

Wellington Works



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

January February 2011

Wellington Delegation prepares for AGM

The OECTA Provincial Annual General Meeting occurs March 11-14 in Toronto. More than 600 teachers from across the province will assemble for the purposes of considering, discussing and making decisions on issues that affect your life as a teacher and a citizen. Delegates will debate a range of resolutions and elect the 2011-12 Provincial Executive and Ontario Teachers Federation Governors.

Wellington will be well-represented by ten voting delegates and two alternates at this important event.

VOTING: Jim Whitechurch (Head of Delegation); George Giovinazzo; Heather Frimeth; Nancy Baker; Laurence Vignola; Marty Bell; John Maschio; Michelle Genore; Kevin Reid; Dawn Uliana

ALTERNATES: Yvonne Bendo; 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.



Political Action Plans underway for October Provincial Election

“No other event in the next five years will have a greater impact on teachers than this provincial election.” - OECTA Provincial President James Ryan to Council of Presidents in February.

See page 5 for more information on OECTA's Political Action Plan

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Wellington OECTA

5420 Highway #6 North
R.R.#5 Guelph, ON
N1H 6J2
Phone: 519-763-3043
Fax: 519-763-2682
Email:
oecta.wellington@rogers.com
Website:
www.oectawellington.ca

Vote For Your Future

Election 2011

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Professional Development

Wellington OECTA is a strong supporter of teacher professional development.

JOINT PD FUND

The Board and the unit provide opportunities for teachers to attend a range of conferences and workshops through the Joint PD Fund. For more information on this fund go to our local website at www.oectawellington.ca

INDIVIDUAL PD FUNDS IN UNIT BUDGET

Wellington OECTA also budgets annually to support delegates to When Faith meets Pedagogy conference and Provincial OECTA's Beginning Teachers Conference.

AQs THROUGH OECTA

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 sessions. See below for more information

Spring Additional Qualification (AQ) Courses

OECTA's AQ courses are reasonably priced 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. OECTA's AQ courses are developed by teachers for teachers, and are offered in locations across Ontario. Many of the courses are offered online. Check the provincial website for the type of course delivery that suits you.

OECTA's spring AQ courses run from April 11 – June 17, 2011, two evenings per week. AQ Courses in Religious Education have varying start dates. Check our website for all course details.

Online registration for OECTA's 2011 Spring Additional Qualification (AQ) courses is open.

OECTA's AQ courses are offered ONLINE and in face-to-face locations across the province.

The tuition fee has been lowered to \$600 if you register by March 30, 2011. Please note the tuition fee for Religious Education AQ courses is \$500.

Course offerings include:

- English as a Second Language
- French as a Second Language
- Inclusive Classroom Part I
- Integration of Information and Computer Technology in Instruction, Parts I and II
- Kindergarten (will lead to a Specialist)
- Librarianship
- Mathematics, Primary/Junior
- Mathematics, Grades 7 and 8
- Media Part I
- Primary Education Parts I and II
- Religious Education Parts I, II and III
- Reading Parts I, II and III
- Special Education
- Special Education - Communication – Autism
- Student Assessment and Evaluation
- Teaching Combined Grades
- Writing Part I

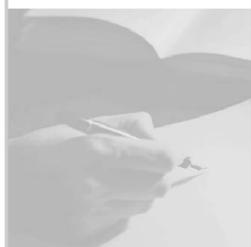
Register early to avoid courses being cancelled. Notification of registration or course cancellation will be sent to each registrant by email by the end of March.

Visit the Provincial OECTA website at www.oecta.on.ca for more information and prerequisites.

OECTA YOUNG AUTHORS



**TEACHERS
ARE
INVITED TO
ENCOURAGE
THEIR
STUDENTS TO
PARTICIPATE
IN THE
2010 -2011
YOUNG
AUTHORS
AWARDS/
PRIX JEUNES
ÉCRIVAINS**



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

The purposes of the annual awards are:

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

Teachers must submit their student entries to their *OECTA association representative* by **March 22**. There are no limits on the number of entries per school.

