

FORUM FORTYONE

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 7 FEBRUARY 2007

TABLE TALK - A MESSAGE FROM OUR LOCAL PRESIDENT - BEV WITZKE

Greetings everyone! It is February already and Convention is just around the corner. Once again, so many teachers representing SWATCA have worked tirelessly to provide a wide variety of speakers and sessions that satisfy the diverse needs of our teachers. Take time during our two days of professional development to refresh teaching skills and strategies and to connect with your colleagues. Please remember that parking this year is going to be a challenge as the Scott Tournament of Hearts is taking place at the Enmax. Here is an opportunity to "go green" and do our small part for the environment by carpooling, bussing or getting dropped off at the door. Also, a reminder that because the LCC is undergoing construction and there is a shortage of rooms and meeting spaces, sessions are being offered during the lunch hour.

Local President's Meeting was held Friday, Feb. 9 to Saturday Feb. 10 at Barnett House. This is a provincial election year and therefore, Friday evening was devoted to a Table Officers Candidates' Forum. Candidates for each office were allowed five minutes to make a presentation. Following all presentations for an office, questions were taken from the floor. Candidates running for provincial president include Frank Bruseker and John Waterhouse. Candidates for provincial vice-president include Carol Henderson, Alexandra Jurisic and Craig Whitehead. A DVD of the forum speeches will be sent to locals throughout the province. Our office will make copies available for schools. All candidates were sent an invitation from our ATA office to speak at our Feb. 14 Local Council Meeting. Candidates are also welcome to send posters/brochures to our office for distribution to schools through our school reps. I strongly encourage you and the teachers on your staff to exercise your democratic right and vote for your provincial table officers.

Education Minister Ron Liepert has agreed to attend the Feb. 26th meeting of Provincial Executive Council(PEC). The three issues PEC would like to discuss with the minister are the unfunded liability(UFL), improving relations and communication between government and our association and classroom conditions. The Jan. 30th issue of the ATA News contains more details of Premier Stelmach's mandate letter to Minister Liepert and our new education minister's response. Frank Bruseker reminded presidents that locals and teachers need to continue to lobby their MLAs for a solution to this problem. We look forward to hearing positive news regarding Liepert's desire to resolve this issue.

LOGO CONTEST

...do you have artistic talent?

...do you have a vision for our LOCAL?

...do you have a design you want to share?

Submit entries for our new ATA Local 41 LOGO to office@ataleth.org

Member to Member

Join us in congratulating members of our local

Please submit names of ATA Local 41 members who are celebrating....an addition to the family, a special anniversary, an award, etcetera to office@ataleth.org so that we can celebrate together!

Member Connections

Local 41 Member Profiles

Our members contribute locally, provincially and nationally in various organizations...

Sandy Brunelle - Gilbert Patterson Middle School **Bob Brunelle - Wilson Middle School**

Musical theater is a wonderful way to tell a story. This medium is an assortment of several art forms brought together to explore the power of words, the imagination of art, the exhilaration of choreography and to heighten feelings through sound.

As music educators, teachers and leaders, musical directors are afforded the opportunity to work with a variety of people who may, or may not, have formal training on stage. After auditions have taken place the directors must sit down and analyze who would be best suited for each role. Thought must be given to the physical stature of the individual, their voice for both speaking and singing and their dancing ability. Each director has specific tasks to accomplish in a relatively short period of time. They work very closely with each other to ensure that the total package is ready to present to the public.

The Choral Director must mould both trained and untrained voices to the highest possible level of quality. Memorization of lyrics and melodic lines must be met so that

they are performed automatically, even when choreography is added. In addition, endurance conditioning must be achieved to meet the demands of multi performances.

The task of an Orchestra Director is to provide an ensemble composed of talented and versatile instrumentalists. Their primary role is to enhance the onstage presentation, knowing the show is paramount. Unexpected occurrences happen such as dropped lines, set failure and missed entrances and the orchestra must "jump" together to cover those occurrences.

All these aspects relate to the classroom. We work with students of varying abilities. To do this we must be able to adapt our teaching techniques to achieve student success. Our use of comparative words must be broadened to reach all student levels. Presentation of new ideas must be clearly understood and viewed by the student as broadening their knowledge base. Using a variety of approaches to achieve understanding must be

incorporated to engage the learner so as to enhance and solidify their learning process.

