

Ready, set, GROW!



See pages 6 & 7.

Election Day

GET INFORMED. GET ENGAGED.

See page 3.



ATA NEWS

The Alberta Teachers' Association



Learn from the past. Inspire the future.

September 12, 2017 | Volume 52, Number 2

News Publication of The Alberta Teachers' Association

Happy new year!



BROMLEY CHAMBERLAIN



BROMLEY CHAMBERLAIN

Top: Payton Labbe and her brother Reese (grades 2 and 4, respectively) arrive for their first day at the new SouthPointe School in Fort Saskatchewan on Aug. 30.

Above: A van parked outside the school provides welcome greetings.



Go ahead, talk about it

Your guide to managing classroom discussions on controversial topics.

Read Gordon Thomas's Q&A on page 2.

Unconstructive discourse

Politicization of curriculum review a harmful exercise in misrepresentation.

Read Jonathan Teghtmeyer's editorial on page 2.



From the Archives

Quirky tapestry a cherished archival record.

See story on page 4.



For a limited time

What do limits to instructional and assignable time mean for you?

See story on page 5.

Improvements approved

CIF plans in place in half of school jurisdictions.

See story on page 5.

teachers.ab.ca

WHAT'S ONLINE?

Joint Interpretation Bulletin: Instructional and Assignable Time

ATA Educational Trust, submission deadline: Sept. 30

Professional growth plan tools

New Indigenous education resources

Curriculum: the political whipping boy



EDITORIAL

Jonathan Teghtmeyer
ATA News Editor-in-Chief

The Alberta government's plans to overhaul much of our K-12 curriculum has become fodder for a fair amount of public and political discourse. Thus, I feel it is important to use this space to weigh in. But I'm also reluctant.

The Alberta Teachers' Association is, by policy, non-partisan. This means that the organization does not endorse or denounce specific candidates or parties. However, we are not apolitical. We do take stands on education matters, but we try to do so in a way that focuses on the issues and not the people.

Given this fine line, I am having difficulty figuring out how to cover this topic without appearing to attack one candidate in particular. However, I will try.

United Conservative Party leadership hopeful Jason Kenney has regularly attempted to make political hay out of the curriculum review. I would like to discuss the merits of his arguments, but I can't ignore how he is clearly misrepresenting the fine work of teachers in order to score points. While there is plenty of room for legitimate policy debate over what should be included

or left out of curriculum, I am bothered when the political gamesmanship so blatantly blurs reality.

Take, for example, a video he recently posted to Facebook. Kenney, who often characterizes this process as social engineering, refers to the curriculum rewrite as the "biggest scandal of the NDP government since they came into office."

He describes the process as being done "in secret" and then immediately refers to a document from the rewrite that he "managed to get a hold of." The choice of language is intentional. Suggesting that they broke the secret by obtaining this document.

Ironically, the document in question — the draft scope and sequence for the social studies K-12 program — was specifically published by government in order to get feedback from Albertans. It is from the second such public consultation on the curriculum, and tens of thousands of Albertans have responded. Some secret.

Kenney then knowingly misrepresents the content of the draft.

"Thirteen pages of content, not one single reference to or allusion to Canadian military history or any of the other subjects that I discussed," says Kenney in his video.

Stop. Let's look at just a bit of the language in the draft.

"To what extent do contending ideologies influence relationships within and among nations and countries?"

"To what extent have different ideologies influenced systemic forms of discrimination and oppression?"

"To what extent can the imposition of one ideology over another lead to intended and unintended consequences?"

"To what extent have historical forces shaped worldviews?"

"To what extent have the legacies of historical interactions among nations and countries shaped worldviews today?"

I am not a social studies teacher, but it seems to me these questions clearly allude to the teaching of history — in particular, important parts of military history when Canada has fought for freedom and against oppression around the globe.

Again, let's discuss what should be included in curriculum, which certainly needs updating, but let's have a constructive, informed and intelligent public discourse. It is not to the benefit of Alberta students to mislead the public just to rile up and motivate one's political base. In fact, it is quite harmful.

Interestingly, every single page of this document also states, "We are in the early stages of framing what students will learn (scope) and when they will learn it (sequence). Learning outcomes will be developed once this draft is validated."

The attack makes it seem like Kenney is more interested in embarrassing the current government than actually improving Alberta's curriculum.

The premier seems more than happy to battle with Kenney on the topic of education.

"It's ironic we're engaging in fear-mongering about history and education on the basis of a complete absence of facts," Rachel Notley jabbed at a press conference in front of a group of assembled Grade 6 students.

No party is completely innocent. The back and forth will continue.

The fact is, curriculum has been written and rewritten for years without significant political interference, and it should continue that way.

The current state of affairs prompted the *Calgary Herald* to chastise the politicization in its Aug. 24 editorial.

"It's bad enough that roads, bridges, schools and hospitals are built in Alberta with the heavy hand of political interference. But when politicians start talking about manipulating school curriculum to suit whatever purposes they have in mind, then we have to draw a line on the blackboard," the editorial states.

"Let's let the professionals do their jobs, and stop using the educational system as a political whipping boy."

I couldn't agree more. ■

I welcome your comments—contact me at jonathan.teghtmeyer@ata.ab.ca.

Controversial topics are opportunities for open discussion



Q & A

Gordon Thomas
ATA Executive Secretary

Question: What a summer! I know my students will want to talk about Charlottesville, Donald Trump, flawed historical figures, racism and alt-right rallies. These can be controversial topics. If I discuss them in class, is my job at risk?

Answer: Absolutely not. The classroom is a place where controversial issues are discussed, and Alberta Education has developed a policy on controversial issues to guide teachers on issues that may be sensitive and upon which there may not be a consensus of views or of values. The complete policy is printed in the *Guide to Education*.

The controversial issues policy makes clear that "discussing or studying controversial issues provides opportunities to

- present alternative points of view, subject to the condition that information presented is not restricted by any federal or provincial law
- reflect the maturity, capabilities and educational needs of the students

- meet the requirements of provincially prescribed and approved courses and programs of study and education programs
- reflect the neighbourhood and community in which the school is located, as well as provincial, national and international contexts.

Controversial issues that have been anticipated by the teacher, and those that may arise incidentally during instruction, should be used by the teacher to promote critical inquiry and/or to teach thinking skills."

With municipal elections approaching and with the United Conservative Party leadership election in full swing, there may be opportunities to discuss various issues at school. It's important that these events be opportunities for open discussion, inquiry and values clarification.

However, I need to make very clear that ideas like white supremacy or others that could be categorized as hate speech cannot be treated as if they are worthy of exploration. In other words, these aren't debatable in our classrooms. Such discussion would just lend legitimacy to the ideas and could in itself violate hate speech laws.

