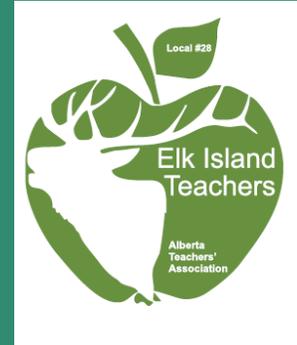


WELCOME BACK! PHOTO FROM THE IMAGE GALLERY AT 2LEARN.CA

THE BUGLER

ATA Local #28



September 2016

TEACHERS SUPPORTING TEACHERS

From the Local President

by Lynn Johnston

Dear fellow Colleagues,

Every month, my submission to the Bugler is usually the very last contribution the editor receives. I procrastinate, they extend the deadline. I procrastinate further and I get several email reminders. One time I procrastinated too long and I had to get someone else to write it for me.

Is it because I have nothing important to say? I think not. Is it because I have poor literacy skills? Again, I would suggest no. Is it because I do not feel this is important? Again, I would say no.

The difficulty lies with finding the right words, the right message to inspire you all. You have all recently returned from a two month summer break. Some of you worked, some travelled, and some spent time with family. Right now, however, summer is a distant memory and you are quite likely ready for some words of wisdom and to be inspired. This is my problem.

At the summer conference in August, I had the pleasure of listening to Dr. Lucy Miller, President and
(continued on page 2)



School Supply Credit

Teachers should start saving their receipts!
Page 5



Quick Bits

A new feature of our newsletter where you can find short bits of news!
Page 6

(From the Local President continued)

CEO of Calgary United Way. Impressive title, isn't it?

Dr. Miller shared her life story with us. Hers was a story similar to many of our children. She came from a family marked with extreme poverty, parental alcoholism and abuse. She wore ragged clothes to school, often did not have proper nutrition or sleep to keep her going. But school was her safe place, it was her sanctuary. It was what made her who she is today.

She spoke of all teachers kindly, but there was one teacher that made the difference. This teacher, she said was beautiful. She dressed professionally, was appropriately groomed, showed her respect, compassion and empathy and made concessions when concessions were needed. She became her idol, role model and inspiration for becoming who she is today. She made a difference.

This is what we do each and every day. We make a difference. We become the constant, the familiar, the predictable and the safe. We become what so many children rely on and need to grow. We cannot forget that - EVER.

Teaching is about the

relationships you build with your students. It is about the kindness, the empathy, the compassion, the sincerity and the trust.

That is how they will remember you. That is how you will make the difference. We do it because we believe – in the children and in ourselves.

I wish you all an amazing year. You are truly in the most important profession. Go and find that child and learn their story. You have enormous responsibility shaping the young minds of our future and I urge you to love your job, love these students (even the not so lovable ones) and love yourself.

I thank you for your dedication.

READ-IN WEEK

by Irene Deatcher

October is just around the corner and with it comes [Read-In Week](#). This year, the event is very short. Falling on October 3rd to 7th, we will only have 3 days of school based activities as the end of the week is dedicated to professional learning.

Whether you are having special guest readers, a visit from local library staff, buddy reading sessions or other activities, teachers and students will be immersing themselves in

the enjoyment of books. This week was established to foster the love of reading in all school and community members.

This year's theme is "One World, Many Voices". When we read, we learn from so many other people and their experiences, stories and lives.

This poem by our own Karen Atkinson expresses that theme perfectly!

*I wander the aisles,
browsing,
Eying covers and titles at
random,
Seeking what? I do not
know.
Escape? Entertainment?
Information?
So many words, ideas;
So many topics, themes;
So many directions;
Worlds within worlds within
worlds -
There for the taking -
From microcosmic to
infinite,
The range – beyond belief,
Yet there,
At the touch of my hand,
There to absorb and make
my own -
Books!
Companions, friends,
lovers, teachers,
Essential, desired, loved.*



Communications Committee

by Irene Deatcher

Communication is a vital component to supporting teachers within our local. For quite some time this job has been attended to by one or two people. It is my vision to reach every one of our members using formats with which they are comfortable and engaged. In order to more fully meet this need, I would like to form a new committee within our local.