Our experience with music education over the years has been very rewarding. Most students simply enjoy their music. While their preferences of style do change over the years their understanding of it continues to grow. Some pursue a desire to become a more proficient vocalist or instrumentalist. Others may continue their enjoyment of music by participating with a community choir or band. A few might embark on a professional career.

Community theatre has given us an opportunity to share our training outside of the regular classroom. In turn our experiences in the community have enhanced our everyday teaching. Being lifelong learners is our goal and something we encourage everyone to follow.



Member Connections

Local 41 Member Profiles

Our members contribute locally, provincially and nationally in various organizations...
read all about it!

Tom Kocken: The affect of Tae Kwon Do on my teaching and my life Galbraith Elementary School

From a very young age I had always wanted the opportunity to train a martial art. I was drawn to it from the first time I was exposed to it watching Bruce Lee movies.

In the early eighties a fledgling Tae Kwon Do school was established in Lethbridge. Curiosity drew me to take a look and I have never looked back.

At the same time I started training I began my teaching career. Tae Kwon Do was an excellent outlet for the stress and strenuous life as a new teacher. Each hour I trained allowed me the opportunity to re-energize and prepare for the next day. Tae Kwon Do cleared my mind and allowed me to develop lessons and programs for the multi grade class I was working with.

As I succeeded in Tae Kwon Do and progressed through the many belts so to did my teaching experiences grow. When I achieved my first degree black belt I thought I had reached the end of a journey. In teaching I had found a niche that was comfortable and worked through my day to day life with ease for a while. Tae Kwon Do taught me that I was on a life journey. I found myself seeking for far more and soon discovered that a black belt was only the beginning. This was the same in my teaching career. I soon discovered that I had chosen a profession that was a way of life, not a *job*.

As my training became more intense and my teaching years grew I decided to help out at our club as assistant instructor. I found my teaching skills quickly adapted to the gym and that Tae Kwon Do found its way into the classroom as well. The newfound confidence that came from my training allowed me to take more risks and branch out in the things I taught. I had more energy and was able to handle the strenuous work involved in teaching.

To date I have been able to attain my fourth degree black belt and am the head instructor for a Tae Kwon Do school in Picture Butte. I have over forty students and use my teaching skills to try and offer the best available instruction.

The energy from Tae Kwon Do and the benefits of a life style based on this art have allowed me to complete my Master of Education degree and I continue to branch out in the many different facets of the education field. I am in my twenty fourth year of teaching and can look back at a very fulfilling career where I taught every grade and spent a decade working within the wonderful field of outreach education, the very area my Master of Education was based.

Of all the things I found most fulfilling was watching my oldest daughter obtain her black belt and watching my youngest daughter and son train as well.

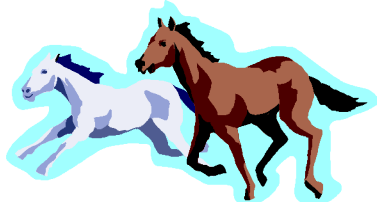
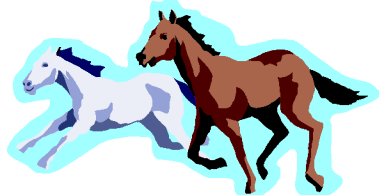
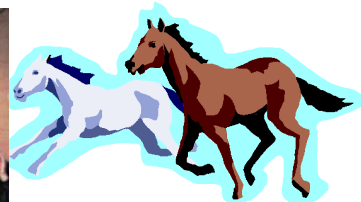
I can not imagine my life without Tae Kwon Do. As I age I find it humbles me and allows me to see the every day struggle people live with and how they are able to keep going in life, enjoying what every day brings.



Tom Kocken

Teacher - Galbraith Elementary school

Spirit of 51 Party!



Did y'all know
that the Pardner's
from Westminster
was the first to the
party and the last
to leave...yeehaw!



A special love letter

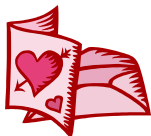
You say you love me, but sometimes you don't show it. In the beginning you could not do enough for me. Now you seem to take me for granted. Some days I wonder if I mean anything to you at all.

Maybe when I'm gone you'll appreciate me and all the things I do for you. I'm responsible for the food on your table, for the clothes you wear, for the welfare of your home, for the thousand-and-one things you want and need. Why, if it weren't for me, you wouldn't have the car you drive.

I've kept quiet and waited to see how long it would take for you to realize how much you really need me.

Cherish me...take good care of me...and I'll take good care of you.

Who am I? I am your job.



