

# Wellington Works



Newsletter of the Elementary, Secondary and Occasional Teachers of Wellington Catholic

November December 2011

## Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



### We wish everyone who works in Wellington Catholic a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year.

The Unit office will close December 23rd and will not reopen until January 9th. We will check email and voice messages on a semi-regular basis over the Christmas Break.

Please remember our colleagues who are ill during this season and keep them in your prayers.

Take some well deserved time to be with family and friends and to celebrate this Holy Season.

### Collective Bargaining Update

The preparations for the next round of bargaining is well underway and the process will kick into high gear in January.

#### 1. CB Updates

Starting in January, all updates with regards to collective bargaining will be distributed in a separate publication, using a combination of hard copy and electronic formats. Hard copies will use golden rod colour paper to distinguish it from other OECTA publications. Greater detail on some of the items included here will be published in these regular updates.

#### 2. CB regional Workshops Attended; Meetings held

Many members from the unit attended provincial regional workshops held in November as part of the preparation for the next round of collective bargaining. Provincial staff have visited the unit and met with unit officers. Other provincial meetings, related to collective bargaining, have also been attended by unit officers.

#### 3. Collective Bargaining Committee Selected

The Unit's Bargaining Committee has been established, representing a balance of experience; elementary, secondary and occasional teachers; and executive and non executive members..

#### 4. CB Workgroups Established

As part of the process to encourage a broader participation in the development of the Unit proposal for bargaining, the unit has established 7 workgroups which will be meeting starting in January. Each workgroup will focus on one area with a view to providing advice for further member input (e.g. survey), priority for local bargaining and possible proposed contract changes or new language. The 7 workgroups are: Secondary Workload, Elementary Workload, Occasional Teachers, Special Education, Health and Safety, FSL/Planning Time Teachers (Elementary.), and System.

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ONTARIO ENGLISH  
**Catholic Teachers**  
ASSOCIATION

## Beginning Teachers Conference 2011



**OECTA'S Annual Conference for Beginning Teachers** will be held **February 23 - 25, 2012** at the Toronto Hilton Airport Hotel. The conference is open to all OECTA members in their first five years of teaching. This annual event provides information, professional development and training that members need in their first years of teaching in order to succeed and flourish.

As in the past, our unit will have provincially funded representatives and will provide local funding for additional members to attend. Preference will be given to teachers in

their fifth year, teachers who would be attending the Conference for the first time and/or those members who have not attended another conference this year.

## Reading for the Love of It Conference 2012

This annual conference continues to be one of the most popular among our members, particularly elementary members. Again this year, requests to attend this conference far exceeded the available funds. With the help of some additional funds from Program Department, we will be able to send close to 20 delegates to the 2012 Reading for the Love of It Conference to be held February.



We hope all of our delegates enjoy their "Reading for the Love of It" experience!

## OECTA'S leadership TRAINING PROGRAM 2011-2012

Foundational Leadership Training Program  
Application deadline: January 13, 2012

OECTA *e-agenda* for Mon, Dec.19, 2011.

Online applications are now being taken for OECTA's 2011-12 Leadership Training Program at [www.oecta.on.ca](http://www.oecta.on.ca). The deadline to apply is January 13, 2012.

The program reflects OECTA's commitment to training strong teacher activists to develop a broad sense of advocacy, as well as specific knowledge and skills to provide service and leadership at the local and provincial level.

Participants will gain knowledge and skills in collective bargaining, communication, contract

administration, leadership, legislative framework, OECTA governance, and professional relations. A Certificate of Foundational Training will be awarded following completion of six required three-hour modules and two optional three-hour modules. Four training days will be held March 29 – 30, 2012 and May 24-25, 2012, at the Hilton Suites, Markham.

OECTA will cover release time, travel, accommodation, and program costs for participants selected to attend the four days of training.

To be considered as a candidate for the Leadership Training Program, participants must commit to serving members of their local unit in some capacity. Selection of applicants will be a joint process by the local unit executive and Provincial Office.

Information about the program and access to the online application process can be found at [www.oecta.on.ca](http://www.oecta.on.ca)

*Visit our local website at [www.oectawellington.ca](http://www.oectawellington.ca)*

## Government Proposing Tougher Anti-Bullying Legislation

The McGuinty government has introduced new legislation, the *Accepting Schools Act*, which, if passed, is intended to help make Ontario schools safer and more accepting places to learn including:

Tougher consequences for bullying and hate-motivated actions -- up to, and including, expulsion

Requiring all schools to support any students who want to lead activities that promote understanding, acceptance and respect for all.

Requiring school boards to develop policies and guidelines that include greater supports for students.



## Registration Open for OECTA AQ Courses

### Register now for online AQ courses - spring session 2012

Looking to upgrade your qualifications and salary, add another area or subject to your portfolio and learn something new? OECTA AQ courses are just what your looking for!

