

84% of Albertans

agree that maximum
class size standards
are needed.

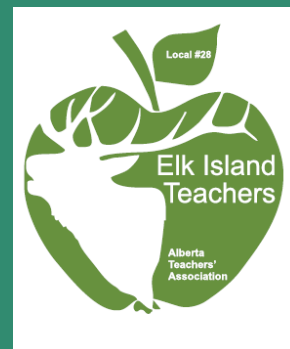


Environics, June 2017

CLASS SIZE IS AN ISSUE!

THE BUGLER

ATA Local #28



November 2017

TEACHERS SUPPORTING TEACHERS

From the Local President

by Deneen Zielke (Local President)

It's Crunch Time!

You may be crunching the last of the leftover Halloween candy, you may be crunching across the snow on your way to work, but you are almost certainly feeling the crunch that comes at this time of year in our schools.

We've gotten through the classroom set up, the implementation of ISPs, most likely the first round of interviews, and now we are looking at completing report cards and getting everything done in the five weeks we have left before the Christmas break.

This is the time of year we are pulled in more directions than we can count. We have curriculum we need to cover, we have Christmas concerts and seasonal activities at school that require extra time, we have Christmas shopping and baking to do, and we have seasonal social engagements that we can't miss. To add to the mix, we are often run down, didn't find time to get our flu shot, and end up sick... but feel so 'far behind' that we don't know how we could possibly stay home. I

(continued on page 2)

Class sizes should* be ...

17
GRADES
K-3

23
GRADES
4-6

25
GRADES
7-9

27
GRADES
10-12

*RECOMMENDED CLASS SIZE AVERAGES FROM ALBERTA'S
COMMISSION ON LEARNING (2003)

Political Engagement

What you need to know about participating in the ATA class size postcard campaign. *Pages 4-5*



"Where's Santa?" Contest is Back!

Details in the "Quick Bits" section

Page 10

(From the Local President continued)

know at least some of this sounds familiar to almost every teacher.

Remember, you are the most important resource in your classroom and cherished by your family and friends. Neither your class nor family functions at its best without YOU! Take care of yourself. Plan ahead to make sure you can fit in everything you NEED to fit in, maybe plan a few less labor-intensive activities that accomplish the same outcome. Spend more time BEING with your class, colleagues, and family. TIME together is most important; the trimmings do not matter near as much. Pinterest perfect crafts, dinners, or decorations fade behind the smiles and laughter of those enjoying the moment. Finally, find time for quiet. You need time for your brain and body to recharge. Book yourself a couple of massages even if you maxed your ASEBP benefits.....you need to use up your HSA by the end of the year. Do something you enjoy, or simply get more sleep.

Keep yourself healthy and enjoy the moment. You'll make it to the Christmas break!

CHRISTMAS RESOURCES

by Irene Deatcher

I have included some old favourites here and a few new ideas!

For Div. 1 teachers who are planning activities related to Christmas, you may want to start with the

[Canada Post website](#).

If you want to send letters to the North Pole, they need to be mailed by December 4th. The site has guidelines, templates and a video which teachers can use.

***NOTE*:** Canada Post has changed how it responds to classroom letters – instead of individual responses there will be a class poster with a community gift of seeds intended to inspire class projects. You can mail student letters (or a single class letter) in one large envelope – no postage required!

For resources applicable to a wider variety of grades, please look at [2Learn.ca](#) – [it has links in categories](#) related to ALL subject areas and also has a

section with [interesting infographics](#).

If you want to be able to direct your students to some Christmas themed websites, try the [12 Days of Christmas Sites](#) – it has a good variety including a link to [winter MadLibs](#) and one set up [by Norad to follow updates about Mr. Claus](#) and his Christmas activities/route.



[StoryNory](#) has a Christmas selection of stories read aloud by a variety of

speakers (all with fabulous story-teller voices) – these would be great to play as kids work on Christmas art or crafts.