The controversial issues policy can be very helpful as we address student

learning needs. Teachers can create situations for discussion of opposing viewpoints. This is healthy and educational. But dictating how to think undermines the policy and creates unwelcome circumstances where controversial issues are not seen as controversial. It is critical that some thought be given to how best to provide opportunities for values clarification and inquiry; students can learn critical thinking skills very effectively.

University of Alberta education professor Jim Parsons always said that a lesson plan is something to do unless something better comes along. Sometimes opportunities present themselves and it is highly appropriate to capitalize on the teaching moment. However, teachers need to be sensitive in addressing the issues and responsive to various positions that may be taken. That said, issues like white supremacy or hate speech are not supported and a teacher should condemn such activities. There is no risk to a teachers' employment in such circumstances. ■

Questions for consideration in this column are welcome. Please address them to Gordon Thomas at Barnett House (gordon.thomas@ata.ab.ca).



We need to focus like a laser on the things that are important.



Education Minister David Eggen explaining to school trustees in Red Deer on Sept. 6 that he'd rather amend the *School Act* than proclaim the *Education Act* that was passed five years ago.

AS REPORTED BY POSTMEDIA



Election Day

GET INFORMED
GET ENGAGED



On Monday, Oct. 16, Albertans will elect their school board trustees.

The Alberta Teachers' Association encourages its members to familiarize themselves with their local candidates, to engage in elections as citizens and to also encourage others to get engaged.

SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS 2017 – IMPORTANT DATES

Sept. 18	Nomination day
Sept. 19	Nominations reopen for vacant seats
Sept. 20–25	Nominations continue for vacant seats
Oct. 2	Notice of election
Oct. 16	Election day



For more detailed information about elections in your area, check with your municipality. General information is available from Alberta Municipal Affairs at www.municipalaffairs.alberta.ca.

YOUR VIEWS

ON THE TWITTERSPHERE

Tweets about education (#abed)

Ashley Lamantia @valamant

Hoping to talk about #mentalhealth with your #students? @albertateachers' <http://canwetalk.ca/> has helpful tips and lesson plans. #abed

CSL ATA @CSL_Leaders

Welcome back to the 2017/18 school yr. @albertateachers teachers & leaders have put in a tremendous amount of prep work planning for a great year!

FACEBOOK FEEDBACK

On Kim Campbell's keynote address at Summer Conference

Lindsay Brown

She was AMAZING!

Shirene Napier

Fabulous! A very enjoyable keynote.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Encourage politicians to get involved

For far too long the ATA has been viewed by the public as a union bargaining for lucrative salaries and enviable conditions of service for teachers.

The Association has not done enough to publicize the extensive professional development activities organized to keep Alberta teachers up to date in educational technology. The elaborate educational research projects undertaken by the Association go unnoticed.

The editorial of the *ATA News* of Aug. 29, 2017 [headline: Summer Conference brings educators and decision makers together] has set the tone for correcting the unfavourable perception of the role of the ATA in the educational system of the province. The Association's Summer Conference in Banff provides intensive professional development and leadership training.

Local, provincial and federal politicians should be invited to participate in activities in our schools and have the chance to interact with teachers right in the schools. This will obviously enhance public relations and improve the decision-making process in educational matters.

The editorial is highly informative and thought-provoking. Teachers should discuss it during staff meetings.

Leo R. Sam, retired teacher

Letters to the editor: We welcome letters to the editor. Please limit your submission to 300 words. Only letters bearing a first and last name, address, and daytime telephone number will be considered for publication. Teachers are also asked to indicate where and what they teach. All letters are subject to editing for length, clarity, punctuation, spelling and grammar. Email managing editor Cory Hare: cory.hare@ata.ab.ca.

Why vote? Because it matters



VIEWPOINTS

Heather Welwood
Former ASBA President

Teachers become teachers because they care about students. The time to elect school board trustees who also want to make a difference for those students is now. The Alberta government delegates to school boards of trustees the responsibility for conducting the affairs of school divisions. Local trustees make sure the community has a direct way to express its views on vital education decisions, which provide opportunities for our students and affect our day-to-day lives, and *Albertans get to choose who these people will be.*

We can "put the public back in public education." Please approach this election not just as voting for a given candidate, but also as a vote for the future of democratically elected public school boards. Educators are the eyes, ears and boots on the ground. If education systems, which include educators and parents, don't take an interest in electing trustees, what message does that send to the rest of the population? Encourage school board trustee candidates, initiate discussions and vote. On Sept. 18 nomination papers will be filed by trustee candidates for school boards, and on Oct. 16 municipal elections, which include school boards, will be held.

What makes a good trustee, and hence a good school board and employer?

Many articles are available about what makes a successful board and board governance, but corporate boards are chosen, so the board members' hard skills and talents can be targeted. An elected board is dependent on elected people being willing to learn and complement each other, so let's make sure we get it right at election time. School

boards should reflect all walks of life, ages and opinions because that reflects society.

After years of working with successful trustees, I believe the most promising trustee candidates are courageous, patient, respectful, flexible, open-minded, prepared and upfront. A candidate doesn't need an education background but must have an interest in public education.

Above all, the finest trustees show passion. They believe in the power of education and serve the electorate and school board because of their passion, not because it's just something to do in retirement or to supplement their income, or because it's the first stepping stone in a political career.

Look for those people who will take the time to learn about funding rules and regulations yet have the courage to advocate for public education for all children. Support candidates who respect others' viewpoints, take the time to prepare and ask questions, and are willing to work as team members for the whole school district.

"But school boards don't get to directly tax anymore, so what do they do?"

School boards were traditionally formed many years ago by community leaders (1881 in Edmonton) who wished to provide free school and opportunities for the local children, so they collected money, built schoolhouses, hired teachers and outlined the teachers' duties. Many argue that Alberta school boards have no power without taxing authority, but how the money comes to boards is just funding; what a board does is governing.

The *School Act* (soon to be *Education Act*) sets out the duties of a board and trustees, and these are translated into local policies.

School boards are tasked with strategic planning, financial oversight, demonstrating leadership, generating community engagement and connections, prioritizing school programs, school enrolment and closure, setting the calendar, advocating to other decision makers and stakeholders and, most importantly, ensuring Alberta students have opportunities to succeed. The Alberta School Boards Association (www.asba.ab.ca) has even more information on school board duties. The administrative manual or handbook of your local board is the day-to-day interpretation of government and local policies. These affect your work with students!

Does anyone even listen?

Yes. As a former trustee, I can resoundingly say that your community leadership, your input and your votes do make a difference. Vote this year, continue to engage with your school board throughout its four-year term, and encourage your community to do the same. We need all walks, all ages, all backgrounds, all viewpoints working together for a positive public education system for our children, governed by elected trustees.