Other locals do already have a Communications Committee. I will make contact with some of them about building a frame of reference. I will also do research as to budgetary needs (if any).

What would the committee do? There are so many possibilities! We would start with looking at the communication vehicles we already use.

[Our monthly newsletter](#) is one major means of sharing information but should not be the only way as it is only produced once per month. There are many opportunities within this one method for people

to be involved with writing, photography and research.

For the past few years, we have had [a Twitter-feed](#). Currently, the tweets are being created by our president (Lynn Johnston) but this may be an area in which a committee member could assist. The advantage to using Twitter, of course, is the ability to promote ideas in a timely manner.

As mentioned in the article below, I have started a [Facebook page](#) for our local. This is a great venue for sending instant updates, connecting to other valuable resources, and sharing breaking news. It also allows for direct interaction with members and the community.

Beyond those options, committee members can bring personal experiences and expertise in broadening our methods of communicating. Are there any Instagram innovators or Pinterest professionals out there??

People can bring their talents and apply them to any of our media. We would welcome graphic designers, photographers, writers (both of articles and of creative pieces), tech gurus, formatting experts

and more! Do you have a passion or talent you would like to lend to our team? Please contact me at deatcher.ata@gmail.com.

Once I have an idea of the interest people have in this committee, I will send more information about meetings and other details. I may not have room for all interested members and thus will select participants from the list of submissions based on interest areas and need. When sending me the email, please indicate in which capacity you would like to participate.

Next year's ATA Summer Conference will focus on training for Communication Committees. I know that I plan to attend and there may be room for some team members as well.





Find us and 'like' us on Facebook. Please [share the page](#) with any other Local #28 or community members you think would be interested.

Welcome to Facebook!!

by Irene Deatcher

Our local now has a new way of staying in touch with you! We have [set up a page on Facebook](#). If you 'like' us, you will receive notifications of updates on your Newsfeed.

We are still in the 'building' process of the page. The intent is to post events, community / school district information, pictures, and (hopefully) contests.

Although the main focus of the page will be to inform and support teachers / members, it is also open to the community to foster connections.

Please check out the article about joining the Communications Committee. One opportunity for involvement would be to become one of the moderators or editors for the Facebook Page.

Moderators respond to and delete (if necessary) comments on the page. They also can send

messages as the page and see which other admin created posts or comments.

Editors modify/edit the page, send messages, publish posts, see which other admin created posts/comments and view insights (page stats).

I plan to be the main administrator for the page but would love to have 2 or 3 other people to take on some of those additional roles.

Please contact me at deatcher.ata@gmail.com if you are interested in helping out.

ARE YOU RECEIVING BARGAINING UPDATES?

by Irene Deatcher

Bargaining will be continuing and soon there will more updates on the ATA site. With that in mind, members should ensure that they have registered

and are able to sign in. When voting opens on bargaining issues or offers, your only way to state your choice will be via the ATA website.

To set up your account, [follow the easy steps](#) outlined in the provided link. You will need your teaching certificate number and [there is help for accessing that information](#) if you do not have it.

After you have created your account, you may either visit the site for updates or [you may sign-up to have updates](#) sent directly to your personal email address.



School Reps receive and distribute many resources!



School Reps' Corner

by Irene Deatcher

Welcome to our new monthly feature specifically written for our wonderful school representatives! We will feature a different theme each month with helpful tips, resources and strategies.

This month: mail-outs! If you haven't already, you

will be receiving packages on a regular basis from our Provincial ATA. These deliveries will include monthly packets, The ATA News, The ATA Magazine, and the occasional SR Digest (faxes sent regarding emergent issues).

Let's focus on the monthly packets. The first item you will usually find in your envelope will be a chart listing the contents. It will detail the type of item, number of copies and to whom items should be distributed. There is usually an envelope specifically for your principal and another for your parent council chairperson. Those don't need any further attention beyond delivering them to the correct people.

