

WELLINGTON  
OECTA

UNIT EXECUTIVE

2014-2015

PRESIDENT  
MARK BERARDINE

VP SECONDARY  
DAVID DEREWIANKO

VP ELEMENTARY  
PETER STOOP

VP OCCASIONAL  
TIM O'BRIEN

TREASURER  
TED IMRE

SECRETARY  
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LINDA ARTUSO-JACOBI  
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ROBERTA CASAGRANDE  
CATHY WHYTE

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Wellington works

December 2014-2015

DECEMBER 2014 — 2015

VOLUME 22

DECEMBER ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

**JESUS  
IS THE  
REASON  
FOR THE  
SEASON**

WELLINGTON OECTA

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The Unit office is located on the St. Ignatius Orchard Business Park. The Executive and Rep meetings all take place at the office.

The Executive meets early in the month on a Monday and the Rep meetings are held on the last Monday of the month except Dec. and June.

Release Officer Cell Phones:  
Mark 519-400-5361

**President's Message**

On behalf of the entire Executive, David, Peter and I would like to wish each and everyone of you a Joyous and Happy Christmas Season. For those counting down shopping days, or like most of us how many sleeps until we break for holidays, we would like to remind you of some events that are being organized to enhance your Advent and Christmas Season.

First, we hope everyone will consider joining colleagues and friends from across the Board as we gather for a Christmas Dinner Dance on Friday Dec 19th at the ICC. Tickets are available from school/site Reps, the Executive or from the OECTA Release Officers. The event is sponsored by OECTA but **ALL** are invited. See page 2 for more information.

Second, if you have never taken in Merry Advent we encourage you to think about attending. It is a very special Eucharistic celebration at Loyola House Chapel followed by delicious snacks and an evening of song brought to you by the House of Good Cheer Celtic Band. Contact information has been placed on the OECTA conference. See page 8 for details.

In addition to these 'Christmas' events we also have another of our monthly Wellness Walks on Wednesday Dec 19th, with a special gathering at 5:30 at Riverside Park for Sparkles in the Park. Families are welcome and we will retire to the OECTA Office following the Walk for hot chocolate, beverages and some comfort food. Please RSVP so we can prepare and plan for the amount of food required.

In this season we (and our students) are all on heightened anxiety, stress and anticipation. Many of our colleagues are running Christmas concerts or other Christmas events. Take a moment to enjoy the season, remember the real reason for the season and take care of each other during December.

Have a Merry Christmas and enjoy these special moments.

David 519-400-5362

Peter 519-400-5363

# UPCOMING OECTA WORKSHOPS

## **BUILDING INCLUSIVE SCHOOLS**

OECTA WORKSHOP

TUESDAY NOV 25TH

4:00-7:00

@ Your OECTA Office

Light Supper Will Be Served

RSVP Mark

Last year Wellington welcomed TCDSB's Kevin Welbes Godin three times to present OECTA's workshop on inclusivity.

These workshops were well received by teachers who are struggling to understand how to serve our students and communities while discussing topics that until recently have been silenced. Join your colleagues and Kevin's panel as we delve into issues that are sensitive but absolutely needed to build a safe accepting school environment.

## **Provincial OECTA Workshop**

**Maternity Leave Workshop**

**Wednesday Dec 10th**

**4:00 Meet and Greet**

**Start 4:15 - 5:50**

**@ the OECTA Office**

**Presented by**

**OECTA's Joe Pece**

Spouses are welcome to attend this informative workshop. We encourage any member who is planning to have children in the future to attend to learn how best to plan for your new arrivals. Number of Maternity weeks, Pension implications and buy backs, notices, rights to return to worksites and more will be thoroughly discussed.

RSVP Peter or Mark.