Online registration for OECTA's spring 2012 Additional Qualification (AQ) courses is now open.

Go to provincial website for more information. [www.oecta.on.ca](http://www.oecta.on.ca)

Except for FSL Part 1 and Religious Education, courses are fully online and will be listed under course titles as an online course only. Please note that AQ courses in Religious Education have varying start dates.

**Registration closes  
February 13, 2012**



## OECTA Response to New Anti-Bullying Law — excerpted from a press release Dec.1, 2011

The Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association (OECTA) supports the Government's new Accepting Schools Act and Comprehensive Action Plan and recognizes its implementation as critical to students' well being in Ontario schools.

"It is not enough to tell our students it will get better when they leave school," says OECTA President Kevin O'Dwyer. "The hallways, cafeterias and classrooms in all our schools must be safe and welcoming places for children today."

Since well before OECTA was incorporated in 1944, social justice, compassion and respect for all have defined Catholic education in Ontario.

"Our members are committed to creating emotionally and physically safe spaces for all students who arrive in our classrooms," adds O'Dwyer. "Championing human rights, social justice, equity and inclusion in our schools and communities speaks to who we are as Catholics and educators." ....

## Advice on the Use of Email and Other Electronic Communication

As per the recent Advisory from the Ontario College of Teachers, teachers need to exercise caution in the use of social networking (e.g. Facebook), email contact with parents and students and the use of homework boards etc.

OECTA's pamphlet on "Appropriate and Professional Use of Electronic Communications" is available on the provincial and local websites, and re-inforces the message of caution

In particular, OECTA strongly advises limiting email contact with parents and to avoid using email to communicate with students.

As well, locally, 2011 the Board recently approved a revised policy on the Appropriate Use of Information Technologies. It is extremely important for members to be aware that the network is monitored by software which can detect and "flag" unusual activity e.g. inappropriate websites, use of bit torrents, excessive use of bandwidth. Again, extreme caution is advised when using the Board's hardware and resources.

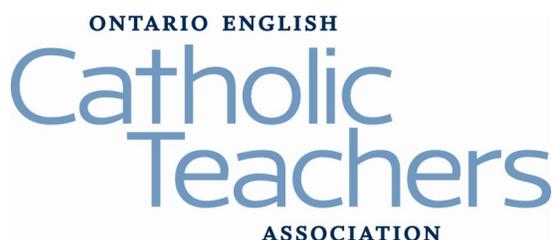
Bottom line: **BE WARY, BE WISE!**

## Edvantage Program provides a range of

Edvantage is a savings and discounts program exclusively for members of the educational community. And it's free for you and your family!

Save on cellular phones, movie and attraction tickets, car rentals, furniture and appliances, electronics, home and auto insurance, clothing, computers...and more.

**What is my Edvantage card?** It's your federation /association card



*Visit our local website at  
[www.oectawellington.ca](http://www.oectawellington.ca)*

Improvements to our local site are in the works;  
Watch for further info in the new year

### **Wellington Works**

is prepared

by

Wellington OECTA

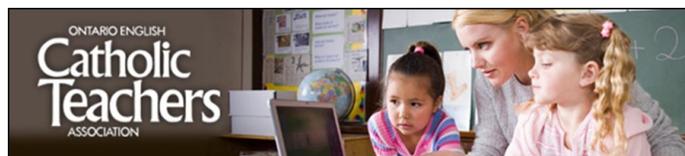
President Jim Whitechurch

Elementary VP Heather Frimeth

Secondary VP George Giovinazzo

Occasional VP Nancy Baker

to provide important  
information to members



### **Sign up for OECTA Members Centre**

All OECTA members are encouraged to sign up for the Members' Centre on the provincial OECTA Website.

Members' Centre offers valuable teacher resources for OECTA members only:

- Enjoy great rewards and discounts with Edvantage
- Sign up to receive OECTA's e-agenda news
- Boost your career through OECTA professional development and AQ courses
- Review your personal profile and update your OECTA member file
- Obtain your, and other unit collective agreements
- Get involved in OECTA leadership opportunities & development training
- Access OECTA's member counselling, contract & rights services and programs
- Tap into OECTA teacher resources, curriculum tools and information
- Access tools for beginning and occasional teachers
- Participate in government relations, education issues and advocacy

### **To create an account on OECTA's website:**

1. Go to [www.oecta.on.ca](http://www.oecta.on.ca)
2. Click on Create an Account located at the top right hand corner of the Homepage
3. Fill in all fields, including your OECTA ID number, found on your OECTA membership card

If you have problems creating an account, contact OECTA at [membership@oecta.on.ca](mailto:membership@oecta.on.ca)