I keep the contents chart because I like to use it to compose an email for certificated staff. Beyond just listing the items, I also detail where each item will be located and (if applicable) add pertinent dates (for

conventions or other events).

September is a great time to clean-up your ATA bulletin board. Many posters will be out of date and you will need the space for the abundance of new material which will arrive this month.

Besides bulletin boards, another place for materials would be a binder. In our staffroom, I have one labelled 'ATA' which has different sections. The inside pockets are great for small brochures. Dividers are in place for PRECIS, forms, ATA Local minutes, magazines/newsletters, and other resources. I clear out old materials on a yearly basis.

Hopefully, there is a spot in your staffroom for larger ATA print materials. You will receive updated copies of The ATA Members' Handbook, Orientation Handbook, and The ATA Directory / Information Guide. Those resources are a good place for members to start when needing direction for issues or questions.

Administrative Procedures: Overview

by Irene Deatcher

Most of you are aware of our [Code of Professional Conduct](#), [programs of study](#) and the [Teaching Quality Standard](#), all of which guide our actions and activities in a professional setting. Were you aware that you must also follow guidelines as set out in our school district's Administrative Procedures? These 'APs' are not just suggestions – certificated staff are required to comply with the parameters set within each AP.

The [APs have recently been updated](#) and it is in each teacher's best interest to become familiar with the contents of the policies.

Starting in October, each month we will highlight different APs to help keep members aware of changes and of expectations. If you have concerns regarding any of the APs, please contact [Deneen Zielke](#) (chair for the Teacher-Board Advisory committee).

SCHOOL SUPPLIES



In each taxation year, educators may claim a 15% refundable credit based on a total of up to \$1000 in eligible purchases. It is important to keep the receipts for each year in the event that the Canada Revenue Agency decides to make a request for documentation. For the same reason, it is important to receive certification (verifying the eligibility of the expenses) from your employer to accompany your receipts.

What kinds of purchase are eligible? If you are not being reimbursed by your school and the items were purchased for teaching or enhancing students' learning they will most likely be eligible.

Some qualifying supplies are consumable within the school year (pencils, specialty paper, art/craft supplies, items for science experiments, charts). Receipts for certain durable items (classroom books, educational software, games, puzzles, storage containers) may also be included.

Save Your Receipts!

by Irene Deatcher

For the 2016 budget, the federal government [proposed a new tax credit](#) specifically for teachers and early childhood educators. Now that this measure has received Royal Assent, members should prepare for their taxes in 2016 and the years following by holding on to certain receipts.



QUICK BITS

by Irene Deatcher

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

MOVIE TICKETS

Discounted movie passes are available for certificated staff for a limited time. Up to 10 passes may be purchased per member for \$8.50 per ticket. When the tickets run out, no more will be available this year. Get your request in to [Lana Bilodeau](#) as soon as possible. Make cheques payable to Elk Island Local #28.

WEM CHOICE PASSES

These passes are good for access to the West Edmonton Mall Waterpark OR Galaxyland OR a combination of 2 of the smaller attractions. These are available for purchase by certificated or classified staff at a cost of \$30 per pass. The deadline for ordering is October 31 – passes will be delivered in November. Request passes through [your ATA rep](#) or [Lana Bilodeau](#) - make cheques payable to Elk Island Local #28.

FALL BREAK SOCIAL

Come celebrate and mingle with members from our

local! On Thursday, November 10th, join us at the Log Cabin in Sherwood Park and enjoy the music of Rockin' Ronnie! Doors will open at 4pm. Tickets (for certificated staff only) are available for \$10 each through [Lana](#) or [your staff rep](#).

CLAUSE 9.5 FUNDING

Term 1 of funding covers professional development occurring between September 1, 2016 and January 31, 2017. Currently there is a balance of \$91 000 available to be accessed by members.

BEGINNING TEACHERS' CONFERENCE

Calling all new teachers! Are you in your first or second year of classroom teaching? [The Beginning Teachers' Conference](#) is a great event with a wide variety of workshops, curriculum sessions and opportunities for networking.

