

ATA NEWS

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BROMLEY CHAMBERLAIN

Alberta Teachers' Association president Mark Ramsankar speaks at the North Central Teachers' Convention in Edmonton on Feb. 9. Convention season runs until March 9 and 10.

Will choice ideology 'Trump' public ed?

With DeVos confirmed as U.S. secretary of education, supporters of public education must remain aware and active.

Read Gordon Thomas's Q&A on page 2.

Curriculum renewal becoming way too politicized

Read Jonathan Teghtmeyer's editorial on page 2.



Barnett House expansion approved

Addition of new tower to begin in May.

See story on page 4.

Convention season begins

For more on what to expect at your teachers' convention this year, see page 5.



Tale End

Teachers learn how to paint and dress (but not at the same time).

See page 12.

Curriculum renewal becoming way too politicized



EDITORIAL

Jonathan Teghtmeyer
ATA News Editor-in-Chief

If you ask Alberta Teachers' Association president Mark Ramsankar about curriculum, he is almost guaranteed to begin by saying curriculum belongs to all Albertans.

It is a wonderful statement that speaks to the importance of public education to society. All Albertans, not just teachers or parents, have an interest in the outcomes of public education and in ensuring that all children are raised to be well-educated, thoughtful citizens.

As government embarks on a comprehensive overhaul of our curriculum for all grade levels across six subject areas, it is completely understandable that the public wants their voices included. And their voices must be included.

However, I am concerned that some people are insisting that the names of the more than 300 curriculum working group members, mostly classroom teachers, must be publicly released.

Because the government acts as the representative of citizens, it has an

obligation to collect public input and to bring it into the conversation about curriculum. And that is being done.

In the fall of 2016, 32,000 Albertans participated in an online survey about what should be included in the new curriculum. I acknowledge that this survey left a lot to be desired, but public consultation did not end there. Face-to-face engagement sessions were held, and some organizations had the opportunity to present to the curriculum working groups last month.

These groups will now create draft subject introductions and draft scope and sequences for each subject across K-12 based on the public input and other government direction.

Public input will continue to be gathered. Those subject introductions and draft sequencings will be validated before specific outcomes are written. More surveys and face-to-face engagement will then occur to respond to the draft outcomes. An ongoing cycle of drafting and feedback will continue through to 2022 when the rewrite is targeted for completion.

Given this, I think it is simply an unnecessary invasion of privacy to publish the names of these teacher volunteers. The working group members are fulfilling a professional and technical role in

the process, not a political one. Some of those who are so intent upon learning individual names, I believe, are looking to politicize the working groups' work, which would be problematic or even dangerous to the whole process.

For some petitioners, their motives come down to one of two goals: to undermine the process by discrediting the professionals involved, or to directly lobby working group members on what should be included in or excluded from the curriculum. The former concern amounts to a McCarthyesque witch hunt, an attempt to expose members as being part of the gay agenda, a communist, or even worse, a discovery math proponent! The latter concern is troubling because it attempts to circumvent established channels for public feedback and interfere with the teachers' abilities to provide sound, objective, professional advice.

The working group members are not the final arbitrators of what will be in the curriculum. The government will continue to hold that role. Rather, these participants are building a road map for getting students from point A to point Z in the learning journey. Politicizing this work is unnecessary and obstructive.

These teachers have a right to privacy, despite their role in this government

work. The Association has heard from many teachers who have very legitimate concerns about their names being made public. Some need to manage their safety or that of their family members, while others are rightfully concerned about harassment at home, school or in the often ugly world of social media.

Considering how this curriculum renewal has already been bounced about as a political hot potato, I don't blame them for advancing very real concerns for their safety, security and privacy.

The public has a right to be included in the process of curriculum development, but the vehicle for that representation is through established government channels, their elected members of the legislative assembly, or the Ministry of Education.

The final decision about what is in and out of curriculum belongs to Albertans. And it's the minister of education, as the public's representative, who should be held accountable for those decisions, not the teachers undertaking the professional and technical work of turning the public's wishes into programs of study. ■

I welcome your comments — contact me at jonathan.teghtmeyer@ata.ab.ca.

Vigilance in order in wake of DeVos appointment



Q & A

Gordon Thomas
Executive Secretary

Question: Are there any implications for Alberta with the confirmation of Betsy DeVos as the new United States secretary of education? Is she an advocate for public education?

Answer: There could well be implications for Alberta's education system. DeVos is a fierce advocate for school choice, school vouchers, charter schools and for-profit private education. A long-time Republican from Michigan, DeVos belongs to a family that has contributed more than \$17 million to the party since 1989. In a 1997 interview, she stated that she expected to benefit from her political contributions.

"We expect to foster a conservative governing philosophy consisting of limited government and respect for traditional American virtues ... We expect a return on our investment...."

Forbes puts her family's net worth in the range of \$5.1 billion, making it a leading contributor to conservative causes.

DeVos's nomination set off a firestorm, given that she has no education qualifications to justify her appointment as secretary of education. Her work has been as a lobbyist, someone who has devoted much effort to influencing conversations about education reform based on ideological convictions, not research evidence. Her nomination has been strongly opposed by the American teachers' unions, with Randi Weingarten, American Federation of

system, but there appears to be no plan or funding. She will advocate for school choice, and that means ways to fund private schools as if they were public schools. One way to achieve this is to establish a school voucher program. Another way is to expand the system of charter schools, again drawing funding away from traditional public schools. Key interests include developing for-profit private schools (to ensure quality for students) and to

Our public education system needs to be supported; education is a public good. We will need to be very mindful of the risks ahead and vigilant in our defense of public education.

Teachers president, naming DeVos "the most ideological anti-public education nominee" in U.S. history. Her confirmation hearing was very rocky, with many questions posed about her knowledge of public education, financial aid and student loans. DeVos drew widespread media attention for her comments that guns might have a place in schools due to threats from grizzly bears.

DeVos's confirmation will lead to an effort to overhaul the U.S. education

establish tax credits for donations and scholarships to private schools.

In every respect, these are directions that will undermine the U.S. public education system. Her family foundation has made extensive donations to private Christian schools and charter schools. In her view, the bottom line is to "open up the market" in public education — DeVos sees the current system as "a closed system, a closed industry, a closed market. It's a monopoly, a dead

end." Her belief is that dollars should be steered away from traditional public education in order to establish competition and choice.

