

**INSIDE THIS  
ISSUE:**

OECTA PD WIN- 2  
TER WORK-  
SHOPS

YOUNG 2  
AUTHOR'S  
CONTEST

OECTA 2  
CALENDAR

PROV AGM 3

CONTRACT 101

PROVINCIAL 4  
BARGAINING  
UPDATE

PD AND 5  
OECTA  
WORKSHOPS

THEO ON TAP 6

## REPORTS/EXAMS DONE....GREAT JOB!

As you enter February we can collectively breathe a sigh of relief as your marking and/or exams are completed and your reports are handed in. The stress related to unrealistic timelines and computer/connection issues is very real for many of our colleagues. The pressure many of us feel to get the job done while at the same time trying to prepare for next semester or somehow still try to teach a normal school day is challenging.

Then you meet the magical deadline and suddenly a gulf of more work opens up as everything gets back to 'normal' and meetings, teaching, new assignments, tests and of course our extra-curricular activities return all in a rush. It's easy to get overwhelmed and burn out. Take a moment to have a free lunch with a friend this week. Think of attending some event or activity as the Wellness Walk. Appreciate your friends and family who had to walk on pins and needles while you were in front of your computer.

Then there is the real world of contract negotiations, the uncertainty of a strike, the view down the road of another Election, this time Federal, and it is easy to get apathetic

about these important issues and concerns. For more on our Contract and Negotiations and the need to have a personal email see inside page 4 for updates. As some of you know we are gathering a team of local volunteers to help lead us in preparing for any job actions and provincial votes. We are also asking for at least 2 teachers at every site to be co-captains for a school job action team. If your school hasn't already sent in the names please let us know asap. Finally, our old anti-union friend Harper will be headed to the polls sometime this year. We will engage the Political Action Committee again to provide our members with the chance to get more informed.

It certainly can feel like we don't get a break! We do however make a difference. You ARE doing a great job. We are here to help. If you have questions we can help provide answers. Just give us a call or email and you can ask for clarification.

Call OECTA.....Call Early.....Call Often.  
We are here to serve.

WELLINGTON OECTA WEBSITE  
5420 HIGHWAY # 6  
[www.oectawellington.ca](http://www.oectawellington.ca)  
R.R.# 5 GUELPH, ON. NIH 6J2  
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ONTARIO ENGLISH

# Catholic Teachers

ASSOCIATION

Release Officer Cell Phones:  
Mark 519-400-5361

David 519-400-5362

Peter 519-400-5363

**WELLINGTON  
OECTA**

**UPCOMING DATES**

Mon Feb 2nd  
WCDSB Meeting  
Mark

Wed Feb 4th to Fri Feb 6th  
COP Winter  
Mark, David and Peter

Mon Feb 9th  
Executive Meeting  
OECTA Office 4:15

Tues Feb 10th  
GWCSJ 7 pm

Wed Feb 11th  
Joint Staffing Board Office pm  
Mark, David, Peter, Tim

Thurs Feb 12th  
GDLC 7 pm

Mon Feb 16th  
Family Day Holiday

Wed Feb 18th  
Ash Wednesday  
Wellness Snowshoe Walk

Mon Feb 23rd  
Reps Council/Exec Meeting  
OECTA Office 4:30  
Young Authors due to Unit

Tues Feb 24th  
Theology on Tap  
Albion 7:00-9:00

Wed Feb 26th  
OECTA PD  
Winter Workshops  
Abby, Bryan and Jeff

# OECTA PD WINTER WORKSHOPS

Thursday Feb 26th  
Classroom Blogging  
By Abby O'Neill  
(Elementary Teachers)

Monday March 2nd  
Educational Apps  
+Website Design +Skype  
By Joseph Grabowski  
(Junior Intermediate Teachers)

Tuesday March 3rd  
Intro to Using Technology  
In the Classroom  
By Judy Mullen  
Stephanie Palmer  
Paul Tersigni  
(Primary to Intermediate)

Integrating D2L/Google Apps  
Into Your Classroom  
By  
Bryan McMillan  
Jeff Cummings  
(Intermediate Senior Teachers)

These five workshops are Local  
OECTA PD opportunities and  
will allow over 80 teachers to  
benefit from our PD funds this  
year. It also provides a new  
venue for our members to cre-  
ate PD for other colleagues.  
Please see first class for full  
details and rsvp Peter Stoop.

Math Games Make and Take  
By Cathy Chaput  
(Primary Junior)  
  
All locations TBA

## OECTA : YOUNG AUTHOR'S CONTEST

Attention all teachers.

Feb 17 to Feb 29  
School Selection Process

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

Monday February 23  
School entries received at the  
OECTA Unit Office.

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

Wednesday March 11  
Unit Young Authors winners selected  
by OECTA Committee and our  
guests from Senior Admin and Trus-  
tees. Noon at the OECTA Office.

