



The Bark

Fall 2014

Fall: summer is but a memory, and winter is an anticipation Harold Neth, Editor

News & Events

- November 16 – [International Day for Tolerance](#)
- November 20 - [Universal Children's Day](#)
- November 21-23, 2014 - Parkland Institute Fall Conference: parklandinstitute.ca/fallconference2014
- November 25 – [International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women](#)
- November 29 – [International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People](#)
- December 02 - [International Day for the Abolition of Slavery](#)
- December 03 – [International Day of Persons with Disabilities](#)
- December 10 – [Human Rights Day](#)
- January 27 - [International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust](#)
- Watch for Aspen Foundation Convention Presentations:
 - *North Central, February 5
 - *Calgary, February 13
 - *SWATCA, February 19
 - *Palliser, February 20
- March 13-14 – [Annual ATA Diversity, Equity and Human Rights Conference](#)

Raising Social Justice Awareness One Small Group at a Time – Quentin Krogstad, Calgary Board of Education

While Mr. Krogstad's students have not as yet applied to Aspen Foundation for a Social Justice Grant, he was invited to contribute this article as an illustration of how he and his students have become successfully engaged in social justice learning and action.

Four years ago, my grade 8 homeroom class asked that I supervise them for a 30 hour famine event. I reluctantly agreed, provided they do ALL the work and I simply supervise. By the date of the event, they had 70 students and 5 teachers for a day of participatory activism. In the past 3 years, this has increased to almost 200 students representing over 60% of our grade 7/8 population. Our work is now broader in scope and encompasses a variety of social issues, globally and locally.

We found a grassroots project which we now support: an educational colleague is building a school in Guyana, and we have worked to raise money to support this. We raised over 20K last year for our **"Guyana Project."**

The more important work we do is to raise awareness about social issues. Students who sign up must attend 8 lunch hour meetings. Each meeting has information on specific issues. We usually start with poverty issues and causes, and get more specific. We find videos and information that are pertinent and engaging. Then we create Prezis, Powerpoints, etc. which we share and discuss. I keep sessions to less than 40 students so we can have authentic discussions, as kids feel more connected when they can internalize information and participate in the process.

Getting one small group of kids invested and spreading the word is THE way to increase interest. By incorporating humour and music and videos, kids engage with serious topics in ways they can relate to and make them think. It is important for kids to sacrifice something but also to experience concrete, participatory activism. Our current cause is important, but creating lifelong socially aware and active citizens is the true goal. Let kids do as much as they can themselves; the levels they reach will amaze you. For more information, contact me at QJKrogstad@cbe.ab.ca or see http://prezi.com/gl_x81l8au4n/guyana-school/.



Aspen Foundation for Labour Education



Social Justice Learning Grants

The Aspen Foundation works to help educate young Albertans and develop citizens that are engaged in social justice.

The deadline for making grant applications for this school year was October 6th. The Selection Committee was very pleased to see the variety of projects outlined in the twenty-five applications they received from around the province.

Ten schools were selected for funding or partial funding of their Social Justice Learning Projects that meet our criteria. One half of the grant will be paid now. The balance will be paid on completion of the project, and the recipient provides an accounting and evaluation report.

If you applied this year and did not receive the Social Justice Grant, we ask that you read the criteria carefully and consider applying again next year. If you did not apply this year, please consider doing so for the next school year.

Social 30-1 and 30-2 lessons on *Common Ground: Defending the Public Sector*

The video link and lessons to for the 42 minute video, *Common Ground* produced by Canadian filmmaker Tom Radford, are on Aspen's website at www.afle.ca.

The lessons guide students to assess the views of political leaders regarding healthcare, as well as to examine past premiers' views on the future of Alberta, and to consider the impact of privatization on public employees and citizens. Lessons and the video also examine the contrast between policies and events here in Alberta with those in Wisconsin.

GWG: *Piece By Piece* Multimedia Musical Production

Aspen Foundation has begun work on making Maria Dunn's *GWG: Piece By Piece* available to Edmonton and Alberta schools in digital form. The package will include support materials for teachers in grades 4, 5, 7, 9, 10, and 12. The multimedia musical production tells the GWG story in Edmonton through video interviews with women who worked in the factory and is interwoven with songs inspired by their experiences. Themes include Women and Work, Cultural Diversity, Globalization, Work Process, and Unions.

Your Support is key to offering Social Justice and Labour Education in our Schools!

It's friends like you who make Aspen's work possible. You too think it important that schools teach the perspective that allows for youth to change and build a new, fairer, more kind, and more just workplace, community and society,

Thank you to the unions and individuals who have already made a donation this year. If you have not yet donated, please send us your contribution. Aspen Foundation is a registered charity and provides income tax receipts to individual donors.

To donate, see our website and contact information at the bottom of this page or go to:

CanadaHelps.org

Related Links & Info

- [Crabs Know That Unions Work](#)
- [AFLE Teaching Resources](#)
- [ATA Magazine Vol. 92: DEHR to make a difference](#)
- [Social Studies Council](#)
- [Global, Environmental and Outdoor Education Council](#)
- [Public Interest Alberta](#)
- [Parkland Institute](#)
- [UN Observances](#)

Always review resources before using them in class.



The Aspen Foundation for Labour Education

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