Check your local city or school division website for polling stations and times to vote on Oct 16. Pass it on and vote! ■

Heather Welwood is a former school board trustee with the Northern Lights School Division and served as president of the Alberta School Boards Association from 2007–10.

This opinion column represents the views of the writer and does not necessarily reflect the position of the Alberta Teachers' Association.



CURATOLO
curatolocartoons.com

A rogue by any other name ...

Quirky tapestry a cherished archival record

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Maggie Shane
ATA Archivist

Leading up to its official 100th anniversary in June 2018, the Alberta Teachers' Association is celebrating its history through a number of initiatives, one of which is this column. Curated by archivist Maggie Shane and appearing in each issue of the ATA News this year, this column will feature significant moments and people in the Association's history, as well as interesting artifacts or documents from the Association's archives.

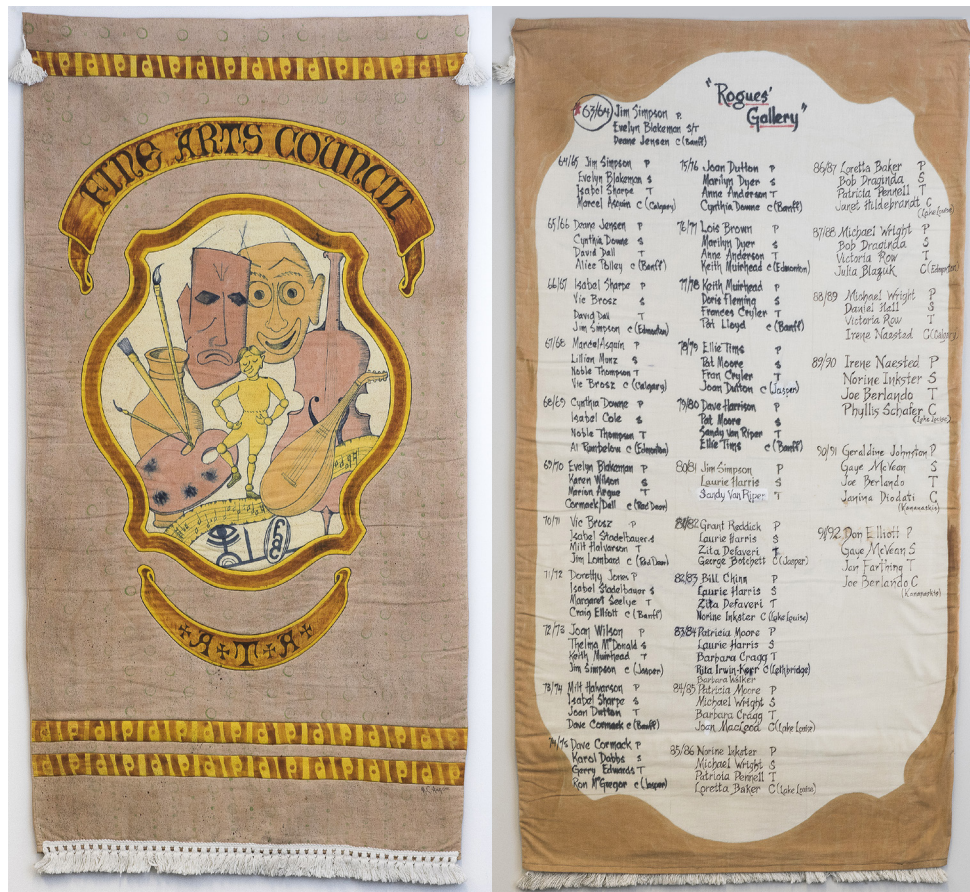
Archivists and records managers will tell you that the *content* of a record is paramount to its *format*. Put differently, it matters not whether the text appears on paper, papyrus, bubble-gum wrapper or coconut shell, it's the text that matters. Novel approaches to record keeping can pose interesting and often delightful challenges for archivists.

So goes the matter with the Alberta Teachers' Association's Fine Arts Council, which for decades (from 1963 to 1992) recorded the names of its executives upon a tapestry entitled *Rogues' Gallery*. Although the term sounds

deliciously Shakespearean, the cheeky humour associated with this wonderful tapestry trends a bit darker. In 1885, Allan Pinkerton, famous founder of the Pinkerton National Detective Agency, collected criminals' photographs in a single location for display to the public so that shady characters could be easily spotted and reported to police. The display came to be known as the rogues' gallery.

Later, in the 1960s, comic book writers borrowed the term to describe a dread fraternity of recurring villains who regularly menaced humanity and challenged an ever-expanding universe of superheroes to thwart their dastardly plans. You will have to decide, gentle reader, which definition applies to the talented and dedicated fine arts teachers listed upon this artifact.

For archivists, maintaining textiles, especially those which preserve textual information, is a tricky business. It requires correct levels of low humidity, protection from the sun and other sources of UV light, and safeguarding against invasive insects that would feast upon the fibres. Cleaning, in the conventional sense, is usually out of the question, and display decisions have to be made with an eye to ensuring the artifact has the best chance of enduring as long as possible. The ATA archives cherishes *Rogues' Gallery* and is grateful to the Fine Arts Council for depositing it into our care. ■



The ATA archives is home to several unique items, including this tapestry entitled *Rogues' Gallery* that was used for decades to record the executive members of the Association's Fine Arts Council.



Organizers with the Society for Safe and Caring Schools and Communities show off their supply of shirts that are ready for distribution for the upcoming Orange Shirt Day, which will be recognized on Sept. 29. Pictured are (L-R): executive director Leslie Ronaldson, project manager Shauna Faragini and ART program manager Layla Dumont. The orange shirt is meant to recognize the harm done to residential school students and show a commitment to the principle that every child matters. For more information and to order your orange shirt, visit www.safeandcaring.ca.

New grant program aims to help teachers address problems

Cory Hare
ATA News Managing Editor

A new grant program is now accepting applications from teachers who are interested in exploring solutions to professional challenges they're facing through a collaborative inquiry with other teachers.

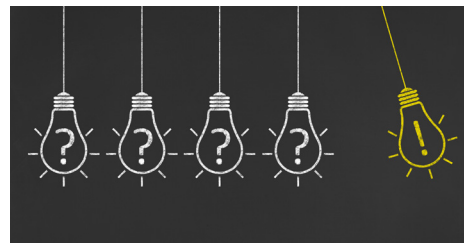
The Communities of Practice Inquiry Grant, being offered through the Professional Development program area of the Alberta Teachers' Association, is a \$20,000 pilot that was approved at the 2017 Annual Representative Assembly.