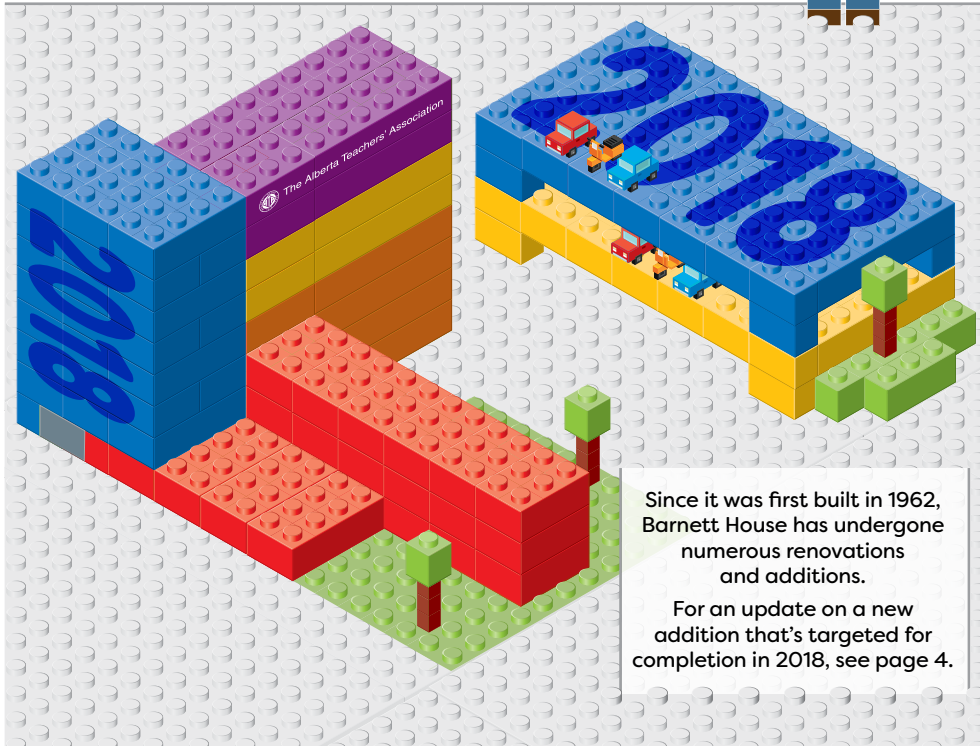
Of course, Alberta's system is very different and the Rachel Notley government has absolutely no interest in the directions being taken by the new U.S. secretary of education. However, it will be interesting to see what traction these ideas get with the Wildrose opposition and the contenders for the leadership of the Progressive Conservative Party of Alberta. The directions DeVos wants to pursue could dramatically shift the nature and structure of our public education system, widely regarded as the best in the English-speaking world today. Some of these directions are a throwback to initiatives undertaken in Alberta during the Ralph Klein administration.

Our public education system needs to be supported; education is a public good. We will need to be very mindful of the risks ahead and vigilant in our defense of public education. ■

Questions for consideration in this column are welcome. Please address them to Gordon Thomas at Barnett House (gordon.thomas@ata.ab.ca).



BUILDING BARNETT



Since it was first built in 1962, Barnett House has undergone numerous renovations and additions.

For an update on a new addition that's targeted for completion in 2018, see page 4.

1962

- 3 floors of office space
- auditorium, boardroom and committee room

1968

- + 4-storey Seymour Tower
- + office and meeting space
- + cafeteria

1984

- + 2 floors to Seymour Tower
- + new council chambers
- + renovated cafeteria
- + new parkade

2000

- + larger auditorium
- + additional meeting space
- + renovated entrance/reception area
- + new windows and mechanical systems for original building

2011

- + 2 floors to Seymour Tower
- + renovated cafeteria and lobby
- + new windows and mechanical systems for Seymour Tower

2018

- + 8-floor extension of Seymour Tower
- + 3rd level to parkade

YOUR VIEWS

FACEBOOK FEEDBACK

We asked teachers, what speaker or session are you most looking forward to at your upcoming teachers' convention?

April Aitken

Amanda Lindhout. Her book, *A House in the Sky*, is one of those books that changes your life. I can't wait to hear her talk about forgiveness and resiliency.

Joanna Pederson Schipper

Amanda Lindhout!!! And Kurt Browning. Actually I could keep going ... this year's lineup is the best in 15 years!!!

ON TWITTER

From North Central Teachers' Convention (#NCTCA2017)

Charlene Assenheimer @cassenhe

Technology can't replace a good teacher but technology in the hands of great teachers is transformational.

Maggie Thibault @maggieavelo

To teach is to learn twice. Technology is more than a tool: reach out and teach the world!

Devon Bryce @TeachingMsB

Session on engaging reluctant readers is sending me to the bookstore.

Jenna Haugan @jennahaugan

My mission is to make sure my little ones leave each day more curious than when they arrived.

On the province's curriculum review

Jason Kenney @jkenney

@jwporteous One of the stated objectives of the NDP's curriculum review is to make students "effective agents of change." That's politics.

Sean Beaton @backcountrynyn

I want my students to be agents of change in their lives and the lives of others. #NotAboutPolitics #GoodTeaching

General education tweets (#abed)

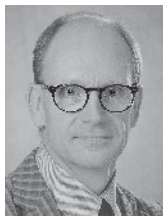
Support Our Students @SOSAAlberta

Be it adults or children, we are stronger because of our diversity, not in spite of it.

Brian Torrance @briantorrance

Teacher well-being is important for a healthy school community. Enjoy @WinterWalkDay with a walk outside.

Remember to thank a sub



VIEWPOINTS

Keith Hadden
ATA executive staff officer

It's all so confusing. Fold, whip, blend, blanch, purée. Conduction, induction, emulsion.

This was my introduction to substitute teaching — a home economics class, of all classes. They call it "foods" today. Sounded easy enough at the time. I had already had some teaching experience and knew how to get along with students. I quickly learned about the difficult work that the approximately 6,000 substitute teachers dutifully and competently perform on a daily basis in Alberta classrooms from Coutts to Alex to Rainbow Lake.

The world of the substitute teacher is a lot different than the world of the classroom teacher. As a classroom teacher I was always able to draw on my rapport with students, my knowledge of the curriculum and the support of my colleagues, but as a substitute I now faced a whole new set of challenges. As I struggled to keep the right students in the classroom, the wrong students out of the classroom, and the cake batter off the ceiling, I also gained a new appreciation for the difficult work of my substitute-teaching colleagues.

We often hear of the heroics of so many members of our profession, teachers who perform magical feats with students everyday. This includes substitute teachers, often the unsung heroes of our profession.

Whether it's that substitute teacher who takes extra time to get to know a student and build a bond, or the one who brings an activity to augment lesson plans that have been left by the classroom teacher, or the one who volunteers to help out with supervision or

with a student activity, students and teachers across Alberta owe a debt of gratitude to our substitute teachers. Substitute teachers keep schools running when there is an influenza outbreak, a professional development activity, committee work, or any of the myriad reasons a teacher is called from the classroom.