**The Social Committee and the Executive Present:**

**OECTA CHRISTMAS DINNER DANCE**

**FRIDAY DECEMBER 19TH @ THE ITALIAN CANADIAN CLUB  
RECEPTION 6:00 DINNER 6:30 COST \$ 25.00**

**BUFFET DINNER FOLLOWED BY DANCE**

**ALL WELCOME**

**RESERVE YOUR TABLE AND TICKETS TODAY**

**FROM YOUR SITE OECTA REP OR**

**EMAIL ONE OF THE OECTA OFFICERS**

**(Mark, David or Peter)**

Upcoming Dates

- Monday Nov 24th  
Fall General Meeting  
4:30 OECTA Office
  
- Friday Nov 28th  
Men's Retreat at the Villa  
5:00 doors open 6:00 dinner
  
- Thursday Dec 4th @ 4:30  
Merry Advent Loyola House
  
- Monday Dec 8th  
Exec Meeting 4:15
  
- Tuesday Dec 9th  
Caholicity 4:00 @ OECTA Office
  
- Wednesday Dec 10th  
Mat Leave Workshop  
4:00 @ OECTA OFFICE
  
- Thursday Dec 11th 1:00  
Joint Staffing @ OECTA Office
  
- Wellness Committee  
4:00 @ OECTA Office
  
- Wednesday Dec 17th  
Wellness Walk  
4:00 @ OECTA Office
  
- Friday Dec 19th  
Christmas Dinner Dance  
Doors Open 6:00 Dinner 6:30

# Wellington OECTA

**Contract 101**

As you can guess this section will contain a fraction of what is in our contract on an ongoing basis. This month, let's look at attendance management. First OECTA has always fought this initiative but Provincial arbitrations have allowed management to continue this program whether we agree or not. The brochure you received from the Board outlines a variety of 'coaching' meetings. At each of these meetings you are allowed to have an OECTA Rep present.

We encourage all of you to let your Rep know and decide whether you and your Rep will attend or if you believe you need an Executive member. We want to make sure you are protected from the very start of these meetings. Most if not all members have very valid reasons for their absences. There are many who are or have been off with severe health related issues only to recover and receive these letters. We believe most of these cases should not be referred to attendance

management. In the not too distant past these would have been addressed at Joint Wellness Committees and the letters would not have been sent. OECTA is very concerned with the phrase that is used regarding the 'next 90 day plan'. We caution all members from stating what they think they will use. How can anyone know what the future will bring whether it is a severe case of the flu or something more serious. This is one reason you need OECTA there.

## Wellington OECTA Fall Gen Meeting

The Local Unit Fall General Meeting will take place on Monday at 4:30 at the OECTA Office. Here is a quick look at the Agenda:

\*Election from the floor for the vacant Councillor position

\*Approval of the Budget for 2014-15

\*Legislation Committee Bylaw Proposed Changes  
Electronic Election Updates  
Transition of Executive Bylaws  
Solidarity Support Fund  
Release Time and Allowance Transparency

\*Provincial Bargaining Update

\*Committee Reports

All OECTA Members Perm/Part Time/LTOs/OTs are invited.

# Monday Nov 24 4:30 OECTA Office

### Health and Safety Notes

Laurence, Tara, and Roy our Joint H and S Committee Reps joined Mark and Tim at the OECTA H and S Regional last week. There are several issues that continue to exist in the Province that have ramifications for those in the Education Sector, especially teachers. Of note we want to remind all teachers, both Permanent and OT, of their duty to report all actions of suspendible behaviour on the proper “Safe Schools Accident Form”. In addition, all incidents (near miss, actual or verbal) are also to be reported using the Board’s incident/accident form. It is the responsibility of the teacher to complete the form and submit it to their principal. No report should be dismissed. Please keep a copy for your records.

Please see your H and S or OECTA Reps.

### SLIPS TRIPS AND FALLS

Each year we have a variety of obstacles to walk around or over as the winter season hits. Remember to watch out for black ice in the parking lot, ridges of snow from snow plows or snow blowers and wet floors as you enter the building after the students enter the school.

Each year we suffer injuries. Remember proper foot wear can make the difference. If you fall or even slip you should report it. I like to say must. It is a hard lesson to learn when that slip, twist or fall turns out to have a long lasting effect. The trip off the portable that your friend laughed at you for could turn out to be the start of a long term injury. Ask anyone who has an injury that they didn’t report at the time because they could ‘walk it off’.

**BE SAFE AND REPORT ALL INJURIES**

## COLLECTIVE BARGAINING UPDATE

Last month we all received several PB (Provincial Bargaining) email blasts. These bulletins informed us of what items are being negotiated provincially and what items that the Boards (Trustees), Gov’t and OECTA could not yet agree on as a Provincial item. The next step was to send those items to the Labour Board and they would rule whether each issue should be a Provincial or Local item for negotiations.