"We want teachers to define their problems, their teaching practice issues and come up with teaching practice solutions that will work in their teaching context," said Gaylene Schreiber, the executive staff officer who designed the grant program. Existing knowledge of the pressure points that teachers face in the field suggests to Schreiber that teachers may wish to use the grant to explore ways to support inclusive education, Indigenous education, teachers who are new to the profession or to Alberta, or teacher leadership in curriculum. On the other hand, it's open to any other topic that can be addressed using an inquiry approach.

"It's got very few boundaries," Schreiber said. "We're looking for teacher leadership on real, professional issues toward real, lived solutions."

A key element of the program is that projects require the support of an ATA local. Grant funds from the program will go to the local, which will administer the funds and provide a matching amount.

"It means the local will also have some input into what that project might look like and support worthy projects that other people propose to them," Schreiber said.



Learn more

For more information about the grant and how to apply, visit www.teachers.ab.ca.

Click on For Members > Programs and Services > Grants, Awards and Scholarships > Communities of Practice Inquiry Grant.

The program began accepting applications for the current school year on Sept. 1. Applications will be accepted until April 1, 2018, or until the money runs out, and are subject to approval by the Association's table officers.

At the conclusion of their projects, participants will be expected to provide a summary of their experiences, for possible inclusion in an ATA publication. And the hope is that it will be possible to take some of the solutions and scale them up for others. Schreiber believes the project provides some "really, really neat opportunities" for teachers to identify problems and develop their own solutions.

"What's the problem that you're passionate about? What could you do if you had a little support to address it?" ■



STORIES AND PHOTOS WANTED

If something newsworthy is going on in your school, district or local, please let us know. We will also consider articles, photos and cartoons. Please email tips and submissions to managing editor Cory Hare: cory.hare@ata.ab.ca.

Limits on assignable time take effect

Bromley Chamberlain
ATA News Staff

Although all teachers in Alberta are now covered by limits to instructional and assignable time, it's not necessary to track workload on a daily basis. "Teachers should be aware of how many hours their assigned duties, including instruction, add up to," said Sandra Johnston, co-ordinator of the Teacher Welfare program area. "Teachers provide professional services to school boards and they should know how much service they are providing."



“Teachers provide professional services to school boards and they should know how much service they are providing.”

Sandra Johnston,
Teacher Welfare co-ordinator

A central table agreement reached in the spring caps instructional time at 907 hours per year and total assigned time at 1,200 hours. Such limits were already in place for teachers in urban areas, but they are new for roughly half the teachers in the province.

The ATA will be providing spreadsheets for teachers to track their time, Johnston said.

The central agreement was the first reached through a new bi-level bargaining model introduced by the NDP government in late 2015. With this central deal in place, local bargaining is proceeding throughout the province.

While time limits are new to teachers in rural areas, they have been in place for 40 years in all urban school divisions.

"What this does is leaves time during the work-day to do all the work that's required for teachers to provide the best possible instruction," Johnston explained. "Research shows that, for every hour of instruction, teachers do another hour of other work."

Johnston recommends that teachers add up their instructional time, supervision, staff meetings, parent-teacher interviews and professional development days to calculate their yearly number of hours.

Teachers should not be assigned all 1,200 hours because that does not allow for any flexibility throughout the year, she said. It is also contrary to the collective agreement provisions, which state maximum numbers of hours, not targets. For teachers who were previously under the caps, their lives should not change. School jurisdictions have no reason to increase assigned duties because there is now a cap on the number of hours they can assign.

For teachers who were over the caps, Johnston said the time limit provisions will help provide relief to those teachers who don't have another minute in the day.

"That isn't healthy for individuals," she said, "and it's not healthy for the teaching profession either." ■

Interpretation bulletin available

A three-page interpretation bulletin is available to members to explain the particulars of assignable and instructional time as they relate to the central table agreement. The document was distributed to local presidents, communications officers, political engagement officers, PD chairs, teachers' convention association presidents and specialist council presidents.



View the bulletin by clicking:
www.teachers.ab.ca >
For Members > Members Only >
Bargaining 2016/17 >
Central Table Bargaining.



Starting this year, Alberta students will have up to six hours to write some Grade 12 diploma exams. ISTOCK

ATA president applauds relaxation of provincial exam time limits

Cory Hare
ATA News Staff

Allowing Alberta students more time to write diploma exams and provincial achievement tests is a positive move, says Greg Jeffery, president of the Alberta Teachers' Association.

New rules kick in this year that will enable students to spend up to six hours writing some Grade 12 diploma exams and up to four hours writing grades 6 and 9 provincial achievement tests.



Greg Jeffery,
ATA President

"We didn't lobby for this move but we fully support it," Jeffery said. "The purpose of assessment is for students to demonstrate what they know, and there's nothing in the curriculum about how quickly they need to do that."

Diploma exams will continue to be scheduled for 2.5 or three hours, but any student will be able to remain longer without giving advance notice. Previously, students had to request accommodation for medical reasons or other challenges to receive extra exam time.

The change is in response to school authorities who indicated that the processes involved in providing accommodation were time-consuming, expensive and potentially directing resources away from students, said Lindsay Harvey, spokesperson for Alberta Education.

"The exams are not getting more difficult nor are there more questions – this is one way of giving students the supports they need to show their knowledge of Alberta's curriculum on provincial assessments."

After the news was shared on the ATA's Facebook page, it generated a rigorous exchange of opinions both for and against the change.

"Part of handling the content is learning to handle time restrictions around it. The current three hours is a reasonable amount of time for the exam to be completed," posted teacher Matt Blahun.

"There's a difference between completing a task properly in a reasonable amount of time, and in an excessive amount of time."

Teacher Matt Neufeld had a similar opinion.

"Doesn't this take away from developing the ability to handle stress/manage time to make required deadlines? I'm not against less stressed out students but after high school nobody cares how you're feeling if you can't finish your work on time."

Barb Henker Larochelle was more supportive.

"I would say that most of the stress kids have over the writing tests, especially, is the time limit. Obviously they can't have unlimited time, but producing two complex pieces of writing in three hours is something I always found unreasonable."

Jeffery acknowledged that there will be logistical challenges for schools but was hopeful that they could be easily resolved.

"Our focus is on what's best for kids and for learning. Improving the validity of these assessments should make meeting the challenges worthwhile," he said. ■

Plans falling into place

Classroom improvements approved in half of school jurisdictions

Bromley Chamberlain
ATA News Staff

School jurisdictions and teacher committees have been hard at work developing Classroom Improvement Fund (CIF) projects after the program was launched as part of the central table bargaining agreement reached in the spring. To date, 31 of the province's 61 school jurisdictions have approved plans in place.