There is also a very committed group of provincial volunteers that meet throughout the school year to advocate for substitute teachers and to plan an annual conference. These volunteers, most of them substitute teachers themselves, work tirelessly to create and update resources such as the *Substitute Teachers Monograph* found on the ATA website on the Teachers as Professionals tab under the Publications heading. A planning document is also available on the website to assist in preparing to have a substitute teacher in the classroom.

The Substitute Teachers Committee has an extensive action plan that includes advocating for the participation of substitute teachers on local committees and executives, encouraging substitute teacher participation in teachers' convention associations and on specialist councils, including substitute teachers in the bargaining process, promoting fair hiring practices by school boards, and encouraging substitute teacher attendance at the Annual Representative Assembly as well as the ATA annual Summer Conference. The more involved substitute teachers are at the local level, the more they and their colleagues across the province benefit.

March 13–17 is Substitute

Teachers' Week. This week was first declared by Provincial Executive Council in 2003 as a means of showing appreciation to our substitute teacher colleagues across the province. And appreciation they deserve. Think of how long it takes you to get to know all of your students at the beginning of a new school year — all their strengths, needs, personalities, what motivates them and what triggers them. The substitute teacher has no such benefit of time to get to know all the classroom and student subtleties. A substitute teacher walks into a classroom every day, sometimes several different classrooms in one day, without the benefit of knowing students, staff or routines. Imagine picking up your briefcase and going to a new job every day, a job where you might not know anybody or even where the washroom is located. That's the job of the substitute teacher.

The provincial Substitute Teachers' Committee hopes that teachers and administrators across the province will plan some events and actions to show their appreciation for the hard work of their substitute teaching colleagues.

Take a quick moment this spring to post a tweet (#subteachers2017) to thank substitute teachers, offer support, or just connect with a colleague. Take an extra minute to buy them a coffee, invite them to your table, check in on them during the day and let them know they are an important part of your school. Remember that we are all part of the same profession. As President Mark Ramsankar said at the annual Substitute Teachers' Conference held earlier this year, "We are all Alberta teachers." ■

Keith Hadden is the secretary to the Substitute Teachers' Committee.



Barnett House expansion approved

Addition of new tower to begin in May

Cory Hare
ATA News Managing Editor

It's official: Barnett House is getting an addition.

After two years of planning and preparation, a development permit is in place and groundbreaking is expected to begin in a matter of months on an addition that will see the current auditorium demolished and replaced with an eight-storey tower attached to the existing Seymour Tower.

The plan is to start the demolition in May and complete the new addition by the summer of 2018.

"Right now the building is full and we're looking into the future and saying, you know, the responsible thing is to expand now for the next 20 years," said Quintin Yardley, chair of the committee that's overseeing the expansion.

Once the addition to Barnett House is underway, construction will begin on a third level to the parkade. The estimated cost of the entire project is \$17 million, with funding coming from existing resources, as well as a mortgage, said executive secretary Gordon Thomas.

"We believe that we will have adequate renters to deal with the mortgage," Yardley said.

The project will increase Seymour



In May, construction will begin on an eight-storey addition on the south side of Barnett House. The project is projected to be complete by the summer of 2018.

Tower's overall square footage by approximately 26 per cent. The expansion is needed because of significant staffing growth at the Alberta Teachers' Retirement Fund (ATRF), which leases a considerable amount of space at Barnett House, Yardley said. Also, the building is home to both Edmonton teacher locals, neither of which is getting smaller; plus the ATA's own staffing levels are increasing to keep pace with the growth of the province's teaching population.

"We will grow into this space pretty quickly," Yardley said.

ATRF has committed to staying for at least 10 years, subject to successful completion of a lease negotiation that is currently underway, and will take at least one-third of the new space, Thomas said.

During the construction period, the current auditorium will cease to exist, so functions that typically use that space will be held in hotel meeting

rooms, Thomas said.

After the City of Edmonton initially denied its proposal due to concerns about the height (which is the same as the existing building), the Association gained approval at the development appeal board, meaning there are no more regulatory hurdles to overcome. The Association is currently in the process of securing the services of a firm to manage the project, Yardley said. ■

Five things school representatives should know about the 2017 PEC election

ATA News Staff

1. Your assistance with promoting it is invaluable.

The election of teachers to Provincial Executive Council (PEC) provides Alberta Teachers' Association members an opportunity to have their say in who will represent them on important issues affecting teaching practice and public education in Alberta. School representatives, in their role as liaisons between the provincial Association and the members of its 55 voting locals, are critical to making sure teachers know not only that there is an election taking place, but that their votes matter to maintaining a strong, relevant and inspired teaching profession.

2. There will be a campaign booth at all teachers' conventions.

New to teachers' convention floors this year is the addition of a campaign booth. Let your colleagues know that this booth is where they have the opportunity to inform their vote by meeting the teachers who are running in the 2017 PEC election.

Where will the campaign booth be located? Look for a combination of bright yellow, green and orange stand-up banners with the PEC election logo or ask anyone at the ATA convention booth.

3. Online voting instructions will be mailed to you on or about Feb. 28.

Voting, once again, will be conducted online for the election. To ensure all members are aware of how to go about voting for their candidate(s) of choice, the Association is sending to each school in the province a package containing one set of instructions to every teacher at that location. These packages will be addressed to the attention of the school representative, so keep an eye out for them!

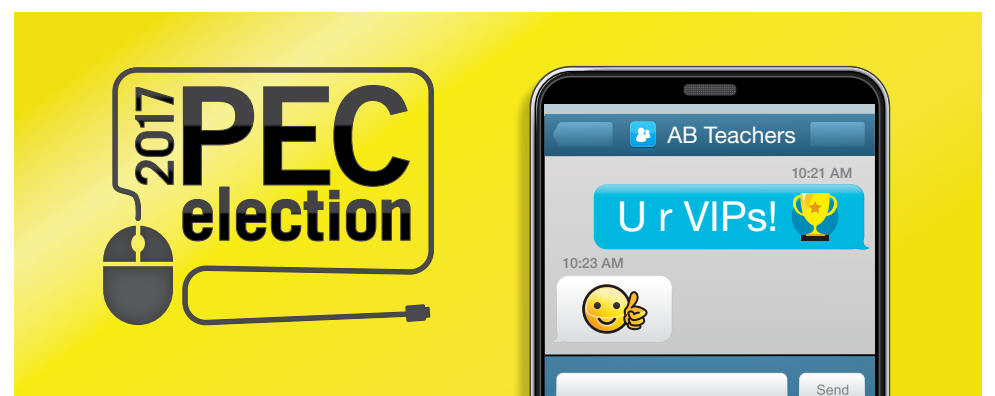
4. Election resources are available on the Association website at www.teachers.ab.ca.