You should have received 14 Issues of the PB email for Provincial Bargaining Updates. The last several have focused on what is headed to the Ontario Labour Board to rule on whether it is a Provincial or Local item. In addition, to updating you the emails confirm that you are ready to receive Provincial voting links when it comes time to ratify a Provincial contract or if we can’t get a deal ready a Strike Mandate.

What constitutes a strike action?

There are many steps involved and just because a vote and mandate has been given doesn’t mean we are on strike. We could be like the Public Board right now who apparently have a strike mandate but are still bargaining and working. Following a mandate we could withdraw extra-curricular, have rotating strikes and all the way to a full province wide strike. If you have questions please call or email any of us.

### OECTA WELLINGTON LOCAL CHANGES

- \*monthly Wellington Works
- \*increased Exec and Rep meetings
- \*New Women’s Issues Committee
- \*Presidential presence at Catholicity
- \*Electronic Elections
- \*Christmas Dinner Dance
- \*Allowance Transparency
- \*Rep Meetings Agenda Changes
- \*up to date use of our website
- \*Private Wellington Facebook Group
- \*Rebirth of the Wellness Committee
- \*Executive presence at WCDSB Meetings
- \*Celebration of World Teacher’s Day
- \*Increased Social Events
- \*More member involvement
- \*Union participation in Labour Council

WHAT’S  
NEW  
IN  
YOUR  
LOCAL?

TEACHERS

TEACHING

TEACHERS

ARE

LEARNERS

TOO!

HAPPY

TEACHERS

HAPPY

STUDENTS

GREAT

SCHOOLS



## PD OPPORTUNITIES

Keep your eye out on the OECTA conference for a variety of PD opportunities. Several members last summer were able to take part in the Summer Institutes and presented workshops to other OECTA colleagues across the province. It is a great opportunity to refine your adult learning pres-

entation skills while being compensated through Ministry or OECTA funds.

Recently four more of our members were chosen for CLC Projects. Congratulations to Jan Chapman, Ali Antonini, Mark Armburst and Mary Jo Richardson. These four will receive release

time to participate in a Collaborative Learning Circle.

Finally the PD committee will be examining several new opportunities to develop local workshops with your colleagues from Wellington OECTA starting in February and March.

Stay tuned.....

## EXEC SCHOOL VISITS

David, Peter and Mark have been making their way across the Board to visit all staffs. Mark has made it to every school at least once and several schools many times. David and Peter are also dropping in to hand out material we received or touch base with a spe-

cific Rep or member as needed.

Recently Mark was able to drop in to OLOL and St. James following their staff meetings. It is great to get out to the schools and smell the chalk! Our visits give our members a chance to ask the ques-

tion that they may not ask over email. It also allows us to get to know many of you a bit better. If you want any of us to visit your school tell your Rep to set up a time. Mark is available all day while David and Peter can make it after lunch. See you soon!

## NEW TECH NEW RULES

Every month allegations are sent to the College Of Teachers. Every month teachers are falsely accused. Every month the teachers did not see it coming.

If you are communicating

with parents over email or other forms of technology OECTA cautions you. If you are communicating with students then OECTA would advise you not to.

Face to face meetings

with parents solve problems more easily than a series of emails. As for emailing and texting students it is just too much of a risk to take.

Be Wary Be Wise.

# MEN'S RETREAT AT THE VILLA

For several years in the fall and spring there has been a Men's Retreat at the St. Brigid's Villa out on the St. Ignatius Jesuit Grounds.

Join your friends and colleagues on a time to reflect and relax. Whether you end up inside the warm cozy Villa or outside around the campfire you can find a way to refresh and recharge your batteries.

**FRIDAY  
NOV 28TH**

**ST. BRIGID  
VILLA**

**GATHER 5:30  
DINNER AT 6:00  
RSVP  
JEFF OR MARK**

The Men's Retreat is a great way to connect with your colleagues and discuss how our faith formation is reflected in our daily lives. Join us for a pasta dinner followed by an evening of fellowship!

You are welcome to arrive early, arrive late, leave early or stay late or very late or BYO Sleeping Bag!

