

WELLINGTON WORKS

January/ February 2010

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

Volume 17, Issue 3

Agenda

WEDNESDAY February 3 to FRIDAY February 5	
Council of Presidents	Toronto
MONDAY Feb 8	
Executive Meeting	4:15 p.m.
TUESDAY February 16	
Joint Staffing Committee	1:00 p.m.
WEDNESDAY February 17	
Officers/ HR Dept	1:00 p.m.
THURSDAY February 18	
Unit PD Committee	4:00 p.m.
FRIDAY February 19	
Program Dept Meeting followed by Joint PD Committee	11:00 a.m.
THURSDAY February 18 to SATURDAY February 20	
Beginning Teachers Conference	
TUESDAY February 23	
Applause Breakfast	7:30 a.m.
MONDAY March 1	
Joint Staffing Committee	1:00 p.m.
WEDNESDAY March 3	
Unit Budget Committee	1:00 p.m.
THURSDAY March 4	
FACE Leadership Committee Teleconference	9:00 p.m.
MONDAY March 8	
Unit Executive	4:00 p.m.
AGM Delegate Meeting	4:30 p.m.
THURSDAY March 11	
Officers and PVP Council	1:00 p.m.
FRI. March 12 to MON. March 15	
PROVINCIAL AGM TORONTO	
March 12- 21 MARCH BREAK ENJOY!!!	
MONDAY March 29	
Reps Council	4:15 p.m.

Wellington Works
is prepared
by

Wellington OECTA
President Jim Whitechurch
Elementary VP Judy Mullen
Secondary VP George Giovinazzo
Occasional VP Nancy Baker
to provide important information
to OECTA members in
Wellington Catholic DSB

Wellington Delegation prepares for AGM 2010

For what promises to be an exciting AGM, Wellington will be well-represented by 10 voting delegates and two alternates.

VOTING: Jim Whitechurch (Head of Delegation); George Giovinazzo; Laurence Vignola; John Maschio; Nancy Baker, Michelle Genore; Elizabeth Green; Marty Bell; Sheila Hynes, Jacque Stockford

ALTERNATES: Bob Mann; Roy Coughlin

We thank all of these individuals for giving up part of their March Break to represent our members at the Annual General Meeting.

Joint PD Fund Making a Comeback

Wellington OECTA is pleased to announce that a **Joint PD FUND**, similar to one that existed many years ago, will soon be re-established. There are still a few administrative wrinkles to work through but it is hoped that this fund will be operational beginning in March. Those who have been with Wellington CDSB for a while will remember a fund which allowed teachers to attend a wide range of conferences and workshops. A cost-sharing arrangement between the Board and OECTA, this fund disappeared in March of 2004 as the result of budgetary restraints.

New money for professional development was provided by the government as a result of the Provincial Dialogue Table (PDT) agreements, the framework for the last round of collective bargaining. The Board and OECTA have agreed to allocate this funding for PD for teachers that has a connection to their ALPs, curriculum needs and school improvement goals. As in the past, OECTA will also be contributing a portion of the funding and administering the fund. Decisions on allocation of funds will be based on criteria developed by the Joint PD Committee, subject to agreement by both OECTA and the Board. Application will be through the OECTA office, using the standard form that will be available on the Unit website.

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ONTARIO ENGLISH
5 **Catholic Teachers**
ASSOCIATION
6



OECTA Professional Development

RETIREMENT WORKSHOP

Wellington OECTA is sponsoring a pension and retirement planning workshop on Thursday March 25th in Wellington. The workshop will begin at 4:00 pm at the unit office. Space is limited and the response so far has been very high.

Thinking about / Planning for Retirement?

Want Pension Information?

PENSION/RETIREMENT WORKSHOP

WHEN: THURSDAY, MARCH 25, 2010

WHERE: OECTA WELLINGTON UNIT OFFICE,
5420 HIGHWAY #6, GUELPH

TIME: 4:00-6:00

GUEST: JOE PECE, DEPARTMENT HEAD,
COUNSELLING AND MEMBER SERVICES, PROVINCIAL
OECTA

TOPICS: Information on the Ontario Teachers' Pension Fund, overview of benefits, what you need to consider before retiring, the rules about teaching after retirement

TO REGISTER: Contact Judy Mullen: (519) 763-3043

All are welcome to attend!

BEGINNING TEACHERS CONFERENCE

Thirteen Wellington members attended this year's OECTA Beginning Teachers conference through a combination of local and provincial funds.

