

MEMORIES OF THE HUMBOLDT DISASTER TEACH US IMPORTANT LIFE LESSONS ... ONPAGE 3...

TEACHERS SUPPORTING TEACHERS



New contest!!!

*With a special
Easter theme*

... on page 6

Teachers accept the mediator's recommendations. Implications ...on page 2

Students at NXT explore social justice with street art ... on page 5

LOOKING FORWARD...WHAT'S IN STORE FOR TEACHERS?

By Deneen Zielke, President

By the time this article is posted a number of decisions will have been made that affect the future of teachers and students. It's been a very busy year and teachers have been asked to educate themselves and vote on a provincial association president, central bargaining recommendations, and a provincial election.

So, what does it all mean?

- If the mediator's recommendation has been ratified there will be a few gains for EIPS teachers and an opportunity to advance salary gains in the fall if the arbitrator rules in our favor. We will also be preparing for local bargaining and asking members to complete surveys and supply direction.
- If the mediator's recommendation has been turned down, we could be back at the table or preparing for a strike vote.
- No matter who wins the provincial election, there will be work to do. The Association will have to educate the public regarding classroom conditions. There needs to be an understanding that violence is present and increasing. It is important that the *continued on page 2...*

MEMBERS NEED TO ADVOCATE FOR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS

...continued from page 1

- public understand how students and staff are adversely affected. Supports for inclusion are essential. This doesn't just mean additional adults in the classroom, it means providing required support through Alberta Health and community services.
- We will also have to work to make sure that funding is increased and stable. Without a funding increase to accommodate an increase in student population, class sizes will increase and not decrease as the association has advocated.
- There will be more issues to address, but those will be specific to the governing party. Reading their education platforms indicate that education and advocacy will be required to maintain and improve classroom conditions for students and teachers.

If you think that once our choices have been made, we can sit back and relax, you are mistaken. Unfortunately, progress doesn't come easy. It seems we are always in a state of bargaining or caught in an election cycle that requires us to advocate for Alberta students and teachers. I hope you don't get discouraged and continue to educate yourself and voice your opinions. The future of education depends on it.

Ratified Central Table Agreement: Key Points for Elk Island Public Schools Regional Division No. 14

(Two-year collective agreement Sept. 1, 2018 to Aug. 31, 2020)

- ❖ Binding arbitration will begin to determine salary increases (there will be NO decreases!) retroactive to April 1, 2019. Arbitration must be completed by Sept. 30, 2019.
- ❖ Effective Sept. 1, 2019, there is a standard definition of teacher experience across the province. A year of experience is defined as 140 operational days on contract and uncredited experience may be carried over from year to year.
- ❖ Substitute teacher pay will be increased to \$212 per day and includes vacation pay. General Holiday Pay will be calculated in accordance with the *Employment Standards Code*. (Effective May 1, 2019)
- ❖ Effective Sept. 1, 2019, part-time FTE will be based on assigned time instead of instructional time.
- ❖ Effective Sept. 1, 2019, our district will receive Vision Care plan 3 (allows for \$400 every two years for every teacher and each dependent).
- ❖ Effective Sept. 1, 2019, our employer will pay 100% of benefit plan premiums.
- ❖ Combined maternity and parental leaves increase to a total of 78 weeks (16 maternity, 62 parental) effective May 1, 2019.
- ❖ Effective May 1, 2019, our employer pays benefit plan premiums for 16 weeks of maternity leave AND up to 36 weeks of parental/adoption leave.

LOCAL NEGOTIATIONS MAY NOW BEGIN – STAY TUNED FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS!!

IMAGINE THE IMPACT: WHAT CAN TEACHERS LEARN FROM THE HUMBOLDT TRAGEDY?

By Janet Vader (SCE)

April 6, 2018 changed the lives of every Canadian forever. That was the night that shook all of humanity to its core when the charter bus carrying the Humboldt Broncos Junior Hockey team crashed. It shook me to my core as a mother of two hockey players. It shook me to my core as a teacher who has taught students that have gone on to play Junior hockey. It shook me to my core as a wife and a friend and sister. To watch the devastation, the grief, the undeniable anguish that millions of people were experiencing was almost surreal. For all of Canada and much of the planet, life came to a halt and we sat in stunned shock.

Now, one year later, as I reflect on the events of the past year, I am amazed at how we function as human beings. For all of us, life slowly resumed at a different pace for each person depending on how connected we were to this tragedy. We

resumed our jobs, we began watching TV again, eventually we even laughed and had some fun. You see, even when the most unimaginable catastrophe happens, humanity finds a way to carry on. We find a way to recover and persevere and somehow, carry on. I can't help but reflect on what I can learn as a teacher from how people reacted to this tragedy. If there is any way to find even the tiniest ounce of good from April 6, 2018, I think I've discovered 3 lessons that I can take away and implement into my classroom.

