year's PD went ~~very~~ well. Cassie Campbell-Pascal was very well received. We hope that you all enjoyed your day. Thank-you all for your feedback, as it will be used to guide our planning for next year. If you have any session ideas or Keynote speaker requests please send to [Alysha.Grosky@btps.ca](mailto:Alysha.Grosky@btps.ca).

## MENTORSHIP

Mentorship is off to a wonderful start. There are 13 new teacher pairings in BTPS and 10 new teacher pairings in ECACS.

We had our first orientation day on September 12<sup>th</sup> which allowed each of the protégés to meet with their mentor teacher and/or sit with others to collaborate and discuss needs and expectations for the year ahead. Our next meeting date is January 16<sup>th</sup> which will give the protégés and mentors another chance to have some PD sessions on Classroom Management and Engaging Students, as well as getting together in their pairings for the afternoon.

We are excited about the year ahead and supporting the new teachers in Park Plains East Local 31.

Rebecca McCullough

**"You can't direct the wind but you can adjust the sails." - Anonymous**



## POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT

*I'm a great believer that any tool that enhances communication has profound effects in terms of how people can learn from each other, and how they can achieve the kind of freedoms that they're interested in. -Bill Gates*

### Staff Representatives: Personal Email Addresses

Communication is an essential tool for effective and efficient organizations, and your professional organization is no different. To this end, it is imperative that you supply your ATA staff representative with a personal email address, so that if need be, and there will be a need, they can inform you of pressing matters facing teachers and public education in Alberta.

### Albertans Need to Hear Your Stories

Teachers want to do what they do best, teach students. Unfortunately, conditions in today's classrooms and every increasing demand on teachers' time can get in the way of us being at our best.

Teachers have stories to tell about the complex needs of students in their classrooms, increasing class sizes, the unforeseen demands of technology, the ever-growing administrative demands imposed by government and school boards, the need for adequate preparation time and expectations for personalization of learning. Teachers also have stories to tell about the job they love and want to do, their desire to meaningfully connect with students, and their willingness to volunteer in their schools and community.

In our efforts to engage and enlighten parents, trustees and politicians to the ever-changing nature of our profession we, at Park Plains East would like you to share your stories with us.

Tell us how teaching is different today than it was 10, 5, or even 2 years ago. Your stories must be your own and they must be true (think Stuart MacLean and The Vinyl Café).

With your stories and your help we can guide the direction of public education policy in Alberta in an effort to best meet the needs of our students.

Every story starts somewhere. Here are some ideas for possible stories about teaching today in Alberta.

- When I started teaching #\_\_\_ years ago, my classroom was...Now, it is more like...
- In my school, over the last #\_\_\_ of years, we have implemented #\_\_\_ new initiatives. Some of these have very little to do with student learning, such as...
- When I started teaching I thought I would teach forever, but now I am not so sure because...
- I have a school family and I have my home family – sometimes I feel that my home family plays second fiddle...
- As a principal, I am proud of my teachers because...But more and more, I see more of them struggling to keep up with...I would really like to support them by...

Please email your story to [ParkPlainsEast@gmail.com](mailto:ParkPlainsEast@gmail.com), and be assured that any story used or discussed will be entirely anonymous.

Thank you for your support,  
Chris Tuckey



**PARK PLAINS EAST LOCAL 31**  
**EXECUTIVE/COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

President—Lorne Majer

Vice President—Vincent Artymko

Past President—Maureen Meyer

Executive Secretary—Margaret Wolters

Chair of Finance—Elaine Willette-Larsen

Local Communications—Rebecca McCullough

Political Engagement—Chris Tuckey

District Representative—Randy Proskiw



Field Services Representative—Darrel Teeter

Mentorship Chair—Rebecca McCullough

Convention Chair—Linda Rathwell

BTPS EPC Chair—Kevin Elliott

ECACS EPC Chair—Blaine Woodall

Professional Development Chair—Alysha Grosky

**SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVES**

Amisk—Lori Knutson

Blessed Sacrament—Ron Lindsay

Christ King—Evan Stuart

Clandonald—Janice Jackson

Colony Schools—Heather Vande Voorde

Dewberry—Brent Pitts

Dr. Folkins—Heather Seim

E.H. Walter—Bev Haydu

Edgerton—Angela Golinowski

Hughendon—Vincent Artymko

Innisfree Delnorte—Michael Plouffe

Irma—Sheldon Frissel

JR Robson—Jesse Atkinson

Kitscoty Jr/Sr High—Martina Ruston-Carter

Mannville—Reuben Mahaffy

Marwayne—Stan Fox

Provost Public—Chris Tuckey

Theresetta—Veronica Pinkoski

St. Jerome's School—Kevin Sommer

St. Thomas Aquinas—Amber Miller




VES—Rebecca McCullough

VOS—Kym Wasylik-Nicoll

WES—Marlene Caron

WHS—Mary Frank








Thank you for reading our newsletter! Should you have questions, comments, or submissions to be made, please contact Rebecca at [ParkPlainsEast@gmail.com](mailto:ParkPlainsEast@gmail.com).






Watch for our next newsletter in early 2013! While you are visiting our Local website, remember to log in to your account ([firstname.lastname@teachers.ab.ca](mailto:firstname.lastname@teachers.ab.ca)) and update your profile, including choosing your FREE specialist council membership!



**LIFE ISN'T ABOUT  
FINDING YOURSELF.  
LIFE IS ABOUT  
CREATING  
YOURSELF.**

George Bernard Shaw



Remember!  
For updated information, visit our  
website:

[local31.teachers.ab.ca](http://local31.teachers.ab.ca)

Facebook:

Park Plains

Email:

[ParkPlainsEast@gmail.com](mailto:ParkPlainsEast@gmail.com)