



THE BUGLER

A publication of the Elk Island Local #28 ATA January 2006

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Karen Wilson

Happy New Year! I feel like I hit the ground running on January 9th what with my English 30-2s writing the first part of their diploma exam on January 16th. I'd like to welcome our new superintendent Egbert Stang who will assume his duties within the next couple of weeks. I'm looking forward to meeting with him as soon as possible.

The Fort Saskatchewan trustee by-election will be held on February 27th and depending on how many nominees put their names forward on January 30th, the local may host a candidates' forum. We'll keep you posted.

Convention is quickly approaching -- February 9th and 10th. It is our professional obligation as teachers to attend the same proportion of convention as is our proportion of full time equivalent (if you teach half-time you must attend half of the convention). We will be running our hospitality room from 4:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. on the Thursday evening in room 2308 at the Crowne Plaza Chateau Lacombe. If you drop by the hospitality room we'll gladly explain why we aren't in the Royal Suite at the Hotel Macdonald.

Elaine Whitford and Bill Shields have been discussing the details of the health spend

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PD Chair: Carrie Huculak
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President's Report (Cont.)

ing account which begins in March. We'll let you know the details of the health spending account as soon as everything has been finalized.

Although Education Minister Zwozdesky indicated that he would make a final decision about the three outstanding learning commission recommendations -- collective bargaining, principals in or out of the ATA and junior kindergarten -- before the end of the 2005 calendar year, we are still awaiting his decision. The Minister has also stated that he will address the unfunded liability of the teachers' pension plan but we've heard that line before.

I wish you all the best in 2006! Please don't hesitate to contact me at Salisbury Composite with any questions or concerns you or your staff may have.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Carrie Huculak, PD Chair

I hope that you enjoyed a relaxing break over the holidays and feel energized at the start of 2006. We sure were pampered with the weather we experienced over the two week period. It felt really great to come back in January, ready to tackle the second half of the year.

By now, many of you will have already searched through the NCTCA Convention booklet to have found that perfect session. With the multitude of interesting and intriguing sessions, I am sure it was not a difficult task. Whether you are going to "The Passion, History and Chemistry of Chocolate" (hmmmm.... chocolate) or on a tour of the Citadel Theatre or to a Junior/Senior High Chemistry session – the possibilities are endless. I encourage you to register online as early as possible. The website address is www.nctca.ab.ca . A few other important reminders about Convention are as follows:

1. Please bring your Convention booklet in order to get into keynote/feature sessions and exhibits.
2. Plan to attend Pub Night on Wednesday February 8th from 8:00 – 11:00 PM at the Westin Hotel in the Main Ballroom. It is a great way to catch up with past colleagues and meet some new ones!
3. Thursday night brings forth more social opportunities at the Shaw Conference Centre from 3:30 – 6:00 PM in the Riverview room.

4. Arrive early to your sessions to get the best seat possible!
5. ATA Local #28 hospitality suite will be open this year in room 2308 in the Crowne Plaza Chateau Lacombe. The hours of operation will be Thursday from 4:00 until 9:00 PM.
6. Complete the evaluation form on page 229 of your booklet to give feedback on your experience.

I would also like to remind everyone about the two book-studies we are starting soon. The first book we are looking at is "Ready or Not, Here Life Comes", by Mel Levine. This is a very timely book-study as Mel is coming to EIPS for a full day of PD in February. The second book is "Rescue Josh McGuire", by Ben Mikaelson. The cost for joining the Levine book-study is \$20.00 (if you need a copy of the book) or \$ 5.00 (if you already have a copy). The cost of joining the book-study for Ben Mikaelson's novel is \$13.00 (if you need the book) or \$5.00 (if you already have a copy). Please email me if you are interested in joining one. We would really like to get these started as soon as possible.

On a final note, plans for the combined PD day in 2006 are moving ahead nicely. We have already picked a theme, the keynote and looked at what we can do to meet the needs of our members. It is looking like this will be the best PD day yet! If you have any helpful sessions, speaker names or session topics that you would like to forward, please send them in an email to me. Have a great month everyone!

Did You Know?

Colleen Andrews, F. R. Haythorne

In the 1400s a law was set forth that a man was not allowed to beat his wife with a stick thicker than his thumb. Hence we have "The Rule of Thumb".

Many years ago in Scotland, a new game was invented. It was ruled "Gentlemen Only....Ladies Forbidden" ...and thus the word GOLF entered into the English language.

The cost of raising a medium-sized dog to the age of eleven is \$6 400.

The average number of people airborne over the US any given hour is 61 000.

Intelligent people have more zinc and copper in their hair.

The first novel ever written on a typewriter was "Tom Sawyer".

Each king in a deck of playing cards represents a great king from history.

- Spades: King David
- Hearts: Charlemagne
- Clubs: Alexander, the Great
- Diamonds: Julius Caesar

Did You Know? (cont.)

If a statue in the park of a person on a horse has both front legs in the air, the person died in battle. If the horse has one front leg in the air, the person died as a result of wounds received in battle. If the horse has all four legs on the ground, the person died of natural causes.

Q. If you were to spell out numbers, how far would you have to go until you would find the letter "A"?

A. One thousand.

Q. What do bulletproof vests, fire escapes, windshield wipers and laser printers all have in common?

A. All invented by women.

Q. Which day are there more collect calls than any other day of the year?

A. Father's Day.

In Shakespeare's time, mattresses were secured on bed frames by ropes. When you pulled on the ropes, the mattress tightened, making the bed firmer to sleep on. Hence the phrase...."Goodnight, sleep tight."

It was the accepted practice in Babylon 4 000 years ago that, for a month after the wedding, the bride's father would supply his son-in-law with all the mead he could drink. Mead is a honey beer and because their calendar was lunar based, this period was called the honey month, which we know today as the honeymoon.

