

Central North District Representative's Report
for
Northern Gateway Local 43
Thursday, November 6, 2014

- Submitted by Paul McCann

Have You Booked a Pension Seminar for Your Local?

Sherry Constantin is our region's pension consultant in Central North. She would very much like to be able to bring her knowledge and talents as a master teacher to your local colleagues, particularly those that may be considering retirement. Sherry's informative pension presentation can be booked through Barnett House, or by contacting her directly.

The BCTF - Moving Forward

The Alberta Teachers' Association offers of financial assistance to the British Columbia Teachers' Federation has been formally accepted. In a letter of appreciation, the BCTF indicated the loan portion might not be required, however.

Sam Sellar is Coming Back to the Edmonton Region

On November 30th, the Government of Alberta will announce their new Accountability Pillar requirements for system reporting (public assurance). [(i.e.) the 'Tell THEM From ME' tool]. In conjunction with this public announcement, the ATA is pleased to be hosting an amazing professional learning opportunity for teachers, administrators, and system leaders.

Dialogue Dinner – Sam Sellar at the U of A Faculty Club
Thursday, November 13th

The second CSL Dialogue Dinner of the year welcomes Sam Sellar from the University of Queensland in

Australia. Sam will discuss how PISA works, how the data it generates is used by the media and governments, and how teachers and school leaders might engage with these data and their public representations. Sam was an extremely popular speaker when he visited Alberta this past spring and we are fortunate to have him back for this CSL – Edmonton Dialogue Dinner. The evening promises to provide a rich conversation for those attending. This is a perfect opportunity for school leadership teams to engage together on the meaning and impact of broad-scale testing.
[<http://tinyurl.com/CSL-Dinner2>]

Are You Registered to Attend the Professional Development Area Conference? (PDAC)

The November 28th, 29th PDAC will include a symposium on teacher efficacy. Dr. Robert Klassen and Dr. Jim Parsons will be presenting their latest research findings.

Hug a Grade Three Teacher Today – Student Learning Assessments Didn't Make the Grade

At a time when teachers took a multi-year, 0% wage increase, with the understanding that our Legislated Settlement promised to address teacher workload and classroom conditions, last month's attempt from Alberta Education to put PATs behind us has been a big disappointment for grade three teachers. For an education system that considers itself to be amongst the



The Alberta Teachers' Association

best in the world, there weren't kudos to pass around for the way that the SLA pilot project was handled.

Grade three teachers are to be applauded for the grace and patience they portrayed in being the lightning rod for a poorly implemented program. Their list of legitimate concerns include;

- the capacity of classroom technology and infrastructure to deliver what was expected
- a badly designed assessment package
- poorly prepared teacher scoring/assessment guides/rubrics
- a lack of support for grass roots in properly preparing school boards and teachers for the pilot project
- a lack of support in providing teachers with adequate time to assess student responses
- the challenge of grade three classrooms currently being weeks behind in program delivery for the 2014-15 school year
- just exactly how teachers will be able to place a positive spin on student results, as they are required to report to parents in the coming weeks
- how the workload of grade three teachers was negatively impacted, with no tangible results
- the lack of value/insight that this type of diagnostic assessment is expected to provide on the average grade three student
- why Grande Prairie Catholic is the only school division to withdraw from the SLA pilot program after the ATA expressed serious delivery concerns prior to the administration of the SLA pilot program

ATA Fall Media Campaign is Underway

This year's fall multimedia campaign can now be seen and heard across the province. Television, radio, print, Internet, grocery stores, theatres, and bus shelters are all places where you may find our ads.

The theme is "**Better Education Together**".

[<http://www.bettereducationtogether.com>]

For a full picture of the complete campaign, click on the link on the top right hand side of the ATA website.

[<http://www.teachers.ab.ca>]

And the Winner is... ATA Elections - 2015

Election Day for positions on the Provincial Executive Council has been slated for Monday, March 23, 2015. This year's voting will be conducted electronically. Those teachers who are eligible to vote must register (log in) with the Alberta Teachers' Association, online. Upon confirmation of being registered, teachers will then be directed to a secure sight, where they can cast their ballot(s).



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