Representing Wellington were Justina Ngiau, Lindsay Gallant, Alison Hargreaves, Beth Smith, Katherine Kenny, Melissa Binotto, Jaime-Lynn Gooyers, Michelle Willms, Carolyn Lichtenberger, Melissa Barnes, Kathleen Seftel, Laurie Hutt, and Tim O'Brien.

This annual Conference is open to all OECTA members in their first five years of teaching, and provides information, professional development and training that members need in their first years of teaching in order to succeed and flourish.

➤➤➤ *Check out contests on our
unit website at
www.oectawellington.ca*

OT WORKSHOP

A workshop held for OECTA Occasional Teachers members was well attended. The workshop entitled "Classroom Management and Survival Tips for OTs" was held at the Wellington Unit office on January 20th, 2010. Both occasional and statutory teachers attended. Michael-Jean Knoblauch from the Windsor-Essex Catholic School Board covered a range of topics including what makes for a successful occasional teacher, communication strategies, program needs as well as practical advice on other topics such as finding a teaching position and the interview process.

AQs THROUGH OECTA

Wellington OECTA is a strong supporter of teacher professional development. Through Provincial Office, OECTA offers high quality AQ courses which can be offered locally. The Wellington PD Committee would like to be able to offer OECTA AQ courses in the Guelph area for the Fall/Winter, Spring, and Summer 2010-11 sessions. AQ courses cost \$650 each (\$500 for Religious Education Courses) and are open to all teachers in Ontario. All courses qualify for upgrading and are accredited by the Ontario College of Teachers.

Below is a list of AQ courses that are offered by OECTA. If you would like to see a specific course run in our area in the 2010-11 school year, please email Judy Mullen by May 1st. Visit the Provincial OECTA website at www.oecta.on.ca for more information and prerequisites.

ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATION COURSES:

English as a Second Language (ESL) Part I
French as a Second Language (FSL) Part I , Part II
Inclusive Classroom Part I
Integration of Information Technology
Kindergarten Part I, Part II
Librarianship Part I
Mathematics, Primary/Junior
Mathematics, Grades 7 and 8
Media Part I
Primary Education Part I, Part II, Part III (Specialist)
Reading Part I, Part II, Part III (Specialist)
Religious Education Part I, Part II, Part III (Specialist)
Science and Technology, Grades 7 and 8
Special Education Part I, Part II, Part III (Specialist)
Teaching Combined Grades
Writing Part I

DID YOU KNOW?

Fact Sheet re the ONTARIO ENGLISH CATHOLIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION (OECTA)

- OECTA has represented teachers in Ontario's Catholic schools, elementary and secondary, since 1944.
- OECTA promotes the professional and contractual welfare of its members, promotes the principles of Catholic education, and defends the constitutional rights of the Catholic school system in Ontario.
- OECTA has approximately 43,000 members consisting of teachers working in Ontario's Catholic schools: 23,300 elementary teachers, 12,700 secondary teachers and 7,000 occasional teachers.
- Elementary teachers make up 65 per cent of OECTA's membership; secondary teachers, 35 per cent.
- OECTA members teach in 1,174 Catholic elementary schools and 237 Catholic secondary schools located throughout Ontario.
- Approximately one half of OECTA's members live in the Golden Horseshoe and Hamilton area, in Dufferin-Peel, Durham, Metro Toronto, Simcoe and York. More than 6,000 teachers are in Metro Toronto alone.
- OECTA is an affiliate of the 155,000-member Ontario Teachers' Federation (OTF), the 220,000-member Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF) and Education International.
- Since 1996, OECTA has been affiliated with the Ontario Federation of Labour and the Canadian Labour Congress.



SCHOOL-YEAR CALENDAR—back to school before Labour Day again this year?

There have been some preliminary discussions around the School Year Calendar for next year. Because there must be 194 instructional days in a school year (including PA days), next year there must be at least one instructional day before Labour Day. It is anticipated that this will be a professional activity day and that actual classes for students will not begin until the Tuesday after Labour Day. We are still in discussion with the Board on the final schedule.

ELEMENTARY REPORT CARDS - What will really be different?

We have been informed that there will be two report cards at elementary next year. However, there will also be an interim/progress report of some kind in the first term only, but it is expected to be a simpler checklist type without full-scale evaluation. We'll see how this really pans out.

REPORT CARD				
GRADING PERIOD	1	2	3	4
READING	A			
WRITTEN COMMUNICATION	A			
MATHEMATICS	C			
SCIENCE/HEALTH	B			
SOCIAL STUDIES	B			
ART	A			
MUSIC	A			
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	C			
Grade Average	B			
Attendance:	Present	4/5		
	Absent	2/5		
	Tardy	1/5		
<small>A = Excellent B = Good C = Satisfactory N = Needs Improvement U = Unsatisfactory +I = Inefficient /Incomplete</small>				
Student:	Grade:	Year:		

ECEs—Should ECEs be part of OECTA?