Information about the con-  
test has been posted on the  
OECTA and OECTA Reps  
conferences on first class.

Tuesday March 24  
Unit entries received at the Provin-  
cial Office.

Please note the timelines  
below:

Friday February 13  
Student entries received by  
the School Reps.

This is an excellent opportunity to  
showcase your students work and  
encourage them to develop their  
writing skills.

# OECTA AGM MARCH 13 TO MARCH 16 TORONTO

## ANNUAL OECTA AGM

On Monday 2nd our AGM delegation will meet with any members who wish to have input into our Unit’s disposition for the AGM resolutions and the AGM Provincial Executive elections.

The meeting will begin at 4:15 and will go to 5:30. After that time the delegates will retire to go over the

timetable and travel plans for the AGM.

The AGM decides on our direction, our fee and our leadership. If you have any ideas or questions please email your concerns to the delegation. We are there to represent you.

Everyone is invited to participate in our discussion from 4:15 -5:30 at the OECTA Office on March 2nd.

## WELLINGTON DELEGATION

- Mark Berardine
- David Derewianko
- Peter Stoop
- Tim O’Brien
- Sheila Hynes
- Laurence Vignola
- Traci Coulas-Gaca
- Cathy Whyte
- David Del Duca
- Mike Breadner
- Alternates:

Becka Dupuis and Bernard MacDonell

## Contract 101 : Bereavement

Bereavement Leave information can be found under Article 7.03 in the Permanent contract language and Article 7.02 in the OT contract language. We will describe the days a teacher shall be granted without loss of pay or sick leave. This language is very important. Shall means must upon request. Without loss of pay or sick leave days means we will not have these days deducted from our yearly 11.

A teacher shall be granted a maximum of (5) working days at the time of death for the death of an immediate member of his/her family for the purpose of arranging for and attending the funeral. Immediate family shall mean; spouse, parent, parent-in-law, brother, sister, or child. With prior approval of the Director of Education or designate a teacher may be allowed the use of up to (2) of these days to be taken after the time of death to deal with estate administration issues.

A teacher shall be granted a maximum of (2) working days to attend the funeral of a son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, grandparent or grandchild. A teacher shall be granted a maximum of (1) working day to attend the funeral of a relative not listed above.

At the discretion of the Director or designate, a teacher may be granted up to two (2) additional days without pay, to meet the exigencies of distance, special circumstance or for persons not listed above.

If you have any questions please feel free to speak to your Rep or the Unit Office for clarification.

### CLC FEDERAL ELECTION CONFERENCE NOTES

What is important to Canadian Workers? \*Health Care \*Pensions \*Good Jobs \*Affordable Day Care

If you don’t think these issues affect you think again. Health Care cuts affect all of us. As private health care undermines the public health care system more services are outsourced. Pensions are a must for all or we will soon find ourselves the target of cuts. Good Jobs are critical for our youth and our graduates. Increased part time work and workers being forced to put off retirement are impacting our 18 to 30 year olds. Affordable Day Care has to be everyone’s issue not just an issue for Women.

# Provincial Bargaining **UPDATE**

**PROVINCIAL  
OECTA  
TEST VOTE**

**DID YOU  
RECEIVE  
YOUR EMAIL TO  
VOTE ONLINE?**



**107 WELLINGTON  
PERM MEMBERS  
VOTED**

**THAT IS ONLY  
25%**

**WE WANT  
OUR UNIT VOTE  
TO COUNT!**

## The State of Provincial Bargaining

One of the problems with informing the membership about the latest in collective bargaining is it could change by the time of the writing and publication even if it is only a few hours between editing and going to press. But we try our best to give you the most up to date information. As promised we (your Local Unit Presidents and Vice Presidents) will keep you as up to date as we legally can and when we can't we will let you know more is coming.

As of right now the Ontario Labour Relations Board (OLRB) and the Provincial OECTA Bargaining Team finished their talks on Jan 19th as to what is to be the Provincial and Local bargaining issues. Decisions have been made on all but two items, one dealing with seniority and the second dealing with surplus due to declining enrolment. The Provincial Team is waiting to hear the

final decision of the OLRB.

They have agreed to meet on the following dates:

Feb 10 and 11

Feb 27 and 28

March 9, 10 and 11

At the next meeting OECTA expects to give our first proposal to the Crown and Trustee (Board) Teams. OECTA also expects the first proposal from the Boards to be exchanged as well.

However, this proposal will also depend on when the OLRB decides to give their decision on the outstanding issues. This could delay any proposals from the Boards. Unfortunately there has been no reason to predict any change will be made in the 'No New Money' and we need to have 'Permanent Education Cuts'.

## Provincial OECTA and your Email.

For several years we have been trying to update our members personal emails. Now due to changes forced upon us by the Gov't and mandates passed at AGM it is very important to have a personal email on record with Provincial.

