

PARK PLAINS POST

Park Plains East Local #31

Winter 2013

Volume 2, Issue 2

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Welcome to another year! 2013 may prove to be an interesting year for teachers in Park Plains East and likewise across Alberta. With provincial talks ending unsuccessfully between the ATA, school boards, and the Alberta Government, Park Plains East teachers are now focussed entirely on local bargaining.

Be sure to keep your eyes and ears open for bargaining updates this spring, and please contact your staff rep or EPC rep if you have any questions. As always you can drop me a line too.

Check out our local website and Facebook page for more details.

Also don't forget to vote for our next ATA president and vice-presidents this spring.

Lorne Maier

EXCITING NEWS:

Congratulations to Elaine Willette-Larsen who is our new incoming District Representative!



Maureen Meyer completed the December Creating Balance Challenge by packing shoeboxes! Way

CREATING BALANCE... UPCOMING CHALLENGES:

February: Complete a random act of kindness!

March: Spring in your step...

April: Easter hunt...

May: May flowers...

June: Tools of the trade...

Be sure to check out our website each month, for more details and prize information!

The Best in the East... and all other points in between!

LOCAL COMMUNICATIONS

We once again received a grant of about \$1,500 to use for Public Relations. The 2 activities outlined below, are our main ways to celebrate our Local and what the members are doing within their communities and personal lives to promote community relations and mental health.

For the next 6 months, we want to publish a teacher in a local newspaper in an article called **Look! That's My Teacher!** to show local communities that we are teachers who make a difference in the school and the community!

Simply download the form from our local website local31.teachers.ab.ca and submit it to me at ParkPlainsEast@gmail.com. Those who are published will receive a \$5 Tim Hortons gift card, as well as the person who nominated them!

The Creating Balance Challenge is continuing with a new challenge each month! We have been a busy local and I am happy to see all the ways our members are staying balanced in their personal and professional lives!

For those of you who have submitted your events, thank you! For those of you who have yet to, please remember it is **VERY** easy!

Step 1 – Check out our Local website at local31.teachers.ab.ca for the challenge of the month. It is right on the home page!

Step 2 - Complete the Creating Balance Challenge.

Step 3 – Email in your “proof” and/or a picture and names of those who participated. This is creating a great collection of pictures to use in our Local publications!

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!

Update! Our Festival of Trees entry, “Pearls of Wisdom” was purchased by auction for \$100. The proceeds went to the Vermilion Elementary Hot Lunch Program. Thank you to all members who contributed their pearls of wisdom to be displayed on the tree, and to Karen King, Bonnie Bauer, Alana Mahaffy and the McCullough family for coming to decorate it.

Have a great 2013,
Rebecca McCullough

ECONOMIC POLICY COMMITTEE BTPS

The BTPS membership vote from the BUGM resulted in the authorization for the application of a government appointed mediator should they be deemed necessary. This does not mean we are proceeding to mediation, this only gives the committee the authorization to move in this direction if we feel we have reached impasse.

Kevin Elliott

Any questions email me at
wildcatcoach1@gmail.com
Or call me at 587-281-0096

WHAT WOULD YOU
ATTEMPT TO DO
IF YOU KNEW YOU
COULD NOT FAIL?



ECONOMIC POLICY COMMITTEE ECACS

There was not a lot to report other than the negotiations with the East Central Board are ongoing. The next round of meetings was set for January 16 and 17.

Blaine Woodall
East Central EPC chair.

CONVENTION BOARD

Accommodation & Parking:
Westin Hotel 10135 – 100th Street

Please remember:
Ask for the Central East Alberta Teachers' Convention Association conference rate.
Reserve your room by: calling: 1-800-228-3000 or online (indicate with CEATCA).

Room Rates:
Traditional rooms - \$150 + taxes
Deluxe - \$185 + taxes
Junior Suite - \$235 + taxes

"Cut-off date" for reserving rooms in the room block is **February 19th, 2013** before 5:00 PM.

NO parking is included or guaranteed at the Westin Hotel – space is limited.

All teachers have a legal as well as a professional obligation to attend the annual teachers' convention to which they have been assigned as stated **in the School Act**.

Teachers failing to request permission from the Attendance Committee may be subject to investigation and sanctions under the Code of Professional Conduct.

If teachers are not attending convention for any reason other than for alternate professional development, they must go through the usual procedures for being away from work as established by their school, contract or Alberta Schools' Athletic Association policy.

More information can be found at the website,
<http://ceatca.teachers.ab.ca>

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Our date has been set for September 20, 2013 at Blessed Sacrament School in Wainwright. Thank-you to Ron Lindsay and staff for hosting. All internal responsibilities and committees have been set, and are working hard to prepare for this event. Please remind your staff PD rep attend the next scheduled meeting. More information to come!

Take Care, Alysha D. Grosky

MENTORSHIP

Our group met on January 16th for another chance to have some PD sessions on Classroom Management and Engaging Students, as well as getting together in their pairings for the afternoon. It was a well received session.

The next meeting date is on March 22nd for PD sessions on Inclusion (Here Comes Everyone) and Professionalism and Social Networking (pm). This will be held at JR Robson from 9-3pm. Lunch and snacks will also be provided for those participants attending.

We continue to be an effective, cohesive group that supports the new teachers in Park Plains East Local 31.

Rebecca McCullough

A true measure of your worth includes all the benefits others have gained from your success.

Cullen Hightower

POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT

Ordinary people who have lots of good ideas want more than a suggestion box, and they need a union to represent that thinking.

Frances O'Grady

Communications

Local bargaining will soon commence and it is essential that each and every teacher in the local has given their respective staff representative a personal email address. There will be important information and decisions that need to be ratified by teachers and your voice and attention is imperative to this process.

Postcards

Thank you to all teachers who took the time to complete the postcard stories that were sent to our local's respective MLAs. Your feedback was substantive and expressed very clearly the ever-increasing challenges teachers experience on a daily basis.

Tripartite Update

On November 30, 2012, the ATA presented a collective agreement proposal to Premier Alison Redford. The ATA proposal was for a four-year agreement with salary increases of 0%, 0%, 1% and 3%. Importantly, mechanisms to address and evaluate the increased demands on teacher workload and concerns with class size were foundational in this proposal.

The Premier rejected this offer which signaled the end of tripartite discussions and the beginning of local bargaining.

It is important to note that because of the Government's rejection of the ATA's proposal all concessions on salary increases are off the table and will be negotiated locally.

Provincial Executive Council Elections

Provincial Executive Council Elections will be held March 22, 2013.

Thank you,

Chris Tuckey

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

President—Lorne Maier

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

PD 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 Wasyluk-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.

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

"You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream."

~ C.S.Lewis

www.dailyinspirationalquotes.in

Remember!
For updated information, visit our website:
local31.teachers.ab.ca
Facebook:
Park Plains
Email:
ParkPlainsEast@gmail.com