"Money is going into schools as it was bargained," said Sandra Johnston, co-ordinator of the Teacher Welfare program area of the Alberta Teachers' Association. "The parties are fulfilling the requirements of the agreement and we are seeing powerful engagement of teacher voice in directing how classroom funds will be used."

The \$75-million CIF grant is intended to improve the student experience in the classroom. In many cases, funding has been used in successful applications to hire additional teachers, educational assistants or paraprofessional support staff. Other programs are purchasing classroom resources or support materials, and some are creating new professional development opportunities for teachers.

"These proposals have identified a wide range of opportunities to positively impact the student experience in the classroom," said Matt Beattie of Alberta Education.

The central agreement requires boards to establish CIF committees that include equal representation from the school jurisdiction and from teachers. Alberta Education recommends that proposals be clear and that they articulate how each proposed expenditure will improve the student experience. If a majority of committee members cannot agree on a proposal, then the board will not get its CIF funding.

"Where the process is working best, we have jurisdictions that are listening honestly to their teachers and asking them where the money will make the most difference," said Johnston.

School jurisdictions that have not yet submitted a proposal will have until Dec. 15 to do so in order to access their portion of the provincial funding. Proposals that have been submitted and approved by Sept. 27 will begin to see disbursements starting in October. ■

2017/18

Ready, set, GROW!

Teachers' Conventions 2018

North Central Teachers' Convention

Date: Feb. 8-9, 2018
Location: Shaw Conference Centre, Westin Hotel and offsite venues, Edmonton
Contact: Pam Arnason, president
Email: president@nctca.ab.ca
Website: www.mynctca.com

Calgary City Teachers' Convention

Date: Feb. 15-16, 2018
Location: Telus Convention Centre, Hyatt Regency Hotel and offsite venues, Calgary
Contact: Steve Yanover, president
Email: cctcapresident@gmail.com
Website: www.cctca.com

Northeast Teachers' Convention

Date: Feb. 15-16, 2018
Location: Doubletree by Hilton Hotel, Edmonton
Contact: Adrienne Sprecker, president
Email: peopless@ualberta.ca
Website: http://netca.teachers.ab.ca

Central Alberta Teachers' Convention

Date: Feb. 22-23, 2018
Location: Red Deer College
Contact: David Martin, president
Email: teacher.david.martin@gmail.com
Website: www.mycatca.com

Palliser District Teachers' Convention

Date: Feb. 22-23, 2018
Location: Telus Convention Centre and Hyatt Hotel, Calgary
Contact: Andrea Craigie, president
Email: president@pdtca.org
Website: www.pdtca.org

South Western Alberta Teachers' Convention

Date: Feb. 22-23, 2018
Location: University of Lethbridge
Contact: Kim Yearous, president
Email: kim.yearous@gmail.com
Website: www.swatca.ca

Southeastern Alberta Teachers' Convention

Date: Feb. 22-23, 2018
Location: Medicine Hat College
Contact: Tim Johnson, president
Email: tibon007@gmail.com
Website: www.seatca.ca

Greater Edmonton Teachers' Convention

Date: March 1-2, 2018
Location: Shaw Conference Centre, Westin Hotel and offsite venues, Edmonton
Contact: Lloyd Bloomfield, president
Email: president@getca.com
Website: www.getca.com

Mighty Peace Teachers' Convention

Date: March 8-9, 2018
Location: Grande Prairie Composite High School and Peace Wapiti Academy
Contact: Julie Gummesen, president
Email: edge@abnorth.com
Website: http://mptca.teachers.ab.ca

Central East Alberta Teachers' Convention

Date: March 8-9, 2018
Location: Shaw Conference Centre, Edmonton
Contact: Jim Allan, president
Email: jyallan@telus.net
Website: www.ceatca.teachers.ab.ca

Convention Information

Convention programs will focus on a number of themes, including responding to changes in the educational landscape, teaching in inclusive classrooms, educating for reconciliation, promoting holistic health and wellness, and embracing the importance of play.

Visit the ATA's website for teachers' convention Frequently Asked Questions at www.teachers.ab.ca>For Members>Professional Development>Teachers' Conventions.

General questions regarding teachers' conventions should be directed to administrative officer Barb Bossert.

Telephone: 780-447-9461 (in Edmonton); 1-800-232-7208 (toll-free in Alberta)

Email: barb.bossert@ata.ab.ca

Questions regarding the teachers' convention that you attend should be directed to your convention association.



Walking Together

EDUCATION FOR RECONCILIATION

In addition to the wide variety of sessions that are typically offered at teachers' convention each year, the 2018 conventions will feature a number of Walking Together: Education for Reconciliation sessions, including Indigenous Ways of Knowing, Collective Memories: Braiding Our Stories Through History, and Indigenous Alberta: The Footsteps of Our Ancestors.

Special Conventions 2018

This is the time of year when teachers turn their attention to (among dozens of other things) their professional growth plans.

A meaningful plan enhances a teacher's professional practice, and a key component of such a plan is teachers' convention, which enables teachers to learn about innovative pedagogical practices and theories from top-notch speakers.

Membership in a specialist council is another potentially integral component of a teacher's professional growth plan. Your Association has 21 specialist councils, and every active member is entitled to join one at no cost. Specialist councils organize annual conferences, produce publications, maintain websites and offer regional workshops and seminars, thus providing professional development opportunities and promoting teachers' expertise in curriculum and specialty areas.

Specialist
Council
Conferences
2017/18

Alberta School Library Council

No conference planned at this time.
Website: <http://aslc.ca/>

Career and Technology Education Council

Date: Nov. 23–25, 2017
Location: Coast Canmore Hotel and Conference Centre
Theme: Catalyst for Change: Tools for the Future
Contact: Karen Kiefer
Email: conferencedirector@ctscouncil.com
Website: <http://ctec.teachers.ab.ca>

Le Conseil français

No conference planned at this time.
Website: <http://cf.teachers.ab.ca>

Council for Inclusive Education

Date: Oct. 13–14, 2017
Location: Fantasyland Hotel, Edmonton
Theme: Celebrating the Challenges
Contact: Tamia Richardson
Email: conferencenorth1@cieducation.ca
Website: www.cieducation.ca

Council for School Leadership

Date: April 15–18, 2018
Location: Banff Springs Hotel, Banff
Theme: uLead 2018
Contact: Jeff Johnson
Email: leadershipfor21c@me.com
Website: ulead.ca

Council of School Counsellors

Two mini-conferences
Date: Nov. 18, 2017
Locations: Lindsay Thurber Comprehensive High School, Red Deer
Lethbridge School District No. 51 Ed Centre, Lethbridge
Theme: Voices of Counselling
Contact (Red Deer): Alyson King
Email: alyson.king@rdpsd.ab.ca
Contact (Lethbridge): Kevan Lomness
Email: kevan.bryant@lethsd.ab.ca
Website: www.ataschoolcounsellors.com