This isn't related to Christmas but is very cool and would be appropriate to share across many grade levels. Did you know that Google Street View has [great shots in Antarctica](#)? It is very interesting to explore.

Last year, my class enjoyed [Google's Santa Tracker](#). It works like an advent calendar with one new activity being revealed each day. It had colouring, games, puzzles and more.

CONFERENCE CORNER

by Irene Deatcher

There are no ATA affiliated professional development activities or specialist council conferences in December. If you want information on conferences still about to happen in November, ([Career and Technology Education Council](#)) please refer to the [October edition of The Bugler](#).

The following is a list of opportunities happening in January which would still qualify for term 1 clause 9.5 funding. There are not many events because most Locals are getting ready for their conventions which largely happen in February and March.

Remember: All ATA members [may join one specialist council](#) per year free of charge. Being a member of [a specialist council](#) gives you access to their conference (often at a reduced cost), publications, website, workshops, and seminars. The councils provide members with an opportunity to share and receive information and

resources with others within a specialty area.

TEACHER GROWTH SUPERVISION AND EVALUATION

WHO: Administrators

WHAT: Two day workshop

WHERE: Sheraton Cavalier, Calgary

WHEN: January 25-26, 2018. Registration deadline is January 12th.

WHY: Information about Policy 2.1.5, the Teaching Quality Standard, and the School Act as they apply to the role of an administrator.

HOW: [Register online](#). There is no fee. Breakfast and lunch are included. include box lunches for Friday and Saturday.

THE SOLSTICE SERIES

WHO: Environmental and Outdoor Education teachers

WHAT: Professional development events presented by the [Global Environmental & Outdoor Education Council](#) along with the Calgary Board of Education

WHERE: Calgary – more details will be provided later.

WHEN: January 26-28th, 2018. Registration will open in December.

WHY: The keynote speaker is [Will Gadd](#) (athlete, speaker, guide). There will be great events such as the 'Overnight and Winter Module Training', 'Project Wild Training', and 'Forest School Presentation'.

HOW: Contact [Court Rustemeyer](#) for more information.



POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT

by Lynn Johnston (Past President)

Public Education Advocacy: #MyClassSizeIs Campaign

Alberta's class sizes are too big and lack the support for inclusion. We need to let the MLAs hear about the learning conditions in your classroom.

Provincial Executive Council has called for a provincially coordinated MLA engagement activity that advocates for class size reduction and improved supports for inclusion and classroom complexity.

All staff reps have received advocacy cards and teachers are being encouraged to fill out these cards and deliver the message to their MLAs. Teachers are encouraged to fill out the cards with information relating to one of their classrooms.

Factually identify the number of students in the class, the grade and include some general information about the class complexity factors that affect the learning environment.

Be mindful of these tips:

- Do not include your name or the school name
- Protect student privacy by keeping inclusion information general, and
- Stick to the facts – don't criticize your school or jurisdiction administration.
- Please be respectful when identifying the complexities in your classroom

This campaign is intended to identify issues to MLAs, not to embarrass administration or specific jurisdictions

This campaign is underway now. The sooner you can complete your cards and get in to your MLA, the better. We are looking to have all cards delivered by Dec. 1, 2017.

Example of a completed card

My class size is ...

28

GRADE: 3

It should* be ...

circle your grade

17 GRADES K-3	23 GRADES 4-6	25 GRADES 7-9	27 GRADES 10-12
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My class complexity includes ...

7 students who require special accommodations

#MyClassSizeIs #AbEd

*RECOMMENDED CLASS SIZES AVERAGES FROM ALBERTA'S COMMISSION ON LEARNING (2003)

(Political Engagement continued)

Getting the Message to the MLAs

There are several ways to do this:

To ensure student privacy is protected we will post the completed cards to social media on your behalf - just take a picture of your completed card and email to Lynn Johnston at lynndale08@gmail.com and to Irene Deatcher deatcher.ata@gmail.com.