Executive meets **Ecole Agnes Davidson**.....ATA Local 41 Executive met with the Local 41 members of Agnes Davidson Elementary School. Bev Witzke, our president, gave the group an update on provincial happenings ranging from the unfunded liability issue to class composition. The executive looks forward to meeting with all of the schools to discuss local and provincial issues.



Executive meets **Galbraith**.....ATA Local 41 Executive met with the Local 41 members of Galbraith Elementary School. Bev Witzke, our president, gave the group an update on provincial happenings ranging from the class size to the priorities of the new premier. The executive looks forward to meeting with all of the schools to discuss local and provincial issues.



What made them fall asleep??

PD Ponderings

A new feature of Forum 41 brought to you by the ASTA Local 41 Professional Development Committee

Important Dates to Remember

Upcoming PD Deadlines:

March 01: deadline for activities during April 2007; 4:00 p.m. "at" the ATA Office !

March 30: deadline for activities during May 2007; 4:00 p.m. "at" the ATA Office !



PD Funding Guideline Questions

Question

I applied for 3 days sub time to attend a workshop and only received 1.5. Why did this happen?

Answer

It could be as a result of any number of reasons.

If your activity requires 1.5 sub days to attend, your sub time is reduced to reflect the needed substitute teacher time.

If your activity requires 3 sub days and you received only 1.5, perhaps you have reached your limit of 5 sub days per school year.

Perhaps there was a miscalculation by the teacher, or by the ATA office. A quick phone call will address the concern.

Please be accurate when requesting sub time. If your application requests one sub day and you only use a morning, please note the revision on the *Expense Claim Form*. **Prior to leaving for a conference**, all teachers are strongly encouraged to make sure that the sub time and expenses allotted to a particular activity is accurate. All questions and calls are welcome (320-5531 or office@ataleth.org).

Teachers' Convention is
February 22nd and 23rd

Journeys in Education

SWATCA SOCIAL
007

LCC FOOD COURT AT DOORS OPEN AT 4PM
-Complimentary Food and Beverages
-Live Las Vegas Style Entertainment

PLEASE DO NOT DRINK AND DRIVE
DRINK RESPONSIBLY

LETHBRIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOL LOCAL 41
OF
THE ALBERTA TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION
FORUM FORTY ONE
IS A PUBLICATION OF THE COMMUNICATIONS
COMMITTEE OF LETHBRIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOL LOCAL 41.
BRENDA KROKOSH, LOCAL COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER
PLEASE DIRECT ANY COMMENTS TO
office@ataleth.org

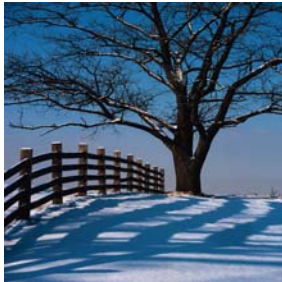
The opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of
the contributors and not necessarily those of
Lethbridge Public School Local 41.

Barnett House

1-800-232-7208

Southern Alberta Regional
Office

1-800-332-1280



Representing....



Doug Checkley
represents the
teachers at the LCI at
our Local Council
meetings.



Erin Wallace represents the teachers at
G S Lakie at our Local Council
meetings

**Did you know...that your school representatives are an
information source for you!**

Thank you to all the school representatives for their valued
contribution to communication in our Local.

**See you at Teachers' Convention !!
February 22nd and 23rd**

Are there any topics you
would like to see covered
in Forum 41? Let us
know. Please email
office@ataleth.org if you
have any suggestions.

Health tip:

For a lowfat and simple way to flavor fish without
using a sauce: *spice it up!* Fill a peppermill with
spices appropriate for fish and seafood: whole
fennel, coriander seeds and black peppercorns,
for example. The freshly ground spices will add
flavor to your fish dish, without adding extra fat.

Hygiene tip:

Hate the smell of garlic left on your hands after
peeling or chopping garlic? Rub you hands on a
stainless steel faucet as the water is running and
the smell will be greatly reduced.

Spice tip:

To get the most flavor from your spices, consider
buying whole spices instead of ground. Whole
spices retain their flavor for a much longer period
of time than ground spices: 2 years opposed to 6
months. Use a coffee grinder to grind the whole
spices just prior to cooking. To clean your coffee
grinder, grind a fresh piece of bread - it will pick
up the remaining spice bits left in the grinder.

Tips from
Wallis Allen, WCHS