

Park Plains East Local 31 News

ANOTHER YEAR WRAPPED UP!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We've made it through another school year!! I hope all of you have a fantastic, relaxing, and safe summer break. There will hopefully be some new developments in local bargaining and provincial negotiations for me to report to you when we return to school in September. Until then, have a great summer!

Lorne Maier

Park Plains East ATA Local #31, local president

LOCAL COMMUNICATIONS

It has been an extraordinary year for communications! I was so impressed by the response from our Local members to participate in our newsletters, website or planned activities.

The website was updated this year, and members were encouraged to visit it often. Many did, and were able to find out what was new for our Local, as well as search the pages for other important documents and information.

I would like to once again thank the teachers and their families as well as the staff from VIBE and WOW who came out and participated in the Amazing Teachers Activity (ATA) day on May 6. We had a lot of fun spending the day with colleagues and promoting our profession in a positive and enjoyable way. To facilitate this day, we were awarded the Community Relations Grant as well as the supplement for the Mental Health portion, and teachers attending were able to raise over \$400 for Habitat for Humanity.

Our ATA day has been entered into the 2011/12 ATA Local Community Relations Award in the category of Special Projects and we have also applied for the Ongoing Communications category in relation to our website and newsletters. We will find out how well we placed later this summer.

Please remember to email any items you wish to be posted to: ParkPlainsEast@gmail.com where they will be approved and published to the website or in our Local newsletters. Please watch for more exciting events next year

Have a super summer!

Rebecca McCullough



MENTORSHIP

This year there were 19 active pairings in the joint BTPS/ECACS/Park Plains East Mentorship program (3 active pairings in ECACS and 16 pairings in BTPS). All members attended their first orientation day on September 12 where they were split into their respective groups for the morning and brought together for the afternoon as a whole. They were able to complete a Needs Assessment which helped give direction for the program for this year.

Pairings were encouraged to use their 2 sub days per person per pairing to observe and share resource ideas at their convenience.

The whole group then met again on February 24th for a day of Differentiated Instruction and Communicating with Parents and Colleagues –which were topics chosen from the Needs Assessment in September.

Again, pairings were encouraged to meet and collaborate.

The wind up was held on May 15 at which 13 protégés and 5 mentors were able to attend. BTPS board trustee Alice McLaughlin was also in attendance to pass along messages from the board.

We were supported by the Provincial ATA by having Gaylene Schreiber out to help facilitate this year.

The Mentorship Steering Committee will be meeting on June 18 to finalize the year and plan for next year.

If you would like to become a Mentor Teacher, please contact Rebecca McCullough for further information.

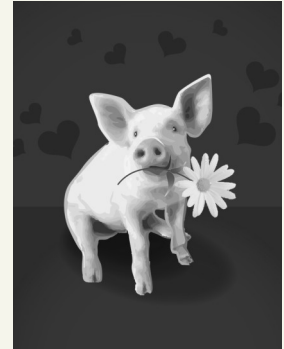
Have a fantastic summer!
Rebecca McCullough

POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT

It has been such an exciting Spring. What a nail biting, and fun, provincial election. It seems to be more exciting when the outcome is a bit unpredictable. We have a new education minister, Jeff Johnson, and are anxiously awaiting to see how he fares in his new role. As usual, we are hoping for great things! This Spring sure has reminded us to stay current with educational issues. There has been much in the media lately about education, and with this being a bargaining year, we can be sure more is on the way. Do not underestimate the impact you can have, politically, in your sphere of influence. Talk about issues you believe in with those who are important to you. Tweet, if you are a fan of Twitter. Use Facebook. Write letters to the editor. Have coffee with friends. Get to know your local leaders. Summer is around the corner and is a great time to build and strengthen positive relationships. Summer also bring the end to my role as LPEO. It has been a wonderful two years. I have learned so much and I am so excited to see what our new LPEO, Chris Tuckey, has to bring to the local next year.