Once you have sent the pictures to us, you need to get the card to your MLA. You have a variety options available:

a) hand deliver at a scheduled meeting (providing you with the opportunity to address the concerns with more depth and detail)

b) have one teacher from your school take and drop off a bunch from your school at the same time

c) hand to the MLA at a public event where both of you are in attendance.

d) email them the same picture you sent to us (not ideal as the face to face allows opportunity for further discussion)

MLA Contact Information

Ms. Annie McKittrick (NDP) MLA for Sherwood Park

Constituency Office

#116B, 937 Fir Street
Sherwood Park, AB
Canada T8A 4N6
Phone: 780.417.4747
Fax: 780.417.4748
Email:
sherwood.park@assembly.ab.ca

Estefania Cortes-Vargas (NDP) MLA for Strathcona-Sherwood Park

Constituency Office

#19, 99 Wye Road
Sherwood Park, AB
Canada T8B 1M1
Phone: 780.416.2492
Fax: 780.416.7093
Email:
strathcona.sherwoodpark@assembly.ab.ca

Mrs. Jessica Littlewood (NDP) MLA for Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville

Constituency Office

9925B 104 Street
Fort Saskatchewan, AB
Canada T8L 2E7
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Fax: 780.992.6562
Email: fortsaskatchewan.vegreville@assembly.ab.ca

Satellite Office

Box 451
4927 51 Avenue
Vegreville, AB
Canada T9C 1M1
Phone: 780.632.6840
Fax: 780.632.6888
Email: fortsaskatchewan.vegreville@assembly.ab.ca



Reverse side of the card with Class size infographics that are being shared on social media

IMPORTANT EPC INFORMATION

by Jennifer Fredeen (EPC Chair)

I had the privilege to attend the Teacher Welfare Area Conference on the weekend of November 17th. I want to share some of the upcoming communications, which will be coming from the ATA and your local EPC.

First, we will shortly begin receiving bulletins to create a profile on the ATA website. The next bargaining round will begin in January.

Teacher Welfare will be sending out information to every personal email which is signed up on the website.

There are new surveys being created and this is the **ONLY** chance for you to have a say in what is being proposed at the central table.

Second, your local EPC will be also be creating a survey for local bargaining. We need to have comprehensive and current data regarding your thoughts on the collective agreement. This survey will not go out until the New Year. Please give a personal email to your staff rep.

Third, we are going to be holding a session about "How to use up your HSA" after Christmas. I learned this weekend there are many different items which you can bill to your HSA, more than glasses and extra dental work.

Fourth, If you have any teacher in your school who is **NOT** receiving two 15 minute or one 30 minute break (unassigned and without students) PER DAY, they need to email me immediately. This labour legislation is now a part of our collective agreement and we are collecting data about this issue.

If you ever have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Jennifer Fredeen

EPC Chair

780-217-3197

jennifer.fredeen@gmail.com



TBAC UPDATES

by Stephen Anderson (TBAC Chair)

Hello, teacher friends! I hope you all had a wonderful fall break! I personally love fall break, it seems to me that we teachers are in a crazed frenzy for the first few months of the new school year and, to me, fall break represents the time where we get a chance to finally catch our breath.

This year we have had one TBCC meeting with the School Board Trustees and Superintendent Liguori. The timing was not ideal as it was days before the trustee election however we did have a meaningful conversation and brought up many concerns that have been brought forth by teachers to our committee. As TBAC chair I seem to keep hearing many differing issues from teachers but they often have the same theme having to do with workload. It is hard not to notice that it seems that more and more keeps getting put on our plate.

One of the issues brought forth was how the MIPI is being conducted - we have heard from many of you that especially in the younger grades, teachers have been directed to enter info manually which takes substantial time. We were told directly that this is not to happen; we were also told all teachers would be given results in a timely fashion.

