

THE BUGLER

A publication of the Elk Island Local #28 ATA

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Karen Wilson

President's Report

In this, my last president's report of the school year, I'd like to reflect upon (assess for learning) my "job"/role over the past eight or nine months so that I can determine the foci for next year's Presidential Growth Plan. I would say that I've met expectations but as a perfectionist, I'd rather exceed expectations.

I concur wholeheartedly with the slogan of the provincial association's advertising campaign -- "The future. . .it's why teachers teach." This is a mantra to chant over and over especially when the "future" is contributing to an unusually overwhelming day. However, on the positive side, I find the "future's" antics will be excellent resource material for my book (which I do plan on writing sometime in the future).

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As local president I have the opportunity to teach and to visit other classrooms and schools. I believe part of my role as local president is to do what I can to be an effective and strong advocate for all teachers -- past, present and future. That is why I feel such personal failure to be part of a solution to end the problem of the unfunded liability of the teacher's pension plan. I become quite frustrated when I hear that this is just a problem for teachers. It is not just a problem for teachers since all taxpayers will be paying off this provincial debt for the foreseeable future (and I'm stretching the meaning of foreseeable). I hope that by this time next year, I can switch the resolution of the unfunded liability into the completed column but until that happens I'll keep this as a focus in my Presidential Growth Plan.

The theme for the past Education Week was "Learning: It's Yours for Life." I began the week at Andrew School where I was a guest speaker on this topic. I discovered that while I vividly remember my kindergarten teacher, Miss Malcolm, I also remember Andrew's kindergarten teacher from when she was a student in one of my grade seven classes at F.R. Haythorne. On Tuesday, I drove to Fort Saskatchewan where I had the opportunity to read ***Detective LaRue: Letters from the Investigation*** to a grade four class at Win Ferguson. I really enjoyed the lifelong learning I experienced at Lamont Elementary's Ukrainian Easter breakfast. If I knew any Ukrainian I'd insert an appropriate phrase here.

I am pleased that I am healthy enough to make school visits again since I was recuperating from surgery during Christmas Concert season. One of my goals for my Presidential Growth Plan is to attend more special events (and be invited as well) that occur at the district's many schools. Suggestions include (but are not limited to) Awards Ceremonies, Read-In Week activities, Christmas concerts, band concerts, drama productions, celebrations, Education Week activities, retirement functions and anything involving food (breakfasts, lunches, teas). I only speak at school events if I am asked to say something.

I do believe that one of my strengths involves my ability to build and sustain relationships with all the educational stakeholders. I also feel that I am extremely accessible so that any individual teacher or school staff can contact me for clarification, and for an informal visit or chat. I hope that as you reflect on your Professional Growth Plan, you too can celebrate your areas of strength as well as consider areas in which you'd like to improve. Enjoy your summer break!!! See you in September!!! (okay, it's actually the end of August).

A little boy opened the big family Bible. He was fascinated as he fingered through the old pages. Suddenly, something fell out of the Bible. He picked up the object and looked at it. What he saw was an old leaf that had been pressed in between the pages. "Mom, look what I found!" the boy called out.

"What have you got there, dear?" asked his mother.

With astonishment in his voice, he answered, "I think it's Adam's underwear!"

The Dominoes Are Falling...

Karen Atkinson, Vice President

Once again we have arrived at the season of change. Retirements are announced. Staffing needs are set. The positions come up on email and the EIPS website. People looking for a change of grade or school or assignment check the listings and apply if something strikes a positive chord. When one move is made, the domino effect takes over. Much shifting and shuffling is possible.

For those of you who were probationary or temporary this year, the process can look a little scary. Probationary and temporary contracts terminate June 30th (if not before in the case of some temporary ones). Often the job listing contains the words "open to EIPS continuing contract teachers only". This is not intended to slam a door in your face. It is intended to ensure sufficient placements for staff with continuing contracts who are 'surplus' or seeking change. If a suitable candidate is not found, the position may be re-advertised, open to all.

Other listings are already appearing without the employment condition. These are usually specialized or difficult-to-fill positions (as determined by Human Resources).

It is expected that all known vacancies will be advertised. No openings should be held for later consideration. If the staffing needs are known (to the point required at this stage of planning) and the intentions of current staff are clear, then positions that need to be filled should be advertised.

If you are seeking a position, keep an eye on the EIPS website every day. The postings are updated there regularly. It may seem that things are moving very slowly, but the process takes time. In order to avoid mass confusion, the jobs are identified in 'batches', a few at a time. If you don't see one that fits your experience or training, wait a bit. If you are worried or unsure about what is expected or what could happen or what you should be doing, talk to us! We (Local Executive) have seen this happen year after year (those of us who have been around a while, at least). If we cannot help you, we can certainly assist with finding someone who can.

Above all – do not give up! You are a teacher. You want to teach. You want to be here in Elk Island. Fight for it. Keep applying. Keep talking. Keep positive.

IMPORTANCE OF PROOF READING

- It was incorrectly reported last Friday that today is T-shirt Appreciation Day. In fact, it is actually Teacher Appreciation Day.
- * IMPORTANT NOTICE: If you are one of hundreds of parachuting enthusiasts who bought our Easy Sky Diving book, please make the following correction: on page 8, line 7, the words "state zip code" should have read "pull rip cord."
- * The marriage of Miss Freda vanAmburg and Willie Branton, which was announced in this paper a few weeks ago, was a mistake which we wish to correct.

ARA REPORT

Helen Cranna, Vice President

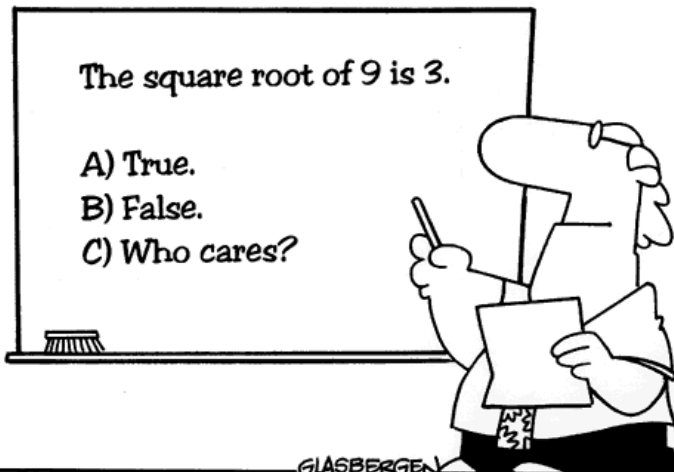
Next weekend (the long weekend) will be our annual representative assembly. There will be 11 members of your ARA committee attending. This year we will be traveling to Calgary for sessions at the Westin Hotel.

This is the weekend when we get a chance to listen to, debate and vote on resolutions for the coming year. Committee members also have a chance to meet and socialize with members of other locals in the province. Sessions are held all day Saturday and Sunday, Sunday evening, and Monday morning.



"Doesn't this setting make Summer school a bit more palatable, class?"

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Many students actually look forward to Mr. Atwadder's math tests.

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"The Senior High Band Concert is Wednesday night—and this time we're not going to smash our instruments at the end of the last song!"

Interesting Quotes:

"How to store your baby walker: First, remove baby."

- Anonymous Manufacturer

"I get to go to lots of overseas places, like Canada."

- Britney Spears, Pop Singer

"Golden, Ripe, Boneless Bananas, 39 Cents A Pound."

- Ad in the "Missoulian" by Orange Street Food Farm