**FOOD  
FRIENDS  
FAITH  
AND  
FIRE**

## WELLNESS SPARKLES IN THE PARK

THE OECTA WELLNESS COMMITTEE  
PRESENTS

SPARKLES IN THE PARK  
WELLNESS WALK  
WED DEC 17TH

JOIN US AT RIVERSIDE PARK AT 5:30 ON WEDNESDAY DEC 17TH

BRING YOUR FAMILY

BRING A FRIEND

WE WILL ENJOY AN EVENING OF SPARKLES AS WE STROLL AROUND THE PARK  
THEN BACK TO THE OECTA OFFICE FOR HOT CHOCOLATE AND BEVERAGES  
AND SOME HOT COMFORT FOOD! PLEASE RSVP MARK.

# OECTA YOUNG AUTHORS/PRIX JEUNES ECRIVAINS

## ATTENTION ALL TEACHERS

An OECTA contest for all your students from JK to Grade 12!

You are invited to submit student’s writing to the Young Author’s Contest.

We had a very good response last year and enjoyed sharing your student’s work with the selection committee.

For the first time we invited Board Trustee’s to help select our submissions to Provincial. This gives our Trustees a first hand experience of some of our student’s great work. It also gave Trustees a chance to see some of the excellent work of OECTA beyond contracts.

Information about the conference has been posted on the OECTA and OECTA Reps conferences on first class.

Please note the timelines below:

## SHORT STORIES

Friday February 13th

Student entries received by the School Reps. School selection process begins.

## PLAYS

## POEMS

Monday February 23rd

School entries received at the OECTA Unit Office.

## NON-FICTION

## ESSAYS

Tuesday March 11th

Young Author’s Unit Selection Committee

## REPORTS

Tuesday March 24th

Unit entries due at the Provincial OECTA Office.

## ARTICLES

## FSL

If you are interested in serving on the selection committee please apply to Peter.

### **WELLINGTON OECTA NEW IDEAS**

Ever wonder why a new event was added, a new process or another type of email started appearing in our OECTA Office, Wellington Works, OECTA Wellington website or on first class? Well an idea came from many of you!

Last year a few members asked why we did not have our teacher’s job positions in regular classroom assignment announced through Board emails like they do for most positions. We asked H.R. and they did not want to do this. So we started doing this on our own. That is why the emails titled ‘*hiring updates*’ began.

Recently, Peter gave out a calendar date that merged OECTA dates and Board dates first to the Exec and then to Reps. Sheila commented how useful this was and we received similar comments from Reps. We then expanded that so that all members have an OECTA Weekly Event update.

**DO YOU HAVE AN IDEA?**

**SEND IT IN AND YOU MAY SEE IT PUT INTO ACTION!**

**ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATION COURSES  
IN  
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

OECTA - OCSTA

**WINTER/SPRING 2015  
PARTS 1, 2 & 3 (Specialist)  
GUELPH**

First Session: Tuesday, February 10th  
Final Session: Tuesday, May 19th  
Times: Tuesdays: 6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.  
Saturdays: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Class Dates: February 10, 17, 24  
March 3, \*7, 10, 24, 31  
April 7, \*11, 14, 21, 28  
May 5, \*9, 12, 19  
\* indicates Saturday sessions

**We are able to offer the course one night per week (with three Saturdays) because 20 of the 100 required instructional hours will be done through on-line distance education.**

Location: Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic High School,  
54 Westmount Rd., Guelph

Tuition Fee: Part 1 - \$500  
Part 2 & Specialist - \$600

Online Registration: [www.oecta.on.ca](http://www.oecta.on.ca) (follow the links for Guelph course)  
*online registration opens December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2014.*

For more information  
contact: Yvonne Runstedler  
Phone: (519) 836-2170 x103534  
E-mail: [yrunstedler@wellingtoncdfs.ca](mailto:yrunstedler@wellingtoncdfs.ca)

FAITH IN COMMUNITY PRESENTS

**MERRY ADVENT**

**THURSDAY DEC 4**

**LOYOLA HOUSE CHAPEL  
AND DINING ROOM**

**4:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.**

**JOIN YOUR FRIENDS ACROSS THE BOARD**

**RSVP adaigneau on first class**