Another issue we brought up was a request for one of the operational days in fall to be allocated for teachers to prepare for the coming school year; we were told

this would be reviewed. As a committee, we will continue to bring this up as we feel it would be very useful for teachers to be given time to prepare at the busiest time of year.

We also brought up administrative policy 407 which states "The maximum length of accumulated time of personal leaves while employed with the Division is two years". We had issue with this as there are many valid reasons why a teacher over a 30+ year career may require more than 2 personal leaves and we gave many examples such as mothers taking extra leaves for their children or people combining extended parental leaves and educational leaves, as well as the fact that even one day over our allocated 3 private business days in a year would constitute a personal leave. We also expressed our concern over the retroactivity of this AP as it is new and if a teacher has already used two leaves would they be allowed anymore? We were assured by Mr. Liguori that personal leaves are ultimately up to the superintendent and that reasonable requests over the 2 would be granted.

Another frustration being heard over and over from teachers is the amount of time we spend uploading purchasing card receipts. We expressed our frustration and were told that it is a requirement of BMO. However, the Treasurer of Business Services has been invited to our next meeting and we will bring this forward again.



A concern brought forward to our committee was over central services making decisions without consulting teachers. We feel that there should be more collaboration with teachers when making changes to our teaching environments and technological services. Both the Director of Learning Technologies and Director of Facility services have been invited to the next TBCC meeting to address these issues.



Hiring practices are always an issue and there seems to be no perfect solution - we again expressed our frustration over interviews being held during the day (requiring private business days and at the detriment of our students), interviews occurring when a job has ultimately been filled already as well as concerns forwarded to us regarding nepotism and favoritism. It was expressed that ultimately hiring is up to the individual principal. We asked if there was any mechanism in place if someone feels they were unjustly not given an interview or a position for which they feel qualified. We were told that we should contact our local president (Deneen) and that she would bring up the issue with Mr. Liguori. We will continue to address these practices. If you feel that a posting isn't right, or a job has been given unjustly, please contact [Deneen](#).

The lack of substitutes continues to cause stress for teachers. We noted that there should be a process for substitutes to be able to apply any time during the year as

unless there is a posting a person cannot apply. We also asked if substitutes could be given photocopy cards as we as teachers find the scan-to-me and print-to-me features extremely useful, but our substitutes do not have these cards. We were assured both would be looked into.

Wow! That was a lot for one meeting. I must say I do enjoy representing my colleagues and bringing forward issues and suggestions on making our lives and our students' lives better. We may not always get the answer we want but it is satisfying knowing that we have addressed the situation and done our best. I do find it reassuring to know that we have a Superintendent and Board of Trustees that are willing to work with us in making EIPS better for teachers and students; I greatly appreciate their willingness to listen and respond to our concerns. I am also looking forward to welcoming and meeting our new trustees and continuing our great working relationship.

As TBAC chair I have really enjoyed getting to know so many of you and greatly respect your hard work. PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE!!! If you have any issues (as long as they are not covered in the collective agreement) or suggestions on



how things could be improved, please contact me at <mailto:stephenanderson.ata@gmail.com>.

Our next meeting will be on December 14.



FEBRUARY 8-9, 2018

Teachers' Convention: Tips and Reminders

by Irene Deatcher

Here is a quick guide to having a great convention experience in 2018:

1. [View the sessions](#) being offered.
2. [Use 'SCHED'](#) to keep track of sessions in which you are interested – this helps you plan but does NOT guarantee you a space.
3. Sign-up And Note The Advantage of being EARLY for pre-registered sessions (these can fill up quickly). **Pre-registration opens on December 4th and closes on January 26th.**
4. [Consider chairing a session](#) which you want to attend. Check the [list of duties](#) to see if this is something you would like to do.
5. Apply for alternate PD (if needed) sooner than 20 days before the convention by [filling in this form](#).
6. **Make sure you have your ATA membership card – it is your proof for admission.** If you don't have one, you can print it off from the ATA website by [following these steps](#). **Note: You MUST have and be logged in to your account on [teachers.ab.ca](#) to access this service. If you don't have an account, have your teaching certificate ready and [then start here](#).