Your personal email will be how you stay up to date on Provincial Bargaining. Even more important the email will be your link to having your say on any ratifications that we are presented with for our contract or in the case of a Strike

Vote it will be done through your email account. If you are not getting the Provincial Eblasts on your email or couldn't vote on the test vote you are not connected. Please inform the office immediately so you can exercise your vote!

**MEMBERSHIP HAS ITS BENEFITS**

ONTARIO ENGLISH Catholic Teachers ASSOCIATION

United we save. Members save up to 50% on home insurance when you purchase both your home and car insurance with OTIP.



Click to learn more or get a quote



As our OTIP campaigns continue you may expect a letter from David, Tim and Mark outlining the relationship that we have entered with OTIP. The above banner and link will be available shortly on our website.

Please consider taking a look at OTIP insurance for your car and home insurance needs. OTIP in addition offers insurance benefits for our retirees, a workshop will be held on Tuesday March 31st.

**OTBU NEWS**  
 Tim will be receiving the data for smartfind shortly. The Board has not had it ready for us on time. Though we seem to believe work is being handed out more fairly than last year there are still several factors, such as priorities lists, which allow some members to get a lot more work than others. We are also very concerned with the increase of refusals that are causing members to receive letters on file. If you receive a letter call the OECTA Office.



**HEALTH AND SAFETY**

**WELLINGTON OECTA JOINT PD FUNDS**

The OECTA PD committee has been very active for the first half of the year. After several meetings and follow up with the Board we are confident our PD fund will be used properly. There are two parts. The first part is what OECTA is able to use on our own and we have used a substantial portion on the Winter Workshops. The

second part is what the Board and OECTA administer jointly. This year we focused three quarters of the funds on individual conferences such as Reading, OPHEA, OSCA etc. In addition, the other quarter will be used for a Winter Workshop. For more information please see page 2 of this issue.

Six teachers have attended the

OECTA Beginning Teachers Con, 17 members were able to attend WFMP thru OECTA, 6 are registered for Reading For the Love of it, and 3 attended other conferences such as OPHEA, OSCA and STAO. We still have 5 spots left for our Spring PD Conferences. See the PD registration forms on first class OECTA and email Peter.

*Did you know an incident with a student that could be an act for suspension and injury to you needs to be filled out with two forms:*  
 \*the Safe Schools Act Form and  
 \*the Board Incident

*Report Form  
 If you need to seek out medical care then the Board must fill out the WSIB Form 7 after the fact  
 That's three forms for one incident!*

**OECTA WORKSHOPS PAST AND FUTURE**

What is the local office doing for you?

- \*25 members inserviced on the role of the OECTA Rep
- \*30+ members attended an all day OECTA workshop for Retirement Planning
- \*13+ members attended the OECTA special Mat Leave After

- School Special. (Congrats!) We thank Joe Pece for running each of the above workshops!
- \*60+ were in the OECTA Office for the OT PD Day workshop presented by Malisa Mezenberg
- \*8 members were able to make the after school Building Inclu-

- sive Communities by Kevin Welbes-Godin
- Coming Soon
- March 12 OTIP : Feeling Better Now
- March 31 OTIP : RTIP Retirement
- April 7 OECTA : H and S

# THEOLOGY ON TAP : FEBRUARY 24

**CALL YOUR FRIENDS  
IT IS TIME TO MEET AT THE  
ALBION**

**TUESDAY FEBRUARY 24**

**JOAN GRUNDY**

**“THE SPIRITUAL LIFE IN A FAST-PACED WORLD”**

**(TOO BUSY TO ATTEND?  
THIS TALK IS FOR YOU!)**

**7:00 - 9:00**

**HOUSE OF GOOD CHEER  
CELTIC BAND**

**Finger foods /snacks compliments of Bishop Crosby and the  
Diocese of Hamilton**

**Co-Sponsored by the WCDSB**

## **WELLNESS MONTHLY WALK**

Volunteers Wanted!

The Monthly Wednesday of the Month Walk will take place on Wednesday February 21st at the OECTA Office on the grounds of the Jesuit St. Ignatius Lands.

Meet and Greet 4:00  
Walk 4:15

Hot Snacks and Refreshments 5:00  
RSVP Suzan Reid or Mark Berardine

## **CATHOLIC EDUCATION**

Sometimes it seems our Catholic Education system is under attack from all sides. Our Catholic right has outspoken critics about our system. These attacks hit at our core as they criticize many of our teachers for not being ‘Catholic’ enough. The Public though also hits at our system for being too Catholic and not open enough. Others in the media want to take our system away as they do not want to see any public tax dollars going into Religious School (Catholic) systems. How can you help?

We need to look closer to home. Depressed that your students don’t know the Mass? Take a moment to go over the Mass. Sit in the last row of your class so you can see all of them. If you need material for the parts of the Mass give us an email.