Many years ago in England, pub frequenters had a whistle baked into the rim, or handle, of their ceramic cups. When they needed a refill, they used the whistle to get some service. "Wet your whistle" is the phrase inspired by this practice.

POLITICAL ACTION

Karen Atkinson, VP

Too late!

The deadline for this publication was January 18th. The election was January 23rd. By now all that could have been done has been done. We all know the results.

The question remains: did you vote?

If you can answer yes, I congratulate you and I welcome discussion of the 'new' political condition in our country.

Political Action (cont.)

Please remember that an election does not mark an end; it is a beginning. What comes during the tenure of this government will decide the validity of our choices.

Stay informed. Keep talking.

Remember, one voice may be very quiet, but if many voices speak, the message has more chance of being heard!

School Board By-Election

With the passing of Pat Sprague, the EIPS Board was left with a vacancy to fill in Fort Saskatchewan. There will be a by-election in that ward on February 27th, if there are multiple candidates.

Nomination day is Monday, January 30th. Nominations will be received at EIPS Central Administration Building on that date between 9 AM and noon.

Should there be more than one declared candidate, a forum will be held to allow voters to learn about the candidates' positions on current issues in education. Details will be announced after nomination day.

TBAC REPORT

Deneen Zielke, Chair

Your TBAC (Teacher Board Advisory Committee) has continued to meet regularly and discuss your concerns and review draft policies out for circulation. We have also kept in contact with our superintendent and central office personnel regarding such concerns. As our system is currently in a state of transition the number of policies currently being reviewed is fewer than usual and our TBCC (Teacher Board Consultation Committee) agenda has been limited.

However, in October we spent time sharing feedback and concerns, regarding our system in-service day on the 28th, with our superintendent and trustees. In consultation with our P.D. chair, we also discussed the responsibility shared by central office and our local ATA in planning and delivering a successful professional experience for all.

Recently a couple of concerns have been passed on to TBAC members for discussion and review. Our plan is to research these in the coming month and discuss them with our new superintendent at our next meeting.

TBAC Report (Cont.)

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to give me a call. I'll do my best to answer them.

Some Things You May NOT Have Known...(I don't really know why you would want to...)

The dot over the letter "i" is called a tittle.

A duck's quack does echo, but humans cannot hear it. No one knows why.

Every person has a unique tongue print.

During the chariot scene in "Ben Hur", a small red car can be seen in the distance.

On average, 12 newborns will be given to the wrong parents daily.

Most lipstick contains fish scales.

Donald Duck comics were banned from Finland because he doesn't wear pants.

Ketchup was sold in the 1830s as medicine.

Leonardo da Vinci could write with one hand and draw with the other at the same time.

Because metal was scarce, the Oscars given out during World War II were made of wood.

There are no clocks in Las Vegas gambling casinos.

Leonardo da Vinci invented scissors.

If you have three quarters, four dimes and four pennies, you have \$1.19. You also have the largest amount of money in coins without being able to make change for a dollar.

Chewing gum while peeling onions will keep you from crying.

Chocolate affects a dog's heart and nervous system; a few ounces will kill a small sized dog.

Orcas (killer whales) beach themselves in order to catch seals.

The first product to have a bar code was Wrigley's gum.

Your stomach produces a new layer of mucus every two weeks—otherwise it will digest itself.

Vincent Van Gogh sold only one painting (Red Vineyard at Arles) during his lifetime.

Good Things Come in Small Packages

Linda Klym, Pine Street School

She might be small, but Jo Pallard has accomplished great things. Mrs. Pallard, a former elementary school teacher in Sherwood Park, is the honored recipient of the Governor General's Award in Commemoration of Persons Case. She received this award for her efforts with helping immigrants adjust to their new lives in Canada. For the past 38 years, since she herself immigrated to Edmonton from the Philippines, Mrs. Pallard has worked as a volunteer in many areas starting with creating her own informal English-as-a-second language group for immigrant and refugee women.

"I knew that breaking the language barrier was a valuable tool for a new immigrant," says Pallard. Changing Together: a Centre for Immigrant Women was formed by Pallard in 1984. For more than 25 years she has chaired St. Anthony's Roman Catholic Parish in Edmonton in sponsoring more than 500 refugees from Vietnam, Poland, Bosnia, Croatia, Albania, Iraq, Algeria, Africa, El Salvador and Nicaragua. Her committee looks after the financial, housing, food, medical and educational obligations for a year while building the immigrant's independence and self-reliance. Pallard is also president of the International and Heritage Language Association. Mrs. Pallard is one of only 6 Canadian women who received this award in an annual celebration of the Persons case.

When Pallard was not busy with all her immigration work, she taught Grade 4 at Pine Street Elementary School where she was for the last 18 years. She was involved in learning assistance, early reading intervention and special education. Mrs. Pallard tried to involve her Grade 4 students in the global community. Her students worked hard in several areas that benefited other people. Campbell-Cribb Public Speaking, recycling, the CBC turkey drive and a special classroom project that involved searching for each individual's family roots were all part of being in Mrs. Pallard's innovative classroom.

Pallard says it best. "I don't do great things. I only do small things with great passion." She is living proof that one person can achieve many things with empathy and conscience being their guiding principles. Good things indeed, come in many different kinds of packages--part of the reason why Canada is such a great country to live in.

Mrs. Pallard retired from teaching at Christmas to pursue her calling to aid immigrant women coming to Canada. She is presently acting executive director of an organization, "Changing Together," which is a centre for immigrant women. Jo will officially retire from EIPS in May where family, friends and colleagues can celebrate her many successes and new career with her.