The Association website contains information on all aspects of the 2017 PEC election and even has a "Promote" section where school representatives and other ATA members interested in generating voter engagement can find shareable information and graphics at the ready for posting and tweeting.

Visit the www.teachers.ab.ca homepage and go to the Information On section to have 2017 PEC Election information at your fingertips.

5. Your time and efforts are greatly appreciated.

ATA president Mark Ramsankar was successful in his bid to become president of the Canadian Teachers' Federation and will assume his new duties



Notice of mailing

On or about Feb. 28, 2017, online voting instructions will be mailed to all ATA members eligible to vote in the 2017 Provincial Executive Council (PEC) election. Packages will be sent to all ATA local school representatives for distribution to the teachers in their schools. Associate members and members who are on leave will have copies sent to their homes.

On the day of the mailing, the instructions also will be posted on the ATA website.

Find out more about the 2017 PEC election by visiting the Information On section of the ATA homepage at www.teachers.ab.ca.

in July of this year. The achievement is the culmination of commitment and dedication to the teaching profession that began with his involvement as a school representative.

"The nearly 2,000 teachers who are school representatives play a critical role for the Alberta Teachers' Association and its 55 ATA locals. They provide a face and voice for the Association in every school in the province and,

conversely, provide to the Association a face and voice for the teachers in their schools," Ramsankar said.

"Getting our members engaged in PEC elections is just one of the many things school representatives do, but it is probably the most appreciated because democracy is so fundamental to the effectiveness of the Association. My thanks goes out to all school representatives for their efforts." ■



STORIES AND PHOTOS WANTED

If something newsworthy is going on in your school, district or local, please let us know. We will also consider articles, photos and cartoons. Please email tips and submissions to managing editor Cory Hare: cory.hare@ata.ab.ca.

Education is the path to healing

Reconciliation efforts to be featured at teachers' conventions

Bromley Chamberlain
ATA News Staff

Canada has had a long and dark history when it comes to the education of indigenous people, and the Alberta Teachers' Association is working to bring light to the injustices experienced at residential schools in the province and across Canada.

Six professional development consultants hired to lead the Association's Walking Together initiative will be appearing at every teachers' convention this year, providing information at the ATA booth and conducting two workshops.

"It is our personal and professional obligation to honour the calls to action [of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission]," said Cheryl Devin, one of the six teachers leading the Walking Together project.

"I think, just as members of Canada, and being citizens of this country, it behooves us to know what the calls to action are. ... education was a tool of harm to indigenous people, and education has to be a way to heal."

At each convention, Walking Together facilitators will present a blanket exercise and a workshop entitled Education for Reconciliation: Understanding the Legacy of Residential Schools.

"We are going to try to reach out to as many teachers as possible because we have the mandate of connecting and supporting all 42,000 teachers in the province," Devin said.

Devin said teachers should attend the workshops to learn more about what they can do to help.

"Teachers need to come to our workshops as an obligation to their profession," she said. "They need to see themselves as change agents and as important, integral parts of the reconciliation process and developing a relationship with indigenous people."

The residential school workshop shares a dark part of Canadian history.

"We need to not only look at it but also then do something about it," Devin explained. "We should make a commitment to make things better."

The blanket exercise has been localized to each of the three treaty areas where teacher conventions are taking place.

"Depending on the convention, we will be presenting that to the teachers so they can see some local history from their treaty area," Devin said. "Teachers will experience 500 years of Canadian history through ... a First Nations, Métis or Inuit person's point of view."

The exercise teaches how different policies or events in history have affected and shaped Canada's relationship with indigenous people.

"One thing we have done with the blanket exercise is that we have tried to make sure that we emphasize at the end the resiliency of First Nations, Métis and Inuit people and how they are trying to take back their power and be an equal partner in our contemporary society," Devin said.

"It is powerful to end on the message to teachers, and any participants, that there has always been resiliency and there has always been the desire to embrace and celebrate our cultures." ■



Six professional development consultants hired to lead the Association's Walking Together initiative will be appearing at every teachers' convention this year, providing information at the ATA booth and conducting two workshops.

L-R: Hali Heavy Shield, Etienna Moostoos-Lafferty, Julia McDougall, Cheryl Devin, Terry Lynn Cook and Crystal Clark.

What is Walking Together?

In June 2016, Alberta Education, the Alberta Teachers' Association, the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation and four other education stakeholder organizations in Alberta signed the Joint Commitment to Action to ensure that all students learn about the histories, cultures and world views of First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples. The Alberta Teachers' Association has begun to fulfill its commitment by establishing the Walking Together: Education for Reconciliation Professional Learning Project.

Walking Together responds to calls to action 57 and 62 from the federal Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), which call on all levels of government to provide education to public servants on the history of aboriginal peoples, and for age-appropriate curriculum on residential schools and indigenous history.

Review of teachers' conventions in the works

wBromley Chamberlain
ATA News Staff

For the first time in more than a decade, the Alberta Teachers' Association will undertake a review of teachers' conventions.

It's time to assess whether teachers' conventions, as they're currently structured, are still working, said Dan Grassick, the professional development staff officer responsible for conventions who will oversee the review.

"The teacher population has increased significantly in a number of locals to the point where convention size and assignments need to be explored," Grassick explained.

The last review was held in 2005/06, with a prior one occurring in 1995/96. Both those reviews resulted in the formation of a provincial committee to explore conventions' structure, financing, governance, programming and operation. After gathering feedback from members and subgroups, the committees produced a wide array of recommendations. At the time, the committees decided to maintain the geographic districts used for conventions but recommended changes for amending convention and local constitutions, and standardizing convention



“ By periodically reviewing teachers' conventions, the Association can ensure that these annual professional development events are responsive to the changing needs of its members. **”**

— Dan Grassick, ATA executive staff officer

accounting practices.

Grassick is asking teachers to complete an online survey after they've attended their 2017 convention. The survey is currently live and will remain active until Friday, March 31. In the spring, there will be additional opportunities to provide feedback through local meetings, professional development committees and specialist councils.

"In light of changes to our educational landscape, it is time to examine the program structure and types of sessions offered by each convention, and to consider which self-directed professional learning activities members should be able to attend rather than their assigned convention," Grassick said.

Teachers' conventions have been held since the 1880s. Back then, they were a mechanism for inspectors to update

teachers in the various areas of the province about changing policies and practices. The purpose and function of conventions didn't change much until 1942, when they became the Association's responsibility.

"Since then, the ATA's teachers' convention associations have organized these annual events with the goal of improving the teaching profession," Grassick said.