OECTA reps should submit entries to the **unit level of competition** by the unit deadline, **March 25, 2011**

Each unit may submit *one* entry per category and division to the **provincial level of competition** by **April 8, 2011**. Provincial winners will be announced at the **June Council of Presidents (June 9-10)**

At the local and provincial levels, 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



SCHOOL-YEAR CALENDAR 2011-12

The Board sought input from OECTA and other groups on the calendar for 2011-12 school year.

Based on the Ministry template the school year would begin on Tuesday September 6th.

One of the issues discussed was the timing of the Christmas Break. The official Ministry template has the Break scheduled to begin following classes on Friday December 16, with the first day back being January 2, 2012. Deviation from the ministry template requires a board to submit a request to have a modified calendar approved.

Many Boards across the province were proposing to have classes go until December 23rd, returning January 9th. Following discussions with Upper Grand Board, both local Boards are also requesting this revision to the calendar. The proposed calendar was submitted to the Ministry along with the other pertinent dates (PD Days etc.) . We will provide greater detail once the calendar is approved.

Reporting Timelines—Next year

Related to the discussions re the school year calendar as noted above, OECTA, representatives of the Principal's association and senior Board administration have also had a number meetings with regards to

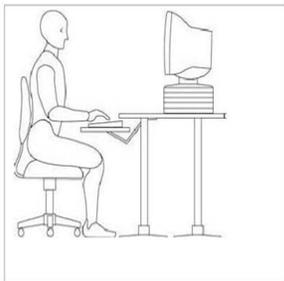
REPORT CARD				
GRADING PERIOD	1	2	3	4
READING	A			
WRITTEN COMMUNICATION	A			
MATHEMATICS	C			
SCIENCE/HEALTH	B			
SOCIAL STUDIES	B			
ART	A			
MUSIC	A			
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	C			
Grade Average	B			
Attendance:	Present	100		
	Absent	0		
	Tardy	1		
<small>A = Excellent B = Good C = Satisfactory S = Needs Improvement * = Unsatisfactory U = Unacceptable (non-eligible)</small>				
Student:	Grade:	Year:		

reporting timelines at both elementary and secondary.

Both OECTA and the principals expressed concerns about the tightness of the timelines particularly at the elementary level. The new tentative timelines for the next school year have taken into consideration many of the concerns expressed, allowing more time for both teachers and school administration to prepare report cards. We are encouraged that our message has been heard.

Computer Access for all Teachers

Wellington OECTA is currently gathering information on teacher access to computers. Given the demands of the new reports, IEP and Information posted for all teachers on First Class, we have expressed our concerns about the limited access many teachers have to a readily accessible computer on which to “do their job”. In particular, planning time and French teachers at the elementary level generally have very limited access to a computer for their own use.



Coincidentally, the picture to the right, appeared with a very good article on Ergonomics in a recent Health and Safety Bulletin. Given our current discussions around computer access, I couldn't resist thinking this picture required a good caption. (with apologies to the editors of the H&S Bulletin— J.W.)

The following suggestions are offered:

“Computer not included” or *“Computer sold separately”*

Committee to Look at Elementary Planning Time

A committee with representation of Board and OECTA members is looking at schedules and expectations for Planning Time (specialist and itinerant) and French Teachers. The committee will review a range of items from what should be taught, what the expectations for reporting are or should be, supervisions and duties, computer access etc.

We have asked all Planning Teachers, French Teachers and Teacher Librarians to provide us with their complete schedules so that we can discuss the current situation with first-hand accurate information. OECTA's goal in participating in this committee is to ensure that there is greater consistency in how planning time is distributed, that it meets the requirements of the Collective agreement, and that there is fairness and equity not only within individual school sites but across the Board. There is also some lack of clarity around the expectations for reporting with the new Provincial Report cards.

Joint Staffing

The next meeting of the Joint Staffing Committee is March 10. Among the many items on the agenda will be staffing allocations for 2011-12.