First, it shows me that people can come together and support

each other in ways that I couldn't have ever imagined. Regardless of whether you are a hockey person or not, you felt the pain of that night. The grief wasn't limited to a certain group of individuals, but rather resulted in a collective groan of sadness. I wonder how our students could come together in our classrooms to support each other in ways we haven't yet thought of. God forbid it takes a tragedy of epic proportions to draw us to work together and cooperate with people who aren't like us. What if we focused on this type of unity in our collaborative learning? What if we found ways to bring students together to share and bond and



grow? What if we found a way to overcome our differences and work together? Imagine the impact.

Second, it shows me that we need to be deeply aware of how we are shaping the lives of our students. Are we building character? Are we molding students who will contribute to society and make the impact that these young men have made, both the survivors and the lost? We spend so much time with these kids and we have the opportunity to shape more than their minds. I hope we are cognizant of developing our little people into world

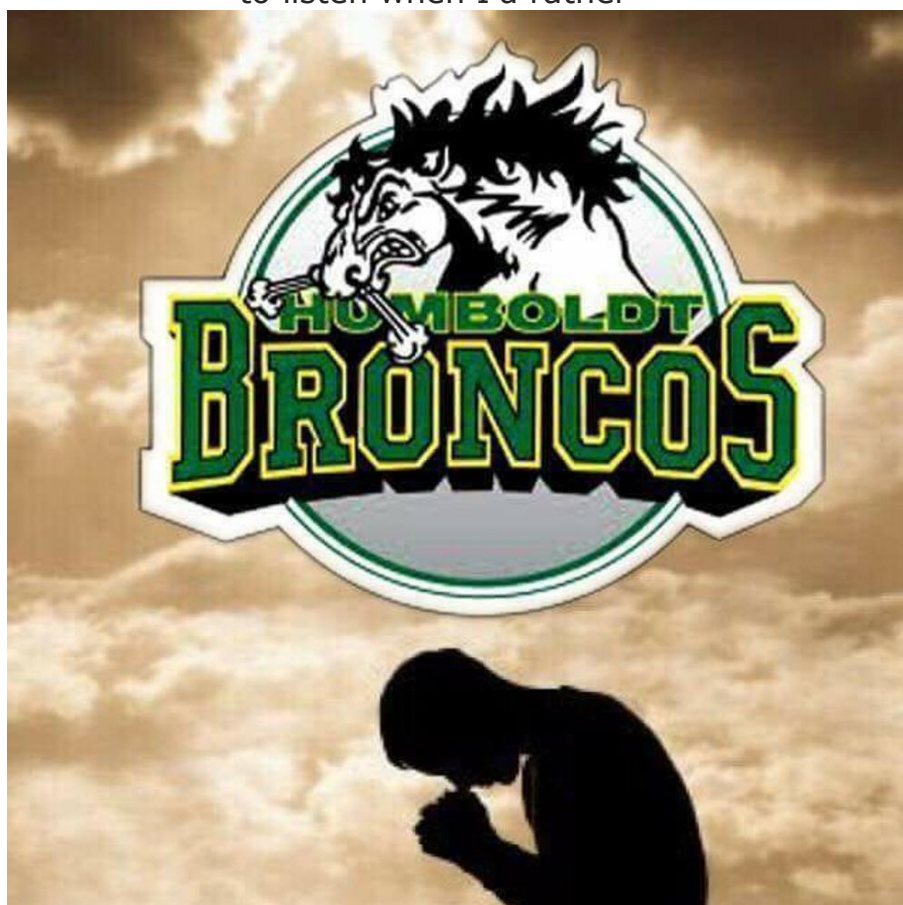
changers. Imagine the impact.

Lastly, it reminds me that my students could be hurting about something at any given moment. It reminds me to be aware, to be sensitive and to be compassionate. It reminds me to smile when I don't feel like it, to listen when I'd rather

talk and to encourage when it doesn't necessarily come easily. Imagine the impact.

Life is full of difficulties and adversity. Imagine the impact if we could touch our students in ways that change them forever. I still cry when I read or watch stories about the Humboldt

accident. My heart still aches when I think about the lives lost. I only hope that I can have some influence on my students that would lead them to make a difference in the world. I can only imagine the impact we, as teachers could have.



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ACTIVISM & ART: SOCIAL JUSTICE EDUCATION THROUGH STREET ART

"If graffiti changed anything it would be illegal" – Banksy



Some of the album covers on display in the school

By Kristian Basaraba (NXT)

This quote by world renowned street artist Banksy was the impetus for the project entitled "Street Art & Social Justice" that a dedicated contingent of students at Next Step High School embarked on last year. Banksy has made a career of creating and staging thought-provoking pieces of graffiti and street art that reflect a social commentary on various issues facing society and the globe. This project, funded by the Aspen Foundation for Labour Education, had similar goals; have students create engaging art pieces that promote awareness and encourage change.

To generate interest and provoke inspiration among the budding street artists, students were first introduced to various types of street art forms including spray paint graffiti, stencil making, sticker art and wheat paste posters. These were the art forms that some prominent street artists used to get their message across and were modelled after in this student project. Some of the artists the students explored were Banksy, Shepard Fairey of BEY brand fame, Mr. Brainwash and local Edmonton street artist that came into the school to work with the students, thinkITEM.