Once focused largely on Association policy debates, local meetings and emergent issues, teachers' conventions gradually became conference-style events aimed at providing workshops on curriculum and pedagogy, Grassick said. And, over time, conventions have included more sessions geared toward teachers working in particular subject areas and grades.

"By periodically reviewing teachers' conventions, the Association can ensure that these annual professional development events are responsive to the changing needs of its members," Grassick said. ■

Nova Scotia teachers reject tentative agreement

ATA News Staff

Nova Scotia teachers have rejected a tentative agreement reached in a labour dispute that's had them in a legal strike position since early December.

In a provincewide electronic vote held Feb. 9, members of the Nova Scotia Teachers Union (NSTU) voted 78.5 per cent against a tentative deal reached in January.

"It's clear our members are frustrated, they deserve better and what government offered in this agreement doesn't go far enough in addressing the real classroom concerns that affect teachers and students," said NSTU president Liette Doucet.

Teachers will continue a work-to-rule job action that began in late November.

"What we don't know is what government's next move will be," Doucet said. "We don't know if they will agree to go back to the negotiating table, if they will legislate a contract, change the terms and conditions of employment or lock us out."

It's the third tentative agreement the teachers have rejected since negotiations began in September 2015. Their contract expired July 31, 2015. ■

Convention survey

To share your thoughts on your teachers' convention, please complete the survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ConventionReview>.

Family members inspire each other



Diana and daughter Shannon

Wayne Smith

In the school year of 2000/2001, my wife Diana and our daughter Shannon went off to do B.Ed. degrees together full time at the University of Ottawa. They were the first ever mother-daughter grads from the education faculty at Ottawa U.

My wife was an early childhood educator before becoming a teacher. Our daughter was always around the day care growing up, so the teaching bug hit her early (and she excels as a kinder teacher today).

As the ladies did their education degrees together, I learned so much from them about education, as I was the editor of all their papers. It was the spark that started my own desire to teach.

As a family of teachers, we always have common ground to discuss anything related to school and are always keeping each other informed of best practice and training opportunities. There is no greater reward in life than to teach and enrich the lives of students, and that is why we are all still teaching to this day.

Wayne Smith is a learning assistant at Meadowbrook Middle School in Airdrie.

Family provides inherent understanding

Adrienne Owen

My father's side of the family is comprised of a total of eight educators over three generations: my grandmother, father, mother, two aunts, an uncle, my husband and me.

I am the only third-generation grandchild, so I grew up surrounded by educators. The value of education was strong in my household, and my future was presumed: I would attend university — it was not a matter of if, but when. However, I swore that I would never become a teacher, especially after witnessing my aunt and uncle's lifestyle of long hours of marking and planning when I lived with them during my high school years.

Though I did try to pursue a different career, I inevitably ended up in the faculty of education at the University of Alberta, and ultimately, in the classroom — a destiny I am quite happy with. My family members have an inherent understanding of the plights of report card season, full moons and stacks of marking. It is refreshing to be able to dialogue with fellow administrators in the family as I navigate new territory in my own career. Though teaching is, without a doubt, incredibly challenging at times, having a built-in support network of educators helps put trivial issues into perspective and helps me focus on the rewards of the profession.

Adrienne Owen is a teacher and assistant principal at New Myrnam School in Myrnam.



who's who



Of the four members of the Baile family (L-R: Allan, Janene, Lorne and Kim), only Lorne is not a teacher. He is, however, in the process of earning an education degree.

BROMLEY CHAMBERLAIN

The family that teaches together ...

Members of Red Deer's Baile family share the highs and lows of their chosen profession

Bromley Chamberlain
ATA News Staff

Some days, being a teacher is hard, so it's nice to have family members who understand. So say the members of the Baile family, three of whom are currently teachers while the fourth is studying to be one.

"Sometimes when you get into the van and say it was one of those days, your spouse and your kids know There is no way you could find humour in today, so it is just a quiet ride home," says mother Kim.

She and her husband Allan both became teachers more than 30 years ago. Now Allan teaches at Red Deer's Aspen Heights Elementary School while Kim teaches at Oriole Park School, where their daughter Janene also teaches. Son Lorne is a third-year education student at the University of Alberta.

It was never a master plan to have the two children follow in their parents' footsteps. Janene originally thought she wanted to be a paleontologist but changed her mind in her early teens while attending a summer camp at the Royal Tyrrell Museum.

"When I was there I realized that I liked being with the kids more than I liked the dinosaurs," she laughed. "That's when I decided to be a teacher."

Lorne came to education through his passion for sports, fitness and nutrition.

"I figured, through education, the best way to get people on the right track and teach them about that would be through secondary education," he said.

A fun part of being in a teaching family is being on the same page with daily updates and anecdotes, which often contain punchlines that non-teachers miss.

"When you tell your friends, sometimes they don't understand, and I'm like, no, no, no, this is hilarious," Janene says.

Given the career paths that Janene and Lorne have both chosen, Mom and Dad have tried to show them that there are also some not-so-great sides to teaching.

"Especially with finding out that some children don't have food or the greatest home life," Kim said. "You hope you make a little bit of a difference," added Allan.

One thing that he and Kim have passed on to Janene and Lorne was to get involved in their students' lives.

"We are really involved in the community and volunteering," he said. "It is fun to be part of a teaching family and sharing our stories and trying to figure things out."

LESSON CLANS

Celebrating families who teach

Since teaching runs in many families, and since Family Day is just around the corner, the ATA News has compiled this collection of stories about teaching families and what it's like to be part of one.

Carrying on a tradition

Louise Schumann

There are 20 teachers on my mom's side of the family in only two generations!

My mom is one of 12 children born and raised in Bonnyville in the 1930s to the early 1940s. Out of the 12 children, seven became educators. Six, including my mom, were school teachers; one became a professor. Another uncle became a college instructor. Marriage added in three more teachers and a university professor — that makes 11 so far.

My aunts and uncles have touched students' lives from the 1950s onwards in the following places: Fort Smith, Fort Resolution, Meander River, Fort St. John, Bonnyville, Grande Centre, Fort Kent, Fort McMurray, Slave Lake, Guy, Yellowknife, Edmonton, Killam, Vanderhoof, Airdrie and Calgary.

Out of my 23 cousins, eight of us have become teachers, including my sister and me. One of my cousins married a teacher, bringing the total up to 20 teachers.

We have collectively taught in Cold Lake, Fort McMurray, High Prairie, Alexander First Nation Kipohakaw, Rocky Mountain House, Edmonton, Claresholm, Calgary, Cochrane, China, Chili, Ontario and Quebec.

What is it like belonging to a family of teachers? Teaching seems to come second nature to us. It is great having my mom and sister as teachers. Before my mom retired we would meet up at teachers' convention, take sessions together and sit together at district events such as Faith



who's who

Day. Most importantly, we understand what it means to be a teacher and we provide support for each other. Another bonus is the sharing of resources.