The question of whether Early Childhood Educators who will be part of the new Full Day Kindergarten/ Early Learning program beginning in September should be organized under the OECTA umbrella will be the topic of a major debate at the AGM this year. A lot of info on this has been distributed to the schools and is available on the provincial website www.oecta.on.ca

JOINT STAFFING COMMITTEE

The new collective agreement provided for a Joint Staffing Committee to meet regularly on staffing issues. This committee has met many times since its establishment. OECTA's three reps on this committee are the three officers i.e. Jim Whitechurch, Judy Mullen and George Giovinazzo. The agenda for the most recent meeting included : *Posting timelines for 2010, process for staffing of St. Ignatius, Early Learning Full-day Kindergarten Staffing, Secondary Staffing Update, SERT – process/pool rules.* The committee meets again in early March to continue discussions on the staffing of the new St Ignatius School.



CURLING BONSPIEL

We have encountered some difficulty in finding a suitable and available date for the Second Annual OECTA Curling Bonspiel. However, the event is now tentatively set for Saturday March 27 at the Guelph Country Club. The format will be similar to last year's successful event and is open to 4-person teams made up of at least three employees of Wellington Catholic. Please call the unit office to enter a team.

OECTA YOUNG AUTHORS



**TEACHERS
ARE
INVITED TO
ENCOURAGE
THEIR
STUDENTS TO
PARTICIPATE
IN THE
2009 -2010
YOUNG
AUTHORS
AWARDS/
PRIX JEUNES
ÉCRIVAINS**



OECTA's Annual Young Author's Contest is upon us again.

The purposes of the annual OECTA Young Authors Awards are:

- to celebrate the writing talents of students (JK-12) and the teaching talents of their teachers
- to showcase the accomplishments of students and teacher

There are three levels of competition: school, unit and provincial. The first place winners at each level advance to the next.

For the **school level of competition**, teachers must submit their classes' entries to their *OECTA association representative*. There are no limits on the number of entries at the school level of competition.

Each school will then submit entries to the **unit level of competition** by the unit deadline, **April 1, 2010**

Each unit may submit *one* entry per category and division to the **provincial level of competition** by **April 9, 2009**. Provincial winners will be announced at the **June Council of Presidents (June 11,12)**

At each level, all entries will be judged on the basis of the criteria listed below which have been adapted from the achievement scales of the current language curriculum guidelines. At the unit level, those judged to exhibit a high level of performance overall, will be forwarded to the provincial level of the competition.

Creativity: impact and originality

Reasoning: level of understanding, range and complexity of ideas

Communication: clarity of purpose and expression

Organization: control and complexity of form

Language conventions: range and control over vocabulary, grammar and usage

News Release February 17 2010: OECTA supports move to full-day Kindergarten

Ontario's Catholic Teachers support the move to full-day Kindergarten and look forward to reviewing the details of enabling legislation that was introduced to the Ontario Legislature today by Education Minister Leona Dombrowsky.

"We are already scheduling discussions with the government for clarification of the contents of the Bill," says OECTA president James Ryan.

"Above all, we want to ensure that the program that is being rolled out over the next five years meets the needs of Ontario's four- and five- year olds and their parents, teachers and Early Childhood Educators (ECEs)."

OECTA represents the 45,000 women and men who teach from Kindergarten through high school in Ontario's publicly funded English Catholic schools. www.oecta.on.ca

e-agenda March 1, 2010

Create an account on OECTA's brand new website and you could win a computer!

1. Go to 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
4. When you login, you will automatically be entered into a draw, that will be held in June, for an ACER Aspire One Computer
5. If you have problems creating an account, contact OECTA at membership@oecta.on.ca



Current issues and back issues of **WELLINGTON WORKS**

Available on our website

at

www.oectawellington.ca





(Justin) Trudeauania at Lourdes!

There was a special "aura" around Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic High School on Friday, February 12. Justin Trudeau, MP for Papineau, dropped into Lourdes to help celebrate

National Flag Day and to receive the school's National Leadership Award. The young MP was greeted with thunderous applause, cheers, cameras and many autograph seekers. Trudeau gave an inspirational speech to the "full house" at Lourdes telling students that they are not the "leaders of tomorrow, but the leaders of today." He also said that our Maple Leaf Flag represents who we are as Canadians and we all need to celebrate this precious symbol of our identity. The Leadership Awards program at Lourdes has been running since 1991 and has attracted leaders to the school from all walks of life.

