

### **OECTA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - March 9-12**

Plans are underway for the provincial Annual General Meeting to be held March 9 -12 in Windsor. We will be finalizing our 10 voting delegates this week and forwarding our list to Provincial by the end of the month. Anyone who may wish to be part of our delegation should forward his/her name immediately to Unit Office.

### **AGM RAFFLE**

AGM raffle tickets will be available to those schools that wish to have them. Due back by next Reps meeting (Feb 13). Proceeds from the raffle will be going to The Hospice of Windsor and Essex County Inc. to use for their children's programs.

### **COLLECTIVE BARGAINING**

The preparations for collective bargaining are into high gear. Workgroups are meeting in the first phase of our consultative process. An outline of the CB Workgroup Timelines and Tasks is attached for your information.

Provincial CB staff will be in Wellington to meet with the Occasional teachers on January 16 (today) and with other CB workgroups on February 15.

All collective bargaining information will be communicated through a regular CB bulletin and through email (please see below).

### **EMAIL ADDRESSES**

We will be outlining a plan to collect all members' personal email addresses to enable us to communicate effectively and discreetly off of the Board's First Class system

Over the next few weeks we will be endeavoring to collect personal email addresses from all of our members. We have been encouraged by Provincial to use personal email for union communications particularly those related to collective bargaining. Some of the items to be discussed with members should not be placed on the Board First Class system. We are asking reps to assist us in facilitating this process. We assure members that emails will be used only for local unit business and will not be shared with any third parties.

### **MEMBER TO MEMBER ISSUES**

Reps are asked to remind all OECTA members of appropriate protocols in dealing with "conflicts" with other members. Both the Board's complaint procedure and OECTA (and other unions) protocols in this regard are essentially the same. Before going to an administrator to "complain" about a colleague, the expectation is that one attempts to address any issue directly with the other person first. A principal, or other person including OECTA reps or executive, receiving such a complaint should direct the person to this very important first step. OECTA, generally does not become involved in "mediating" conflict between two members, at least at the early stages. The working relationship between and among staff members is first and foremost an administrative responsibility and every effort should be made to resolve these types of situations at the site level. In the event that things escalate, the usual practice would be for a Unit Officer to become involved rather than the site rep.

### **YOUNG AUTHORS**

Please encourage all members to consider becoming involved in this worthwhile project. Over the years, Wellington has been very successful at the provincial level. School entries are due to the Unit office the week before March Break.

### **MATERNITY WORKSHOP**

There will be a maternity workshop at the unit office Tuesday January 17<sup>th</sup>.

## **INCLEMENT WEATHER PROCEDURE**

We have been fairly lucky so far. Members are reminded of their responsibilities in this regard. Reps are requested to forward any concerns to the unit office.

## **REPORT CARD “Quiet Periods”**

**Secondary** – There is a long standing practice of the week before exams being considered “dead week” where meetings, after school activities and inter-school sports are restricted. The public Board has a similar practice so there should be few if any inter-school activities occurring at this time. Staff meetings, departmental meetings and other after school events should also not be occurring during this time and into the exam week.

**Elementary** – The board and OECTA have had an informal agreement for a number of years to make a “best effort” to limit activities during the week between the PD (reporting) Day and the date reports are due to the office. While not an absolute ban, the scheduling of meetings (e.g. staff and divisional meetings), after school workshops, intramurals and school sports should be minimized during this week. Regular activities during the instructional day continue.

All teachers should be focused on the assessment/evaluation of student progress at this time.

## **PD FUNDS**

The process and forms for applying for funds from the joint PD fund are on our unit website and also available in the reps conference. By way of clarification, teachers are entitled to apply for one major conference and one minor conference in a three year period. A major conference would be defined as a conference where all costs are between approximately \$500 and \$1000 and a minor would be under \$500. Generally, we would not approve a major and a minor in the same budget year. Additional requests for conferences or workshops under \$100 will be considered separate from the above on their own merits and subject to available funds. Also, the number of people approved for the same conference, or the number from one site may be limited by budget allocation.

## **BEGINNING TEACHERS CONFERENCE**

We presently have six delegates (3 provincially sponsored/ 3 locally sponsored) attending the Beginning Teachers Conference, February 23-25 in Mississauga. If we are granted additional spots by Provincial OECTA, we have budgeted for three additional delegates.

## **SCHOOL CALENDAR 2012-13**

We will soon have some preliminary discussions with Board admin on this item. The school year must be 194 days between September 1 and June 30. In 2012-13, there is exactly 194 days in this timeframe. It is unlikely there will be any significant deviation from the standard calendar for the year. However, one of the items that will be looked at again is when the Christmas Break occurs. Another important consideration may be the scheduling of PD days, particularly at elementary with (yet another) new reporting system.

## **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

### **PROVINCIAL**

Council of Presidents – Feb 2-4 – Jim and Heather

Pre council Session for Presidents – Feb. 1 - Jim

Provincial AGM March 9-12

### **LOCAL**

Collective bargaining workgroups – January 10 – 20

TUESDAY January 17

Joint Staffing

MONDAY February 6

Executive Meeting

MONDAY February 13

Reps Council and Executive

WEDNESDAY February 15

Collective Bargaining Workgroups – all day

MONDAY February 27

Executive Meeting

TUESDAY February 28

Applause Breakfast