



# WELLINGTON WORKS #5 25

Wellington  
Catholic  
Teachers

JANUARY  
2018

OFFICE PHONE 519-763-3043 PRESIDENT MARK BERARDINE CELL 519-400-5361

IN THIS ISSUE

## HAPPY NEW YEAR

On behalf of the entire OECTA Wellington Executive we hope you had an enjoyable Christmas and receive the Blessings of Christ in the New Year. Hopefully you Remembered the three R's: Rest, Relax and Recuperate! It was obvious so many of us really needed the break as we visited the schools in December. Thanks for all you do for each other on the front lines in education!

2018 arrives in a state of labour peace for Teachers in Ontario.

However, storm clouds can be seen in the not too distant horizon. We have an upcoming Provincial election in June. It should not come as a total surprise that the Liberals have not been the best friends we could have had over the last years. True they gave us bargaining breathing space but it may only be a lull in their attack on our collective bargaining rights. Add to this the continued attack on our Catholic system, which we should expect to heat up, whether from within our own diverse community or from the larger political field. What you do and who you talk to about our system matters. Be a candle of hope.

Remember to use our Provincial OECTA media campaign with #CatholicTeachers and #LessonsForLife. You do great work let everyone know that you are a Catholic Teacher!

Your OECTA Everywhere You Need Us To Be!

PG 2 WHATS ON THIS MONTH?

WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS,

H AND S, ELEMENTARY QUIET WEEK

PG 3 OTIP ADVICE AND CANADIAN WINTER

WEATHER AND INSURANCE CONCERNS

PG 4 WELLNESS WORKSHOP

GUELPH LABOUR AND OECTA

OECTA EUCHRE NIGHT

YOUNG AUTHORS TIMELINES

### WELLINGTON OECTA UNIT EXECUTIVE

PRESIDENT MARK BERARDINE

VP SECONDARY YVONNE RUNSTEDLER

VP ELEMENTARY PETER STOOP

VP OT TIM O'BRIEN

TREASURER LINDA DIPIERI

SECRETARY NICOLE HEARN

COUNCILLORS : LAURENCE VIGNOLA,  
LAURINE SOLIGO, TREVOR KLEIN, MARC  
SGRIGNOLI, AND DINA FISHER

## OECTA EVENTS NOT TO MISS

- Wed Jan 10 Joe Grabowski's Nat Geo Workshop  
After School Special @ the OECTA Office 4 pm
- Fri Jan 19 Euchre Night @ the OECTA Office 7 pm
- Sat Jan 20 Board Wellness Workshop 9:30-11:30 am  
@ the OECTA Office
- Fri Feb 2 Retreat for All @ the Villa 5:00 pm
- Sat Feb 10 Compassion Fatigue, Vicarious Trauma  
and Burn Out 9-11:30 am at the OECTA Office

## WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH

- Wed Jan 10 Joe Grabowski and National  
Geographic After School Special 4 pm
- Thurs Jan 11 After School Special Workshop 4 pm
- Thurs Jan 11 Guelph District Labour 7 pm
- Fri Jan 12 Joint Staffing Committee Noon
- Mon Jan 15 OECTA Exec Meeting 4 pm
- Fri Jan 19 Euchre Night OECTA Office 7 pm
- Sat Jan 20 Wellness Workshop 9:30 am
- Mon Jan 22 OECTA Reps Meeting 4:30
- Thurs Jan 25 Secondary Exams Begin
- Thurs Jan 25 After School Special Workshop 4 pm
- Fri Jan 26 Elem PD Day
- Fri Jan 26 GTA Pres Meeting
- Sat Jan 27 Math A Q Course @ the OECTA Office
- Mon Jan 29 Elem Quiet Week
- Wed Jan 31 Winter Council of Presidents
- Feb 1 Feb 2 Winter Council of Presidents
- Feb 1 Feb 2 Secondary PD Days

## ELEMENTARY QUIET WEEK

Please check your schedules to ensure you are not scheduled for meetings during your quiet week of Friday Jan 26 to Friday Feb 2.

There should not be any meetings scheduled that week. Our extra-curricular calendar should also be cleared of activities so you can use your time to complete your report cards. Most administrators are quick to cancel meetings when they are reminded it is quiet week. Usually it is just an oversight on everyone's part when we schedule meetings a few weeks if not months in advance. A quick email to your administrator usually corrects the situation promptly.

Please note that the OECTA Rep meeting will be held a week earlier than normal to avoid quiet week and exams.

The Elementary PD day is planning time for teachers to use according to their needs. Elementary report cards and planning preparation is your time and a very hard fought collective agreement benefit.

It is against the contract for any administrators to ask you to attend any meetings during the Elementary PD Day. This includes any brief meetings or division meetings etc. If you require assistance in protecting your planning and preparation time please contact your school rep or the OECTA Office immediately.