Early Childhood Education Council

Date: Nov. 2–4, 2017
Location: Fairmont Banff Springs, Banff
Theme: Sparking Creativity
Contact: Lynn McEachern
Email: lynnmce@gmail.com
Website: www.ecec-ata.com

Educational Technology Council

No conference planned at this time.
Website: www.etcata.com

English as a Second Language Council

Date: Nov. 3–5, 2017
Location: Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise
Theme: Literacy Across the Curriculum
Contact: Jana Fedun
Email: jana.fedun@cssd.ab.ca
Website: www.eslcata.com/conference

English Language Arts Council

Date: May 4–5, 2018
Location: Banff Park Lodge
Theme: Making Meaning
Contact: Tannis Niziol
Email: Tannis.Niziol@ecsd.net
Website: <http://elacata.ca>

Fine Arts Council

Two mini regional conferences
Date: Oct. 21, 2017
Locations: University of Alberta, South Education building, Edmonton
FFCA Campus, Calgary
Theme: Arts Across Alberta
Contact: Naomi McQuaid, President
Email: naomimcquaid@hotmail.com
Website: <http://fac.teachers.ab.ca>

First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education Council

Date: Nov. 16–18, 2017
Location: Deerfoot Inn and Casino, Calgary
Theme: Soaring with Knowledge
Contact: Hayley Christen
Email: fnmiec@gmail.com
Website: <https://fnmiec.atapd.ca/initiative/soaring-with-knowledge-2017-2>

Global, Environmental and Outdoor Education Council

Date: May 12, 2018
Location: Jasper Park Lodge, Jasper
Theme: Annual General Meeting
Contact: Breanne Oakie
Email: breanne.oakiecarriere@gmail.com
Website: www.geoec.org

Health and Physical Education Council

Date: May 3–5, 2018
Location: Mount Royal University/
Grey Eagle Resort, Calgary
Theme: Finding Balance
Contact: Sonia Sheehan
Telephone: 403-259-3527
Email: sonia.sheehan@ffca-calgary.com
Website: <http://hpec.ab.ca>

Mathematics Council

Date: Oct. 20–21, 2017
Location: Edmonton Marriott at River Cree Resort, Enoch
Theme: 2017: A Prime Year for Mathematics
Contact: Daryl Chichak
Email: mathguy@shaw.ca
Website: www.mathteachers.ab.ca

Middle Years Council

Date: April 26–28, 2018
Location: Banff Park Lodge, Banff
Theme: Teach Like a Pirate
Contact: Tom Stones
Email: tstones@cesd73.ca
Website: www.ata-myc.com

Outreach Education Council

Date: Sept. 28–30, 2017
Location: River Cree Resort, Enoch (Edmonton)
Theme: Finding Our Voice
Contact: Antonette Wilson
Email: antonette.wilson@epsb.ca
Website: <https://oec.teachers.ab.ca/>

Religious and Moral Education Council

Date: Oct. 20–21, 2017
Location: Rimrock Resort Hotel, Banff
Theme: Theology of the Body and Media
Contact: Ron Baier
Telephone: 780-608-9695
Email: ronbaier1@gmail.com
Website: <http://rmec.teachers.ab.ca>

Science Council

Date: Nov. 16–18, 2017
Location: Banff Park Lodge
Theme: Making Space for Science
Contact: Alicia Taylor
Email: makingspaceforscience@gmail.com
Website: <https://tinyurl.com/atasc-conf2017>

Second Languages and Intercultural Council

Date: Oct. 21, 2017
Location: Grant MacEwan University, Edmonton
Theme: Professional Learning Event and AGM
Contact: Michelle De Abreu
Email: michelledeabreu3@gmail.com
Website: <http://slic.teachers.ab.ca>

Social Studies Council

The Social Studies Council will not have a conference this year but will instead hold its annual general meeting on Saturday, Nov. 18 during the conference of the First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education Council (FNMIEC). The Social Studies Council is encouraging its members to join the FNMIEC at its conference.

For more information about specialist councils, visit the ATA website at www.teachers.ab.ca > For Members > Professional Development > Specialist Councils.

CLASSIFIEDS NOTICES AND EVENTS

Travel and Recreation

Costa Rica, El Salvador, Colombia or Nicaragua—Escorted Travel the Civilized Way! We took the “hurry” out of touring. Leisurely paced, small groups, unique experiences and terrific value balancing nature, history and culture. www.thediscoverytours.ca, 1-800-417-0250, Monday-Friday

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For Advertising Information

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Next Deadline

Sept. 15, 2017, 4 p.m.
(publication date Sept. 26, 2017)

Please note: advertisers are encouraged to book their advertisement space early—space is limited.

Cost

Classified ads: \$1.00 per word plus GST (\$15.00 minimum)

Display ads: Varies according to size

Payment

Prepayment is required. We accept VISA, Mastercard, cash or cheque.

Circulation: 44,000

Volunteer position available

The Wild Rose Humane Society is seeking a volunteer director of education. The start-up shelter serves an area from Airdrie to Innisfail/Sundre and is building its first animal shelter in Didsbury. It is seeking someone with an education degree and experience collaborating with volunteers to:

- Develop and deliver a meaningful and impactful program for animal safety and care for animals.
- Review current lesson plan and make changes if necessary.
- Liaise with local schools and community stakeholders in the Airdrie to Innisfail corridor to promote its education program.
- Develop short- and long-term strategies to reach as many children, youth and adults as possible.

More information about the society is available at www.wildrosehumane.ca. Interested parties can contact society president Dean Orlando: President@wildrosehumane.ca; 403-851-0325.

Disclaimer The Alberta Teachers' Association does not necessarily endorse the products or services presented in paid advertisements or in the Notices and Events column.

EVERY ONE COUNTS

Visit our website for this **free** poster and activities to inspire empathy, and **respect for everyone.**



EVERYLIVINGTHING.CA

The ATA Fine Arts Council presents

Regional Mini-Conferences Saturday, October 21, 2017

Edmonton

U of A, Ed. Dept. South

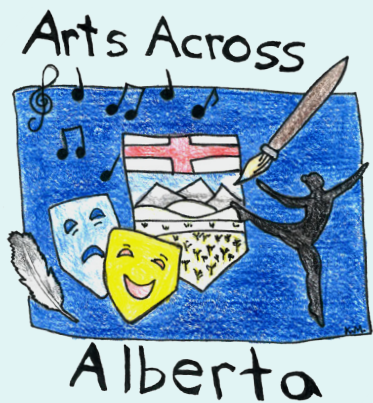
PD Sessions 9 AM – 3:30 PM
AGM Meeting 12 PM

Calgary

FFCA Campus

PD Sessions 9 AM – 3:00 PM
AGM Meeting 12 PM

- \$60 for FAC members and \$10 for education student FAC members. Coffee and light lunch included.
- Elections will be held at the AGM meeting at 12 PM. Nomination forms are on our website at www.fac.teachers.ab.ca.