The Edmonton conference will be held at the Shaw Conference Centre on September 29th – October 1st. Contact your principal for release time arrangements. There is no registration fee! You must complete the registration process by September 22nd.

SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS' CONFERENCE

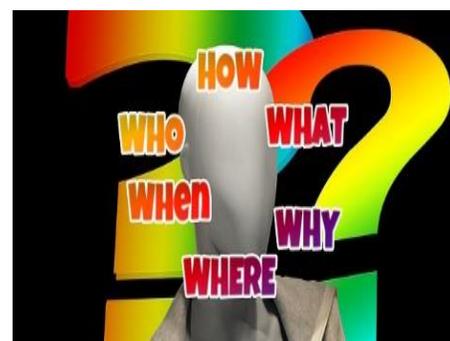
Please share this information with anyone who is a substitute teacher for our school district.

Substitutes have an opportunity to attend [a conference at the Radisson Hotel Edmonton South](#) on October 28 and 29.

People who register by September 23rd qualify for the early bird fee of \$40. After that date, the cost is \$50. The final deadline for registration is October 24th.

AESOP REPLACES SUBFINDER

A [new system \(AESOP\) is in place for reporting staff absences](#) and for recording substitute placement. Please remember that all absences (whether a sub is needed or not) must be entered into AESOP. When booking a substitute, don't forget to use the 'notes' feature which works very effectively in this program.



IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS

September 29th

[Terry Fox National School Run Day](#)

September 29th - October 1st

[Beginning Teachers' Conference](#) – Shaw Conference Centre

October 3rd - 7th
[Read-In Week](#)

October 5th
[World Teachers' Day](#)

October 6th - 7th
[Professional Learning Days for Elk Island Public Schools](#)

October 10th
[Thanksgiving](#) – stat holiday

October 10th
[World Mental Health Day](#)

October 14th
[Last day for submissions for the October Bugler](#)

October 14th
[Induction ceremony](#) for new members of the ATA

October 18th
[Local Council meeting](#) - at Vegreville Composite High School

October 28th - 29th
[Substitute Teachers' Conference](#) – Radisson Hotel Edmonton South

AUTUMN LINKS AND IDEAS



October Resources

by Irene Deatcher

It is time to check out that wealth of links and pictures – [2Learn.ca](#) ! A great place to start is the [image gallery](#) –

photos may be used free of charge for educational purposes as long as credit and a link to the website are added.

At the same site, you will be able to access resources (a variety is available at each grade level) for Thanksgiving and Halloween. Check out their theme related links, crafts, and activities.

Are you looking for great alternatives to desk arrangements in your room? [Follow this link](#) to see the details and pros/cons for 11 different seating plans.

Local #28 Executive

President:

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(school) 780-467-0044
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lynndale08@gmail.com

Vice President/Local Communications Officer:

Irene Deatcher
cell: 780-937-4915
deatcher.ata@gmail.com

Vice President/Annual Representatives Assembly:

Maj-Britt Bigotti
(school) 780-998-2216
Maj-britt@shaw.ca

Vice President/Political Engagement:

Jordan Smith
(school) 780-467-5591

Secretary / Treasurer:

John Murphy
(school) 780-416-9018
John.c.murphy@hotmail.com

Economic Policy Committee:

Linda Butler-Dunn
butlerdunn@gmail.com

Negotiating Subcommittee Chair:

Karen Atkinson
cell: 780-915-6168
ka88@telus.net

Professional Development Chair:

Janet Vader
(school) 780-449-2787

Teacher Board Advisory Committee Chair:

Deneen Zielke
(school) 780-467-2246
dkzielke@shaw.ca

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):

Deneen Zielke
(school) 780-467-2246
dkzielke@shaw.ca

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

Linda Butler-Dunn - EPC
butlerdunn@gmail.com
Karen Atkinson (NSC)
cell: 780-915-616
ka88@telus.net

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