Having some knowledge of these street artists and art forms students were then engaged in a conversation of what defines "social justice" and what constitutes a "social justice issue." This task was taken upon by the Social Studies teacher, Susan Chalmers, as she led the students on the path to the issues that included poverty, racism, gun control, death penalty, global warming, sexism and domestic violence. Identifying

these issues then allowed each student to research it and create an image library in order to collect pictures that were used to create their art pieces.

The completion of this library signaled the beginning of the creative process which was led by local artist Adriean Koleric (aka thinkITEM). He tasked the students to choose one or two defining images and used these to 'decorate' their works which included an album cover, pin pack, sticker pack and T-shirt stencil. Students worked on this collection of pieces over the course of two months and once complete created a portfolio of sorts in the school for all to see.

Overall this project was very engaging and interesting for all the students that were involved. It raised awareness on some issues, generated some interesting discussions and gave them a sense of pride in their work. In the word of participant Bella, "I learned more about how graffiti and art can be a very unique way to express an opinion and learned about the many important social issues and saw how my peers visualized them." Many thanks go out to Gary and the Aspen Foundation for funding such an enjoyable project.

EASTER EGG HUNT AND MARCH CONTEST RESULTS!

by Irene Deatcher LC

I had great fun hiding a creature in the March edition of The Bugler! Many members found it in the phrase "Teacher WEREWOLF Committee" (it replaced the word "Welfare") on page 7 in the article "What is an AGM?".

Congratulations goes out to Cathy Allen (Sal Comp) who was chosen by random draw and won a \$100 gift card from Amazon! Thanks go out to all who participated.

Now that it is April and the Easter Bunny is

getting ready to make his rounds, he has ALREADY visited Local 28 and hidden some "eggs" in this month's edition of The Bugler. He dyed the eggs in beautiful spring colours just for us and replaced some "o"s and zeroes throughout the newsletter. YOUR task is



to find as many of the hidden eggs as possible and send that number to me. The member with the closest answer will win a \$100 gift card for Indigo, Purdy's

Chocolate, or Amazon (winner's choice)! In event of a tie or multiple exact answers, a winner will be selected from those by random draw.

To participate, send an email to lco@elkislandlocal28.ca with the title "Easter Eggs". In your email, include the number of coloured eggs you found throughout the text of the newsletter. Cut off date for entries will be May 1st. A winner will be selected on May 11th. Good luck! Happy hunting! Happy Easter!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

April 16th

Alberta Provincial Election Day

April 17th

Caregiver Series - Test Anxiety: Strategies for Success - SAL

April 19th

Good Friday

April 22nd

Easter Monday

Earth Day

April 25th - 27th

Middle Years Conference, Banff, AB

April 29th - May 3rd

Education Week

May 1st

Caregiver Series: Breaking the cycle of anxiety

Walking Together: Education for Reconciliation Gathering, Calgary, AB

May 3rd

MCATA Spring Symposium, Red Deer, AB

May 6th - 10th

Emergency Preparedness Week

May 7th

Gr 6 FLA Partie A PAT, Gr 9 ELA Part A PAT

May 9th - 11th

HPEC Conference, Red Deer, AB

May 9th

Gr 6 ELA Part A PAT, Gr 9 Partie A PAT

May 11th - 14th

uLead Conference, Banff, AB

May 17th

Professional Learning Day

May 18th - 20th

Annual Representatives Assembly

May 20th

Victoria Day

May 21st

Local Council meeting 4:30 at Bev Facey (final meeting for the year)

May 24th

Walking Together: Education for Reconciliation Gathering, Grande Prairie, AB



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secretary@elkislandlocal28.ca**Teacher Welfare Committee:**

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twcchair@elkislandlocal28.ca

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Thursday 08:30 - 15:00

The Bugler ATA Local #28

WHO ARE YOU
GOING TO CALL?



For policy concerns, working conditions and issues related to how things operate in EIPS contact the Teacher Board Advisory Committee (TBAC):

Stephen Anders TBAC
tbacchair@elkislandlocal28.ca

For questions about ARTA (Alberta Retired Teachers' Association) that are not answered on [the website](#) or for questions about EIRTA (Elk Island Retired Teachers' Association):

Karen Atkinson
(President)
Elk.Island.RTA@shaw.ca

For pay issues, leaves and anything related to the [collective agreement](#), contact the Teacher Welfare Committee (TWC) or the Negotiating Sub-Committee (NSC):

Jennifer Fredeen TWC
780-217-3197

twcchair@elkislandlocal28.ca

Linda Butler Dunn NSC
cell: 780-281-0850
butlerdunn@gmail.com

For professional conduct issues, contract concerns and employment issues, contact the [ATA at Barnett House](#):

The Alberta Teachers' Association

780-447-9400

OR

1-800-232-7208

Twitter: [@ElkIslandLocal](https://twitter.com/ElkIslandLocal)



Facebook: [ATA Local #28 – Elk Island Public](#)