Visit our website for more information and join our mailing list for updates. www.fac.teachers.ab.ca

Autos for sale

For more information, contact Tracy Pohl at tracy.pohl@ata.ab.ca or by telephone: 780-447-9482 or 1-800-232-7208 (toll-free), ext 482. The Alberta Teachers' Association reserves the right to refuse the highest bid if it is deemed to be inadequate.

2015 Volkswagen Golf GTI

Features: Leather seats, navigation system with touch screen, sunroof and much more. Winter tires with rims included.

Colour: Carbon Steel Metallic
Engine: 2.0 TSI, (gasoline)
Transmission: 6 speed - Manual
Kilometres: 34,800

This is a sealed bid auction. Please mail your bid letter in a **sealed envelope marked "Car Bid - VW Golf."**

2013 GMC Terrain

Features: Leather, heated front seats, 8-way power driver's seat, backup camera, sunroof, power lift gate and much more. Winter tires and rims included.

Colour: Carbon Black Metallic
Engine: 3.6L V6
Transmission: 6 Speed - Automatic (AWD)
Kilometres: 155,900

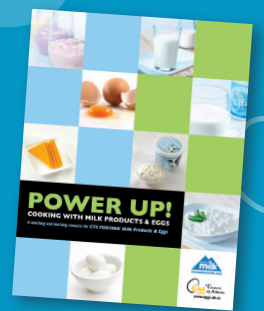
This is a sealed bid auction. Please mail your bid letter in a **sealed envelope, marked "Car Bid - GMC Terrain/"**

All bids should be marked attention Tracy Pohl, Accountant, Alberta Teachers' Association, 11010 142 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T5N 2R1. Bids will be accepted until 5 p.m., **October 2, 2017.**

Foods Teachers

Power Up!

COOKING WITH MILK PRODUCTS & EGGS



Supports CTS FOD2060 in high school, and can be adapted for use in junior high.

Includes:

- Teacher guide
- Student workbook
- Practical, real-world focused learning tasks
- Tested recipes
- Assessment strategies & test bank



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Download the FREE comprehensive resource at albertamilk.com/powerup or order FREE print copies of the teacher guide and student workbooks at store.albertamilk.com

Musicalmania!
proudly presents the contemporary musical

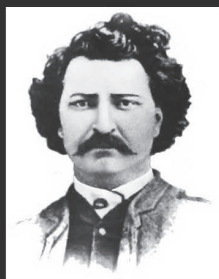
Hey, Riel!

Music and Lyrics by C.W. Oxley
Directed by Julien Constantin

Special Student Matinee for
Canada's 150th Birthday!

Thursday, November 16th, 2017
(the anniversary of Riel's death)
1:00 - 2:30 p.m.
Jubilee Auditorium
Edmonton, Alberta
(11455-87Ave)
90 minutes long. No Intermission
\$15 per seat

Starring Ken Mastel as 'Louis Riel',
Julien Constantin as 'Thomas Scott',
and David Cairns as 'The Narrator'



For more information, or to book seats,
please e-mail: therealmusicalmania@gmail.com
or call 780 966-7464
musicalmania.org
[facebook.com/originalmusicals/](https://www.facebook.com/originalmusicals/)

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Committed to Teachers in Alberta

To activate this offer, mention code AUTO100 and HOME50

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The Calgary Catholic Teachers ATA Local No. 55

Invites applications for the position of: Local Executive Assistant

Responsible to the Table Officers and the Executive Committee of Calgary Catholic Alberta Teachers' Association Local No. 55, the Local Executive Assistant will provide advice, assistance and representation to the teachers of Local No. 55 by receiving and acting upon concerns, complaints and grievances pertaining to collective agreement interpretation; acting as liaison at the staff level with the Calgary Catholic School District and the provincial teachers' association; conducting research for the local as required; and serving as a nonvoting member of the local. Additionally, the Local Executive Assistant will assist the President in all matters pertaining to its governance at the request of the President and the local, including any committees to which they are assigned, in order to ensure the proper management of its affairs. The successful candidate will be required to attend all meetings of Table Officers, Executive, the Council of School Representatives, Advisory, Economic Policy and the Negotiating subcommittee and other committees as may be required to effectively conduct the business of the local.

Qualifications will include:

- A master's degree in education or equivalent experience
- A valid teaching certificate and teaching experience in a Catholic jurisdiction
- A thorough knowledge of the local and provincial organization's structures, policies and procedures
- Knowledge and experience of the collective bargaining process
- Exceptional management and human relations skills and experience in conflict resolution
- A high degree of leadership, interpersonal and communication skills

Preference will go to candidates who demonstrate:

- A strong commitment to the values of publicly funded Catholic education
- Experience and familiarity with the Calgary Catholic Teachers ATA Local No. 55 and Calgary Catholic School District

Terms of Employment: The successful candidate will be eligible for a one-year probationary contract of employment with the local. A successful probationary period would lead to a recommendation for a continuous contract with the local. Vacation and holiday periods are similar to those of Calgary Catholic Local No. 55.

Salary: An annual salary equivalent to 140 per cent of the maximum salary possible (Grid D) in accordance with the basic salary schedule in the collective agreement between the Alberta Teachers' Association and the Calgary Catholic School District.

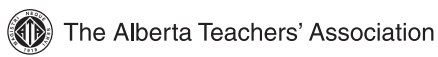
Applications: Letter of application supported by a resumé, including relevant professional experience and qualifications, academic background and two letters of reference, must be submitted in person, by fax or electronically no later than Friday noon, September 22, 2017, to:

Executive Assistant Selection Committee

c/o Calgary Catholic Teachers
The Alberta Teachers' Association Local No. 55
Suite 214, 3016 – 5 Ave. Northeast
Calgary, AB T2A 6K4

Electronically: president@ataloc55.ab.ca
By Fax: 403-263-7830

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PROGRAMS**



Explore our upcoming 2018 cohorts, offered in a blend of online and face-to-face delivery:

MASTER OF EDUCATION

Educational Leadership
Multiple Literacies in Canadian Classrooms

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Apply by December 1, 2017

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Faculty of Education

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**ULethbridge
OPEN HOUSE**

September 30, 2017
Attend in person or virtually

campaigns.uleth.ca/open-house

CTS WORKSHOPS

INTRODUCTION TO:

CABINETRY

Session: October 14 (Saturday only)

PHOTOGRAPHY

Session: October 21 & 22 (Sat/Sun)

FABRICATION

(Sheet metal, SMAW, GMAW, Foundry)

Session: Nov 4 & 5 (Sat/Sun)

For more information and registration

forms visit:

ctsworkshops.com

Bill Brandley email: ctsworkshops@icloud.com

THE WORKSHOPS ARE HELD AT CCHS IN VULCAN. VULCAN IS SITUATED 1 HOUR SOUTH OF CALGARY AND 1 HOUR NORTH OF LETHBRIDGE.