7. Connect to NCTCA through [Facebook](#) or through [Twitter](#).
8. Familiarize yourself with your [professional responsibilities](#) regarding attending convention – attendance IS your [professional obligation](#). Check these [FAQs about convention](#) for more information.



SOCIAL JUSTICE BOOK CLUB!!

(DEHR COMMITTEE)

by Darlene Gillis (DEHR chair)

Everyone is invited to join us for our first Social Justice Book Club Wednesday, January 31 at 4:00 pm at Common Ground. Please join us for coffee and stimulating discussion. Our first title is *Lullabies For Little Criminals* by Heather O'Neill.

Huge thanks to Denise Charbonneau for introducing our first book! Book Club participants will decide the second title and April date and time. Please RSVP to <mailto:dehrcommitteelocal28@gmail.com> or join our [event on Facebook](#).

Lullabies for Little Criminals O'Neill, Heather

Introduced by Denise Charbonneau

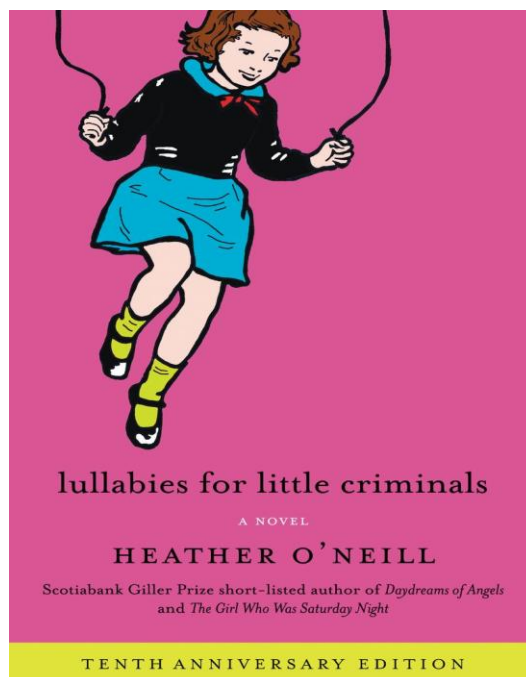
This is a book that is sure to generate discussion as the first pick for the Social Justice Book Club. It is a story of poverty, addiction and neglect. But it is also a story of resisting, quick wit and belonging.

Told through the eyes of a thirteen-year-old girl who is poor and unsupervised in the seediest part of Montreal, O'Neill has said that the novel is based on her childhood with her father. Baby, the narrator, has the awareness of a child who is more responsible than her father but maintains the longing of a child to be loved and secure. Like the narrator, it is hard to remember that despite the turmoil and

violence that surrounds her, Baby is "still a child, [not] something seedy".

This winner of Canada Reads in 2007 has been the choice of book clubs small and large: MacEwan University selected it as the Book of the Year to be taught across curricula in 2008/2009. It is a novel well-suited to those larger discussions with a narrator whose voice resonates long after the last page is turned.

To hear interviews with the author about her own childhood and writing the novel visit the CBC Archives at <http://www.cbc.ca/books/canadareads/lullabies-for-little-criminals-1.3988529#interview>



HALLOWEEN PHOTO CONTEST - RESULTS

by Irene Deatcher

Some people truly enjoy our photo contests, so you may see some familiar names! Thanks goes out to all who participated.

First place prizes go to Maj-Britt Bigotti (RHJ) for her awesome costume and to Susan Cooksley (LLR) for the adorable artwork montage. They each will receive a \$50 gift card for either Indigo or Amazon.

Honorable mention prizes were won by Alfred Yung (FSE) and Sasha Bowen (EPE). Alfred and Sasha will each receive an ATA 100th Anniversary journal. Congrats, everyone - thanks for sharing your Halloween adventures!