How about the next generation? So far none have taken the education route, but there is still time for most to decide. The other day, my youngest daughter, who is in Grade 12, mentioned she may be interested in becoming a teacher. Secretly I hope that she does. There is a tradition to carry on here.

Louise Schumann teaches junior high science at St. Timothy school in Cochrane.

Teaching is a dream career

Betna Huddleston

Both my parents were immigrant teachers from India who moved here in 1966, the year I was born. My dad was a principal in Peace River for most of his Canadian teaching career, and my mom was an elementary teacher. Both of my parents taught me in school and I loved that.

I knew from when I was very young that teaching was for me. I've always enjoyed being around children, and I feed off the energy they give. I feel so blessed to have been able to follow my career dream for so many years.

This is my 29th year of teaching. My husband, Mark, is also a retired principal and teacher. Our four children are going through (and have gone through) the school system I teach in, which is also a blessing.

Teaching is an absolutely rewarding career.

Betna Huddleston teaches at Holy Family School in Red Deer.



Teachers: Betna Huddleston with mom, Lucy DeAlmeida

A brotherly approach

Ryan Turner

My brother Dustin and I both work for the Calgary Board of Education (CBE). We both moved from Winnipeg for teaching jobs in Calgary (me in 1998; Dustin in 2007), both finished our masters' degrees at the same time (spring 2015) and both became assistant principals this school year.

In addition to mirroring our career paths, we also run marathons together. Most often, we run together the whole way. During our long runs, conversations inevitably drift towards our teaching — we've certainly bonded immeasurably during these runs!

In addition to all this, our mother was a teacher of about 20 years, retiring about 10 years ago. So the three of us have a strong understanding of how busy teachers are, but we all feel as if we have lived very fulfilling lives, having worked with so many students over our time.

Without question, seeing our mother teaching inspired us to want to make a positive difference ourselves. To this day, we share the wonderful gifts of joy that teaching has brought us.



who's who

Dustin's wife Letitia is also a teacher who moved from Winnipeg to work for the CBE at the same time as he did. When we go camping together, or at family meals, there is even more to discuss — funny stories, nodding heads and so on!

Ryan Turner is the assistant principal of Highwood School in Calgary.

Sharing discussions and stress

Carolyn Lewin

I have been teaching for Buffalo Trails Public School Division for 32 years. These are the members of my family who are teachers:



Carolyn, elementary teacher, and her husband Wayne Lewin, principal



Bryn Lewin
SON, HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE TEACHER



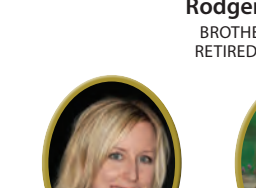
Arianne Lewin
DAUGHTER, ELEMENTARY TEACHER



JoAnne Jackson
SISTER, RETIRED DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT



Patty Bartel
SISTER, RETIRED PRINCIPAL



Norm Bartel
BROTHER-IN-LAW, RETIRED ELEMENTARY TEACHER



Amy Olson
SISTER, ELEMENTARY TEACHER



Ashley Chaulk
NIECE, ELEMENTARY TEACHER

Rodger Jackson
BROTHER-IN-LAW, RETIRED PRINCIPAL

Interesting facts

- Altogether we have taught in seven school divisions.
- Total years of teaching between us is presently 207.
- Our dad drove a school bus for about 20 years.
- I also have an aunt and some cousins who are/were teachers.

What it is like to belong to a family of teachers?

- Never short of teaching discussions around the table
- Speak the same language
- All passionate about helping kids and proud to have a hand in shaping the future
- Enjoy learning about different districts, trends in education, new initiatives
- Share ideas and resources
- Have the same stress times: start of year, report cards, Christmas concerts, etc.
- Enjoy the same holiday times
- Most importantly we are a big support for each other and learn from each other's experiences

Carolyn Lewin teaches Grade 3 at Kitscoty Elementary School.

All photos are supplied unless credited otherwise.



Read more stories on
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Alberta Education, Edmonton. In this leadership role, you will report to the Assistant Deputy Minister of Student Learning Standards and provide overall strategic leadership for the development, maintenance, administration and evolution of provincial Kindergarten to Grade 12 (K-12) assessment programs, currently at Grades 3, 6, 9 and 12. You will work in partnership with other national and international partners using Alberta's provincial curriculum and assessments to ensure well-coordinated and responsive approaches that help inform and report on student learning, achievement and provincial diploma credentialing requirements. You will be accountable for ensuring that provincial assessment development teams deliver in a timely and effective manner relative to provincial assessments. The position oversees the setting/monitoring of provincial assessment schedules and deliverables as well as the administration of the General Education Development (GED) test for adult learners in Alberta. You have highly successful senior management experience, teaching experience, research, and in-depth knowledge of large-scale standardized assessment design and delivery in the K-12 education system. Other experience includes business and operational planning processes, with success in managing complex issues and demanding work volumes. Closing date: February 17, 2017. Job ID #1040394

Visit www.jobs.alberta.ca for more information and to apply directly on-line, or fax your resume to Executive Search, Alberta Corporate Human Resources, Fax (780) 422-0468. When applying online, please submit your cover letter and resume as one file. Online applications will receive an automated confirmation. You will be contacted if you are selected for an interview. Our contact number is (780) 408-8460.



ALBERTA RURAL EDUCATION SYMPOSIUM

March 5-7 | Fantasyland Hotel

REGISTER ONLINE:

www.albertaruraleducation.ca



Hotel Rates

A directory of special rates at some of Alberta's hotels is available online at www.teachers.ab.ca under publications. If you have questions, contact Doreen Link — 403-265-2672 in Calgary or toll free at 1-800-332-1280. You must have an online ATA account to access this publication.

ECONOMIC CONSULTANTS NEEDED

Economic consultants (EC) are ATA volunteers who are selected from an applicant pool of practising teachers who have an interest in collective bargaining, labour relations and benefits.

ECs liaise with Teacher Welfare staff to help provide support, training and assistance to economic policy committees and locals in their geographic areas.

Applicants to the provincial EC corps should have

- five years' teaching experience,
- strong communication skills,
- previous volunteer work with the Association,
- knowledge of economic policy committees' role and the collective bargaining process,
- previous attendance at Summer Conference, and
- completed Teacher Welfare courses.

Selected applicants will

- serve an initial three-year term that may be renewed once;
- receive training via seminars at the ATA Summer Conference held each August;
- attend two Saturday training sessions during the school year, Teacher Welfare Area Conference, field service meetings and monthly EPC meetings; and
- provide presentations at least two to three times per year.