Koreyan Peterson

**To teach is to learn
twice over.
- Joseph Joubert**



**Never try to teach a
pig to sing, it wastes
your time and
annoys the pig.
Anonymous**

**"If what you're
doing isn't working,
try something
else!" - NLP adage**

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Success is not the key to happiness. Happiness is the key to success. If you love what you are doing, you will be successful.
Albert Schweitzer

Cassie Campbell is our afternoon Keynote speaker for the 2012-2013 ATA PD day. The 'basic' program will be out the end of June and the 'detailed' program will be out the end of August.

Mrs. J's catering will be providing the lunch on the PD day and staff will need to buy tickets ahead of time at \$10 each. Lunch will include perogies, cabbage rolls, salads, crispy chicken and more.....

Take Care,
Alysha D. Grosky

EAST CENTRAL ECONOMIC POLICY COMMITTEE

As you are aware this is a bargaining year. I would like to thank everyone who took time to answer our survey earlier on in the year. This helped in putting the opening proposal together. Also thank you for those who attended the BUGM (Bargaining Unit General Meeting) on April 30. We are now at the bargaining stage as a letter to opening bargaining has been received from East Central School Board. At time of writing there were no scheduled meetings with The Board.

Respectfully submitted.
Blaine Woodall

BTPS ECONOMIC POLICY COMMITTEE

Since Our Bargaining Unit General Meeting we have continued to meet regularly completing our contract proposal. I am very proud of the members of the EPC, especially the NSC, who have given their time to complete a substantial document which I believe represents the demands of the members of our local quite well.

We are still waiting to hear the decision on the grievance about retired teachers' benefits after they return to work.

We are also in the initial stages of negotiations and look forward to meetings in the fall. The school board has some new negotiators much like ourselves so we remain positive about the future of local negotiations.

Kevin Elliott



"Attitude is a little thing that makes a big difference."

~ Winston Churchill

C O N V E N T I O N B O A R D

When we book a block of rooms at the Westin, we have to fill a quota to get certain concessions. This year we did not meet the Westin quota and had to pay \$2642.00 extra. We filled up to 60% and we needed 80%. For next year, our facility chair has released back 50 rooms to the Westin for Wednesday and Thursday – that means we have a block of 150 rooms for each night.

Next year the Westin room rates are: \$145.00 for traditional; and \$180.00 for deluxe (max 4/room). Parking will not be included.

The Shaw wants us to sign contracts for 2016 – 2018 and this will be on the agenda for our next convention board meeting (June 11). Costs have steadily risen and it was hard for facilities and AV to stay within their budgets. Unofficially, we spent about \$12,000.00 more than what we brought in for the 2011-2012 year. This will be covered by our term deposit, but it lowers that to about \$8000.00. We are supposed to keep about \$20,000.00 in terms.

Linda Rathwell

*There are many more pages of information from the Convention Board. So many in fact, that I have had to create a link to the other 100 pages of information. To view it all, please visit our website newsletter and click the link embedded there. ~Rebecca

D I S T R I C T R E P R E S E N T A T I V E R E P O R T

The Town Hall meeting was very successful; we called 39 000 teachers of which 23 000 actually received the message; 10 700 teachers took part in the Town Hall meeting; it cost us \$7500.

The four top issues from the Town Hall were teacher workload 60%, class size 52%, standardized testing 36%, and 21 century curriculum 25%.

PEC approved Ambrose University in Calgary as an Education granting university for after degree students only.

The Duxbury information gathering window closed March 31.

The Buffalo Trail grievance is at judicial review and it appears the ruling will be overturned, allowing us to retry the case. This is good news.

For those wishing to collect their pension and continuing to work - go to TNET pension website ...

Randy Proskiw

WEBSITE: [HTTP://LOCAL31.TEACHERS.AB.CA/PAGES/HOME.ASPX](http://LOCAL31.TEACHERS.AB.CA/PAGES/HOME.ASPX)

EMAIL: PARKPLAINSEAST@GMAIL.COM

OR FACEBOOK US FOR MORE INFORMATION!