### **HEALTH AND SAFETY**

Winter arrived with a blast this week. Remember to report any concerns to your Reps. Beware of ice in the parking lots and when you are on yard duty. Take care when entering the entrances and watch for wet floors in the school.

### **VIOLENCE IN THE SCHOOLS**

At the risk of repetition: It is extremely important for everyone to report and fill out all Safe School Reports.

In addition, all Employee Accident/Incident Reports, you are encouraged to check the box to send a copy to your union office so we can ensure it is properly reported.

# Canadian winters can be beautiful, but treacherous too.

Winter can be beautiful. It's hard not to see the beauty in a field covered with a blanket of fresh snow, especially when the ice glistens in the morning sun. Lately, however, Canadians have been faced with more frequent extreme weather conditions.

Ice storms have been blamed for some of the worst natural disasters in Canadian history. They can lead to massive damage to trees and electrical infrastructure, leading to widespread long-term power outages.

Other dangers include hypothermia, fires and carbon monoxide poisoning, which can occur when people use alternative heating sources during periods of extended power failures.

It's important to know how you can take preventive measures and reduce the risks for you and your family.

## What to do before an ice storm

- You may be stuck at home for several days - make sure you have enough non-perishable food and any supplies you may need including water, a cooler with ice and prescriptions.
- If you lose power, it is a good idea to have flashlights, batteries and candles on hand. Remember to keep the doors to the refrigerator and freezer closed to help keep the food cold.
- Charge any necessary electronics, such as your cell phone. If possible, have a secondary source of heat.
- You should also have a first-aid kit, some cash and have your vehicle filled with gas.

## What to do during or after an ice storm

- If you must go outside after an ice storm, pay attention to branches or wires that could break. Remember that branches and power lines can break up to several hours after an ice storm.
- Never touch power lines. A hanging power line could be charged (live) and you could get electrocuted.
- Avoid driving. Wait several hours after freezing rain ends, so that road maintenance crews have enough time to spread sand or salt on icy roads.
- Check on elderly or vulnerable neighbours.

## If there is a power outage

- Stuff towels and rags underneath doors to keep the heat in.
- Unplug electronics and appliances to avoid a power surge and turn on appliances one at a time once the power is restored.
- Turn off all lights, except one, so that you can tell when the power comes back on.
- Do not operate generators, BBQs, propane and natural gas appliances inside the home or garage as they can cause carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Make sure your home has a working carbon monoxide detector with a battery backup.
- Keep your freezer or fridge doors closed, unless absolutely necessary. A full freezer will keep food frozen for 24 to 36 hours if doors stay closed.
- Use a flashlight rather than a candle for light.

Most home insurance policies cover damages to homes caused by snow, rain or wind, including damage caused by flying debris or falling branches or trees. A collapse of a structure, such as your roof, due to the weight of ice or snow is also often covered under a standard home insurance policy.

**Contact an OTIP insurance broker at 1-800-267-6847 to ensure you are getting the coverage you need.**

**OECTA WELLNESS COMMITTEE**

**PRESENTS**

**COMPASSION FATIGUE**

**VICARIOUS TRAUMA AND BURNOUT**

**PRESENTED BY : JAMIE TYRELL**

Certified Compassion Fatigue, Vicarious Trauma, and  
Burnout facilitator

**SATURDAY FEB 10 9:00 TO 11:30**

**AT THE OECTA OFFICE**

**MORNING COFFEE AND SNACKS AT 8:30**

**ALL ARE WELCOME RSVP MARK**

**THIRD ANNUAL**

**EUCHRE NIGHT**

**@ THE OECTA OFFICE**

**FRIDAY JAN 19**

**7 PM START**

**ALL ARE WELCOME AND INVITED**

**SNACKS WILL BE PROVIDED**

**REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE**

**PLEASE**

**RSVP MARK**

**OECTA YOUNG AUTHORS CONTEST**

**EVERY YEAR WE PARTICIPATE IN THE OECTA  
PROVINCIAL YOUNG AUTHORS CONTEST.**

**INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE THROUGH  
YOUR REP AND HAS BEEN POSTED BY  
YVONNE ON THE OECTA GROUP ON OFFICE  
365 EMAIL.**

**DUE DATE TO YOUR OECTA REP IS**

**MONDAY FEBRUARY 12.**

**SCHOOL WINNERS ARE DUE TO THE OECTA  
OFFICE BY TUESDAY FEBRUARY 20**

**PLEASE LOOK OVER YOUR STUDENT'S WORK  
FROM ANYTIME THIS TERM/SEMESTER FOR  
SUITABLE PROSPECTIVE WINNERS.**

**FORMS ARE ON THE OFFICE 365 GROUP**



Thanks to our OECTA members from the Religion Course for joining Guelph Labour at the Drop In Centre to serve Christmas Dinner!