TO APPLY

Teachers who are interested in applying should send a letter highlighting reasons for the application and relevant skills to TW@ata.ab.ca.

Application deadline is March 15, 2017.

Questions can be directed to Lisa Everitt, executive staff officer, Teacher Welfare; phone 780-447-9400 (Edmonton area), 1-800-232-7208 (elsewhere in Alberta); e-mail TW@ata.ab.ca.

 The Alberta Teachers' Association

TW-138



A FREE, web-based cross-curricular program for grade five students.

Register Now
1-800-27Bones
Power4Bones.com



"I've used this program three times now, and love it. The personalized and interactive nature, the variety of media, the clarity of the learning, and the culminating task being included make it a complete package, filled with terrific information."
- Teacher



Above: Student Activities

Come and Join CAIS in Hong Kong for "A Transformative Education Experience"

Christian Alliance International School (CAIS) aspires to be the most trusted provider of international education in Hong Kong offering the full Alberta Curriculum on an exciting, brand new campus. Realized through a learning community that embraces spiritual and traditional family values, our mission is to cultivate learners with knowledge, skills, integrity and discernment, growing in love for God and service to humanity.



Above: New Campus Phase 1: Academic Building ready for the fall of 2017

Right: Phase 2 & 3 Fine Arts and Sport Complexes



CAIS is inviting Alberta certified teachers for all grade-levels to apply for the 2017-18 school year. Successful applicants with a contract will be provided with a competitive and comprehensive salary and benefits package.

Come talk to us for more information at GETCA 2017 (Booth#626)
Browse our website: caisbv.edu.hk.
Canadian Contact: kenkh101@gmail.com



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Committed to Teachers in Alberta

Morgex Insurance is a division of Johnson Inc., a licensed insurance intermediary ("Johnson"). Home and auto policies are primarily underwritten by, and claims handled by, Unifund Assurance Company ("Unifund"). Unifund and Johnson share common ownership. Auto insurance not available in BC, SK or MB. An alternate plan is available in QC. Eligibility requirements, limitations, exclusions or additional costs may apply, and/or may vary by province or territory. *Full savings amount available on auto insurance if the following discounts are applicable: Conviction Free, Loyalty, New Business, Age, and qualifying Group Membership. Percentage savings may vary otherwise. Applicable only to policies underwritten by Unifund in Alberta. Eligibility requirements, limitations and exclusions may apply. Call 1.888.262.9522 for details. †Certain conditions apply. Offer only available in Alberta. Promotion runs from Jan1/17 to Apr30/17 ("Promotion Period"). Open to persons who i) "Plan Members" of the Alberta Teachers' Association ("ATA") as defined in the ATA's Home and Auto Insurance Program Agreement with Johnson Inc.; (ii) residents of Alberta ("AB"); and (iii) of the age of majority in AB ("Eligible Person(s)"). One (1) pre-paid credit card valued at One Hundred Canadian Dollars (\$100 CAD) ("Card") to be awarded to each Eligible Person who (i) calls Johnson at 1.855.772.1547; and (ii) is issued a new AB auto policy underwritten by Unifund during the Promotion Period. Maximum limit of one (1) Card per Eligible Person. Card will be distributed by mail within 8 weeks of end of Promotion Period. Johnson reserves the right to discontinue this promotion prior to Apr30/17 by posting a notice on its website at www.morgex.com. 0037_17

The great equalizer



Autos for sale

2013 Toyota Highlander LTD 4WD

Features: remote starter, dual power seats, heated front seats, steering wheel controls, power moon roof, power lift gate. Comes with a set of winter tires with rims. Windshield and brakes were replaced in the last month.

Colour: Magnetic grey
 Engine: 6cyl, 3.5l
 Drivetrain: 4WD
 Transmission: 5-speed automatic
 Kilometres: 123,150 km

Sealed bids for the above vehicle should be marked "Car Bid," and addressed to

Tracy Pohl, Accountant
 Alberta Teachers' Association
 11010 142 Street, Edmonton AB
 T5N 2R1

Bids will be accepted until
5 p.m., Feb. 28, 2017.

For more information, contact Tracy Pohl. Telephone: 780-447-9452 in Edmonton and area, or 1-800-232-7208 (toll free) from elsewhere in Alberta. The Alberta Teachers' Association reserves the right to refuse the highest bid if it is deemed to be inadequate.



French Immersion Teachers

Black Gold Regional Division No. 18 is actively seeking French Immersion Teachers for the 2017-18 school year.

Please send a cover letter, resume, and two letters of reference to
 Michelle Unchulenko,
 HR Coordinator at
michelle.unchulenko@blackgold.ca

Attention teachers

The ATA News advertisements of institution programs

Advertising by institutions offering educational programs is accepted by the ATA News on a commercial basis. There is no guarantee that these institutions fulfill the requirements for consideration as a recognized institution for salary grid purposes.

Teachers considering enrolling in educational programs for purposes of increasing salary levels should consult the Teacher Salary Qualifications Board Principles or inquire directly to the Teacher Qualifications Service regarding the acceptability of the program.

Pension Decisions?

A fortune cookie is not a recommended strategy for planning your future...



We're here to help.

ATRF Personal Interviews

Personal interviews are for plan members who are seeking information about their pension amount, increasing their pension or preparing for retirement.

| | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| CALGARY | March / April / May |
| RED DEER | March |
| LETHBRIDGE | April |
| MEDICINE HAT | April |
| CANMORE | May |

To register go to ATRF.com and in the Teachers' section, click on Meet with Us. Register early as space is limited and appointments book quickly.



Treat it Right!®

Treat it Right!® is a series of teachers' guides designed to provide Edmonton teachers with lessons, readings, and activities that link the storm and wastewater systems to the science curriculum.

The program includes:

- Treat it Right!® Wastewater (Grade 4)**
(English and French)
- Treat it Right!® Storm Water (Grade 5)**
(English and French)
- Treat it Right!® LID (Grade 7)**
- Treat it Right!® Wastewater (Grade 8)**
- Treat it Right!® Storm Water (Grade 8)**
- Treat it Right!® Puppet Show (Grades 2 and 4)**
Check available dates at:
www.treatitrightpuppetshow.ca
Contact: Joel Kafka at 780-450-9173
joel@puppetualmotion.net
- Treat it Right!® Wetland Field Trip (Grade 5)**
Contact: Leah Wilson at
780-267-6543
treatitrightgrade5@gmail.com

For more information, contact:
 Janice Dewar at 780-496-5431
janice.dewar@edmonton.ca

www.edmonton.ca/drainage/education



CLASSIFIEDS

Travel and Recreation

Adventure to China—"The world is a book, and those who do not travel read only one page." Join us for an amazing 15-day cultural adventure to China. \$3199 includes hotels, meals, transport, guides and admissions to sites. Run by teachers for teachers (and others). Payment plan available. For flyer, contact e.mouland@AsianCuriosityTours.com

Discover East Africa—Volunteer teachers needed to mentor teachers in Burundi. Tanbur African Aid Society has an English school using the Alberta curriculum. Accommodations, meals, laundry provided. Tax receipt for airfare provided. Contact Ann at Tanburtaas@gmail.com.