TRIFIT—Helping to keep the Well in Wellington

TRIFIT is our wellness consultant made available through funding from the Board and OECTA. Other employee groups have also contributed some funding for specific events and activities.

Many are currently involved in the Winning@Losing challenge and other program offered by TRIFIT including receiving wellness advice through email. Our local rep is Jon Howard and he is available in Wellington every Wednesday.

Watch for Monthly TRIFIT Newsletter, and other TRIFIT information in your schools including Nutrition tips, exercise of the month and healthy recipe ideas. Our TRIFIT consultant is continuing a series of school visits. Please feel free to contact Jon through his email jon@trifit.com or through the OECTA Office.

Please note that TRIFIT programs and services are open and available to all employees of Wellington Catholic.

JOIN AN OECTA PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE

OECTA members are invited to apply for membership on the Association's standing committees. Current committee members seeking reappointment are asked to reapply. **Applications are being accepted online from March 1 – May 1, 2010.**

Standing Committees:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Awards | Beginning Teachers |
| Catholic Education | Collective Bargaining |
| Communications and Public Relations | |
| Educational Aid | Elementary Schools |
| Finance | Health and Safety |
| Human Rights | Legislation |
| Occasional Teachers | Political Advisory |
| Professional Development Steering | |
| Secondary Schools | Status of Women |

Appointments

The Provincial Executive will make decisions for committee appointments to take effect July 1, 2010.

All applicants will be informed of the status of their application.

Benefits Enhancements

We are currently preparing to begin bargaining for some benefit enhancements as provided for at the mid-point of our current collective agreement. We have received an analysis of our benefit package and have reviewed areas identified by our members and in this analysis in preparation for discussions with the Board to begin soon.



Important Information for All OTs.

PD Opportunity

The Sept. P.D. day for occasional teachers was very successful. If you were not able to attend that day the board is looking into providing another P.D. day for occasional teachers on April 23, 2010. More information will follow.

School and Emergency Information

If you do not receive an information binder from the school office when you check in for each day's teaching, please be encouraged to request this from the office staff. It should include the supervision schedule for the school, emergency procedure information, allergy alert information on students, and general school information. Be sure to return it to the office at the end of the day.

Communications

Please be aware that important information is available to you on the First Class email by accessing the Supply Teacher Communications through the OECTA icon.

Refusals

Please be careful of refusing too many requests to teach. In our contract it states that you can be removed from the OT list for 3 consecutive refusals or 6 refusals per term. The board has been lenient but will enforce this if necessary. If you know that you will not be available to work on a specific day, please call and book off that day at least 24 hours in advance. Book off by calling Genny at 519 824 4640 ext. 207 and leave a message. This is for your own protection.

Retired Teachers

Retired teachers on the OT list, especially those limited to 20 days this year, please be aware that if you wait until May or June to complete your allotted days you may be disappointed. The board is encouraging you to make yourself available for teaching when there is high demand for occasional teachers. If you wait till spring, you may not get to use all your 20 days as there are not as many days of teaching available in April, May, and June.

Next Year's OT List

If you would like to be included on the OT list for the 2010/2011 school year please watch for the registration forms that must be completed and into the board office in June. They will be available on the OT conference on the First Class email by June 1st. Please watch for them and get them in promptly.

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact any of the following people. Thank You
Nancy Baker, OTLBU President
Roy Coughlin, OT rep

OECTA Annual General Meeting 2010

AGM 2010 promises to be an interesting and important event for this years delegates. Ten delegates from Wellington will be among the 600 hundred delegates from across the province who will attend the Annual General Meeting of OECTA to be held in Toronto from March 13 –15. Delegates are charged on behalf of all members to make important decisions on the direction, budget and executive for OECTA, decisions which will have an impact for the coming year and beyond.

Among the business that the Annual General Meeting will conduct is an important debate on whether OECTA should make constitutional changes to allow for the inclusion of new Early Learning Program ECEs as members of OECTA. In order to make this change it must be supported by 90% of the delegates in attendance.

Information bulletins have be sent out to all schools on a range of topics (including the above) around the new Early Learning/ Full Day Kindergarten program which will be phased in over the next five years.

Election for the next Provincial executive will also occur during the AGM and there promises to be some interesting contests.

AGM 2010
March 13-15, 2010
Westin Harbour Castle

ONTARIO ENGLISH
Catholic
Teachers
ASSOCIATION