This year's look scared a few students - SUCCESS!! - M. Bigotti



Silly Pumpkins - S. Cooksley



Happy Halloween from our little PALS pumpkins - S. Bowen



Ghouls and goblins are no match for these knew and elbows! - A. Yung

QUICK BITS

by Irene Deatcher

Browse through these 'bits' for fast facts and information for our local.



MOVIE TICKETS

Discounted movie passes are still available for certificated staff. Up to 10 passes may be purchased per member for \$8.50 per ticket. Get your request in to [Lana Bilodeau](#) as soon as possible. Make cheques payable to Elk Island Local #28.

NO DECEMBER BUGLER

The next edition of The Bugler will be published on January 17th. Deadline for submissions will be January 13th. Guest

submissions that get published will receive a \$10 gift card for Tim Horton's.

GSA INVITATION

[Edmonton Catholic Local #54](#) invites any interested ATA members to attend their [Gay Straight Alliance \(GSA\)](#) meetings. All LBGTQ+ teachers and allies are welcome at the meetings being hosted at Barnett House (1010 142 St.). The next meeting is on Monday, November 27th at 4:30 pm.

CLAUSE 9.5 FUNDING

Applications for term 2 will be accepted starting on December 1st. Term 2 covers any professional development activity

between February 1st until August 31st.

WHERE'S SANTA - 2017

This month, you must find the word "Santa" hidden somewhere within the Bugler (any mention in THIS article does NOT count). "Santa" is hiding in a phrase just like CAT is hiding in the beginning letters of "Calling All Teachers!"

If you find him, [email the phrase to me](#) – please put "SANTA Contest" as your email heading. To make things easier, all of the words spelling SANTA are capitalized in the winning phrase. All people who reply with the correct answer will have their names put in a draw (cut-off date will be December 15th).



This month the prize is a **\$100 gift card** for [Amazon.ca!!](#)
Ho-ho-ho!

IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS

November 23rd - 25th

Career and Technology
Education Council
Conference

November 27th

Edmonton Catholic Local
#54 is holding a GSA
meeting at Barnett House
starting at 4:30

December 4th

Pre-registration opens for
Teachers' Convention.



December 22nd

Last day of school before
the winter break.

December 12th

First day of Hanukkah



December 20th

Last day of Hanukkah

December 21st

First day of winter

December 25th

Merry Christmas!!



December 26th

First day of
Kwanzaa.

January 1st

Last day of Kwanzaa



January 7th

Ukrainian Christmas

January 8th

First day back at school.

January 25-26th

Teacher Growth
Supervision and
Evaluation
workshop for
administrators

January 31st

Social Justice Book
Club meeting –
4:00 at Common
Ground Community
Café.



January 1st

Happy New Year
– 2017!!

LOCAL EXECUTIVE

President:

Deneen Zielke
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dkzielke@shaw.ca

Local Communications Officer:

Irene Deatcher
cell: 780-937-4915
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Teacher Board Advisory Committee Chair:

Stephen Anderson
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cell: 780-217-3197
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Linda Butler Dunn
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butlerdunn@gmail.com

Treasurer:

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John.c.murphy@hotmail.com

Professional Development Chair:

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Past President:

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Secretary:

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tysonbparker@gmail.com

District Representative:

Paul Froese
cell: 780-951-2461
Paul.Froese@teachers.ab.ca

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 Anderson TBAC
stephenanderson.ata@gmail.com

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

Inge Coates
scrta@shaw.ca

Twitter: [@ElkIslandLocal](#)



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

Jennifer Fredeen EPC
780-217-3197
jennifer.fredeen@gmail.com

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

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



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

For questions about clause 9.5 applications and Local promotions (movie tickets, WEM passes, etc.):

Lana Bilodeau
(Executive Assistant)
587-988-3663
elkislandpublicata@gmail.com