Goods and Services

Teach in China for 2 or 4 weeks in July 2017. Interested? Check us out at www.china-connecting.ca.

Las Vegas Timeshare Rental—One week; arrive on Friday, Saturday or Sunday. On Strip - Elara 1 bedroom (full kitchen/laundry); Marriott Grand Chateau 1 or 2 bedroom (full kitchen/laundry) or efficiency unit. Call 780-478-1064.

Okanagan Suite (Accommodates 6)—Lake Country minutes from Kelowna (YLW). Ski, golf, lakes, wineries, orchards. Photos & details at www.justaweekaway.ca.

Mindfulness-based stress reduction (MBSR) for healthcare and other professionals. March 1 to April 8. Participants will learn foundational mindfulness exercises, develop their own mindfulness practice, and learn to integrate mindfulness into personal and professional life. For more information: www.mindfulnessinstitute.ca. Phone: 780-919-0693

To Advertise

For Advertising Information

Bromley Chamberlain,
Advertising Manager
 1-780-447-9417 direct
 1-800-232-7208 toll free; email:
bromley.chamberlain@ata.ab.ca

Next Deadline

February 17, 2017, 4 PM
 (publication date February 28, 2017)

Please Note: Advertisers are encouraged to book their advertisement space early—space is limited.

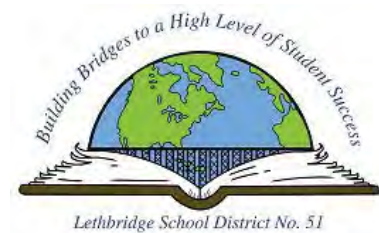
Cost

Classified ads: \$1.00 per word plus GST (\$15.00 minimum)
Display ads: Varies according to size

Payment

Prepayment is required. We accept VISA, Mastercard, cash or cheque.

Circulation: 44,000



LETHBRIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 51

Lethbridge School District No. 51 is seeking dynamic, collaborative and innovative French Immersion teachers to join our community in the 2017-2018 school year. Opportunities will be available at all levels (Elementary, Middle & High School). Candidates must be committed to ensuring that a contemporary and engaging learning environment is provided to all students.

In addition, successful candidates will:

- Believe in bringing out the best in each of their students.
- Possess strong teaching skills; including the areas of numeracy and literacy.
- Possess strong skills in the area of differentiated instruction and the development of individual student programs.
- Be committed to working in an inclusive environment.
- Be able to integrate technology and the ICT outcomes into the regular program.
- Be able to work closely with the Immersion team to build a strong French culture and language experience in the school building.
- Be open to team planning and have strong organization and communication skills.
- Participation in the bigger school and District culture.

Applicants should submit a curriculum vitae, cover letter and current references quoting competition #T501, to hr.ata@lethsd.ab.ca

Subject line MUST include the following: T501, last name, first name (Example: T501, Doe, John)

Posting will remain open until suitable candidates are found. We thank all applicants for your interest in our District; however, only candidates selected for an interview will be contacted.

TALENTEND

February 14, 2017 | Volume 51, Number 11



Hitting the canvas

Monika Bossart (left) of St. Lucy Catholic School and Jenny-lind Poulin of St. Alphonsus School enjoy some creativity and socializing during Paint Night, an event hosted at Barnett House by Edmonton Catholic Local No. 54 on Feb. 3. About 50 teachers attended the event.



Dressed for success

Members of Edmonton Catholic Teachers Local No. 54 gathered Jan. 26 for an event entitled Dress for Success. A professional style consultant advised attendees how they could optimize their professional image. Topics covered included key wardrobe pieces that any professional should own, how to pull together a professional look on a budget and dressing for different professional situations. Pictured are (L-R): Syan Maclagan, Patrick Smith, Alix Crowell-Bour and Thomas Collins.

But seriously, folks

A few groaners for the staff room (www.ajokeaday.com)

A student wanting to measure something asked his teacher, "Sir, do you have a ruler?"

"Yes," answered the teacher, "she's at home watching the kids."

On the first day of school, Peter handed his new teacher a note from his mother. The teacher unsealed the note, read it, looked at Peter with a frown and placed the note inside a desk drawer.

"So what did she write?" Peter asked.

"It's a disclaimer."

"A what?"

"It says, 'The opinions expressed by Peter are not necessarily those of his mother or father.'"

"It's no good," said the hopeless pupil to his English teacher. "I try to learn, but everything you say goes in both ears and out the other."

"Goes in both ears and out the other?" asked the puzzled teacher.

"But you only have two ears."

"You see, I'm no good at math, either!"

Interested in Serving on an ATA Committee? Application deadline is March 31, 2017

Each year, a number of practising teachers are selected to serve on Association committees as well as to represent the Association on boards and committees of other organizations and provincial bodies.

Who is eligible to apply? All active and associate members are eligible to serve.

How many teachers are selected to serve each year? About 20–25 appointments are made in a year.

How do I get more information and apply? To find out more and to access an online application form, visit the ATA's website (www.teachers.ab.ca) and click on "Interested in Serving on an ATA Committee?" located in the Announcements section of the home page.

APPLY NOW!

For more information, contact Lindsay Yakimyshyn at 780-447-9425 (in Edmonton) or 1-800-232-7208 (elsewhere in Alberta).

Si vous voulez recevoir ces renseignements et un formulaire d'inscription en français, appelez Régine Toal: 780-447-9407 (à Edmonton), 1-800-232-7208 (d'ailleurs en Alberta).

Apply now for an ATA Fellowship or Scholarship



Applications are now being accepted for the following:

ATA Doctoral Fellowships in Education

- Two awards of \$15,000
- For members entering or in first year of a doctoral program in education

Nadene M Thomas Graduate Research Bursary

- \$5,000
- For a member enrolled in a graduate program in education

John Mazurek Memorial—Morgex Insurance Scholarship

- \$2,500
- For members who pursue relevant professional development

For more information and to apply

- Visit www.teachers.ab.ca then click on For Members > Grants, Awards and Scholarships
- Contact Barb Bossert: barb.bossert@ata.ab.ca 780-447-9461 (Edmonton area) or toll free 1-800-232-7208

Application deadline: Tuesday, February 28



The Alberta Teachers' Association