Sign up for email to receive Members' Updates: <http://bit.ly/1uJm122>

POWER TO PLAY!

MUST-HAVE healthy eating and physical activity resource for **K-3**.

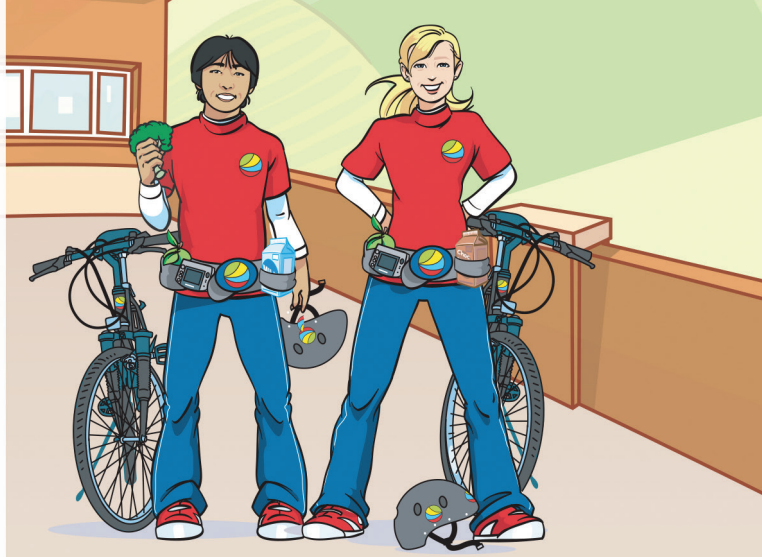
Brock Lee and Coco Lait engage students through fun, healthy eating adventures in your own classroom.

Designed by teachers, dietitians and students, **POWER TO PLAY!** easily integrates healthy eating into the Alberta curriculum with a focus on Language and Mathematics. And the program is **FREE!**

Teachers receive:

- DVD featuring seven exciting super missions
- CD with creative, child-friendly songs
- Easy-to-use teacher's guide with four grade-specific programs
- Full colour support material including 103 food picture cards and 10 study prints
- Fun Energy Blasts that meet new Daily Physical Activity requirements
- French master sheets

NEW! SMARTboard activities are now included in the kit.



Book a workshop **NOW** for 12 or more teachers! Visit POWERTOPLAY.COM or call 1-877-361-1231 ext. 3304.

POWER UP YOUR HEALTH PROGRAMS!



SPACE IS LIMITED
REGISTER NOW!

Power4Bones is based on multiple learning styles and will help you meet curriculum expectations in a variety of subjects including **Health and Life Skills, Physical Education and English Language Arts.**

Your secret box, which provides everything you need to teach this innovative program, will be shipped to your school after you register.



A FREE, web-based, cross-curricular program for Grade 5 students.

Register
your Grade 5 class today!
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POWER4BONES.COM

Exciting ready-to-use program components:

- Interactive Web challenges
- Customizable comics
- Audio classroom announcements
- Trivia game
- Online tool to create public service announcements
- Participation prizes



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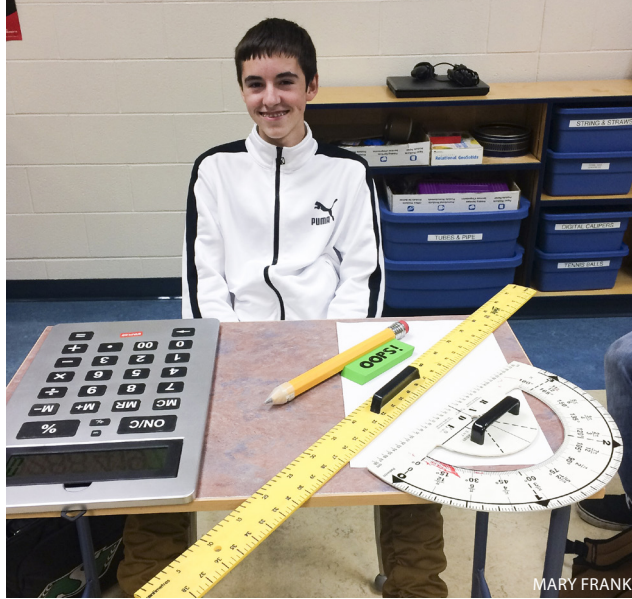
TALENT

September 12, 2017 | Volume 52, Number 2

Smile for the camera



Karen Nakaska (left) is ready to begin her 29th year of teaching in Alberta while her daughter, Julia Turner, is ready to begin her first.



Grade 11 student Kaleb Nutbrown was "thinking big" while preparing for his first day of math class at Wainwright High School.



ATA Local No. 55 president Richard Campbell represents Calgary Separate teachers at the Calgary pride parade with fellow local member Grace Feeny, who is also his former student.



Members of Calgary Local No. 38 participate in their city's pride parade on Sept. 3.



Kristel Rensmaag and Shannon Dube of Fort McMurray Local No. 48 take a break from their participation in the first Pride YMM event on Aug. 26.

Have you applied for your school Grant in Support of **Social Justice Learning?**

DEADLINE: OCTOBER 3 2017

Applications are online or downloadable from the Aspen Foundation website www.afle.ca

Substitute Teachers' Conference 2017

The **Joy of Teaching**

October 20(eve) -21, 2017

Register online at <https://event-wizard.com/events/2017STC/>
Registration deadline October 16, 2017

Voices of Counselling:
 ATA School Counsellors Southwest and Central Symposiums

Conferences for ALL School Based Mental Health Team Members

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 18, 2017

LETHBRIDGE:
 9:30-3:00 WITH SOCIAL EVENT TO FOLLOW
 LETHBRIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 51 EDUCATION CENTRE

RED DEER:
 8:30-3:30 WITH MOVIE SOCIAL TO FOLLOW
 LINSLEY THURBER COMPREHENSIVE HIGH SCHOOL

LUNCH AND SNACKS PROVIDED

REGISTER AT WWW.ATASCHOOLCOUNSELLORS.COM BY OCTOBER 31
\$60 OR \$25 IF MEMBER OF COUNCIL