Very preliminary numbers indicate enrolment declines in both Secondary and Elementary panels. The committee will review the current enrolment numbers and tentative staff allocations. As in the past the Board and OECTA will be working together in dealing with any potential redundancy/surplus situations.

Elementary Report Card Task Force

Wellington OECTA's Report Card Task Force is continuing its review of the local implementation of the new provincial report cards at the elementary level. Member surveys are being collected and results collated. The committee would also like to hear from any OECTA member on their personal experiences. The task force will prepare a report making recommendations to the unit executive.

All elementary members are encouraged to complete surveys and to forward any additional comments to Heather or Jim at the Unit Office.

VOTE FOR YOUR FUTURE - Provincial Election 2010

New information has been posted to the Vote For Your Future public and members only sections of the OECTA website. We encourage all Members to the site and check out the new information.

Vote For Your Future

ONTARIO ENGLISH
Catholic
Teachers
ASSOCIATION

Important Information for Occasional Teachers

OT Committee

The unit OT Committee recently completed a substantial project on behalf of our Occasional Members. After collecting several examples of Occasional handbooks from a number of schools, the committee has been working to develop a standard template for an OT handbook to be available in schools.

OT Resources

A package of materials provided by provincial OECTA for all occasional teachers is available on request at all school offices.

OT Info on First Class

Important information for all OTs, from the Board and OECTA, is regularly posted in First Class. Please check regularly.

Vote For Your Future

Election 2011

OECTA POLITICAL ACTION PLANS

OECTA, both provincially and locally, continues to prepare for the provincial election coming this October. OECTA's provincial political action plans will be unveiled at the AGM in March. This will be followed by a political action workshop in April to which Wellington OECTA will be sending a number of delegates.

Locally, meetings have already happened with the Presidents of OECTA, OSSTF and ETFO with a view to planning a unified approach to the election campaign. The affiliates have agreed to re-activate the Tri-PAC (three affiliate Political Action Committee) to co-ordinate local action. Election Plans of all the affiliates are very much in sync with each other.

The goal will be to support education friendly candidates in all ridings throughout the province.

LTD WAIVER

Eligibility for LTD ends at one of three points:

- i. Upon reaching 65 years of age.
- ii. Upon reaching 33 years of pensionable service (i.e. eligible for 66% pension)
- iii. Upon retirement

Since you are no longer eligible to collect LTD benefits following one of these three events, it is possible to have payment of premiums waived 80 days prior to reaching those points.

The onus is on the member to advise the Board and unit office and to make application for the waiver. Copies of the waiver can be received by calling the unit office and is also available on our website at www.oectawellington.ca.

Election 2011—Get Ready, Get Involved

Ontarians will go to the polls on October 6.

OECTA recognizes the challenges facing the province as the province emerges from the global economic downturn. Ontario has weathered the storm better than many other jurisdictions for many reasons, including the significant investments that the current government has made in education, health and public services.

It is important to OECTA that the province not turn back the clock in education, but rather, that we continue to build on the top class publicly funded education system that has become the envy of most of the world. Electing an education friendly government on October 6th is essential if that progress is to continue.

Visit our local website at
www.oectawellington.ca





Sign up for OECTA Members Centre

To create an account on OECTA's website:

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

If you have problems creating an account, contact OECTA at membership@oecta.on.ca



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



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. **The deadline to submit an online application is May 1, 2011.**

Committees provide opportunities for teachers to contribute their expertise, be creative and develop new interests, while serving the needs of Association members. New teachers are particularly encouraged to get involved, and share their energy and fresh ideas.

Committees meet several times during the school year and work on projects of their choice that can be completed within the year..

The standing committees are: 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, Programs and Structures, Secondary Schools, Status of Women and the Teacher Education Network.

Speak to your Unit President about applications and for help choosing a committee that is a good fit for you.

Provincial Executive will make decisions for committee appointments to take effect July 1, 2011.

Go to:

www.surveymonkey.com/s/oectacsa2011
for the online application form