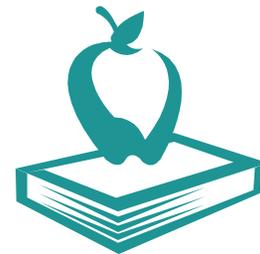


Wellington Works



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

September October 2010

Wellington Unit Executive

As of July 1st, the executive elected at last spring's AGM took over at Wellington OECTA. We welcome our new members, and those returning to this year's executive.

The following is the Unit Executive for 2010-11:

President: Jim Whitechurch
VP(Elementary): Heather Frimeth
VP(Secondary): George Giovinazzo
VP(Occasional): Nancy Baker
Secretary: Laurence Vignola
Councillors: Marty Bell
Michelle Genore
John Maschio
Kevin Reid
Peter Stoop
* Dawn Uliana

* Note: Dawn was appointed as an additional Councillor and member of executive at the new executive's first meeting.

The executive meets the second Monday of the month and the Reps Council meets on the last Monday of each month (excluding December and June). The Reps Council is comprised of reps from each school, a rep for system teachers, a rep for Occasional Teachers and the Executive.

Our unit office is located in the Orchard Park Office complex on the Jesuit property on Highway 6. Members may reach us by email through First Class or through oecta.wellington@rogers.com. Other contact information can be found in the box below.

Wellington OECTA is a joint - elementary and secondary - unit, consisting of almost 500 regular teacher members and close to 200 occasional teacher members.

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Agreement Reached on Benefit Enhancements



Wellington OECTA and the Board have reached an agreement on significant benefit enhancements to be effective immediately. As part of the Provincial Dialogue

Table framework agreement, the government provided additional funding to provide for enhancements to benefits at the midpoint of the four-year deal.

The enhancements achieved locally are in three areas: improved Vision Care coverage, improved "paramedicals" coverage and the addition of coverage for Dieticians and Nutritionists.

Benefits are effective retroactive to September 1. Those who had expenditures in these areas after September 1 may submit these claims to Sun Life.

SEE PAGE 2 for details on the new benefit enhancements.

Other important Benefit information can also be found on **PAGE 3**



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ONTARIO ENGLISH
**Catholic
Teachers**
ASSOCIATION

Details of Benefit Enhancements

As noted on Page 1, OECTA and the Board have reached an agreement on enhancements to our Extended Health benefits. The enhancements are in three areas as outlined below.

The new benefits are effective retroactive to September 1. Those who had expenditures in

these areas after September 1 may submit these claims to Sun Life. If you already submitted claims based on the old provisions you will be able to re-submit your claim for expense incurred after September 1. Further direction on the specific requirements will follow soon.

	New Enhancements	Previous coverage
Vision Care	Vision Care coverage to \$300 for each insured individual per 24 month period. Max applies only to all covered individuals - No family maximum	\$250 per person \$500 max per family
Paramedicals	Paramedical coverage increases to \$85 per visit maximum and Annual maximums increased to \$400 per person and \$800 per family. This coverage includes massage therapists (when ordered by a doctor), naturopath, acupuncturist, social worker, osteopath, chiropractors, podiatrists, and chiropodists	\$8 per visit \$120 annual max per family -same list of practitioners and conditions
Dietician/nutritionist	\$85 per visit maximum with \$400 single/\$800 family annual maximum. Note: This is separate and over and above the Paramedical coverage noted above.	- No coverage in this area at all

Edvantage Program provides a range of discounts for all teachers

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



Current issues and back issues of

WELLINGTON WORKS

Available on our website

at

www.oectawellington.ca



Visit our local website at www.oectawellington.ca



Thank You Father Noon

When the new Wellington Catholic School Board convenes after the October municipal elections, a familiar face will not be at the table.

Father Dennis Noon announced that he was retiring from the Board and would not be seeking re-election on October 25th.

Father Noon has served on the Board for 16 years, and for the last several years has been Chair. His dedicated service to the Board and to Catholic Education is widely recognized and to be commended.

During his years, he has witnessed many changes in education and worked tirelessly to promote collaboration and teamwork in Wellington. A regular participant in many events,

including school celebrations, Father Noon is well-known in Wellington for his compassion and humour.

In 1998, Father Noon was awarded an OECTA award of merit for his contribution to Catholic education.

Many OECTA members will remember that during the protest that occurred under the Mike Harris government, Father Noon allowed teachers to use his parish to meet. While Father Noon did not openly take sides in the conflict going on at the time, he continued to be supportive of Wellington teachers.

On behalf of all members of OECTA, we thank him for his contributions and wish him all the best for the future.



Our benefit plans are administered by Sun Life Financial under policy number **15314**.

Your **certificate number** is your **employee number** beginning with the letter 'w'. For example, if your employee number is 2222 your certificate number is w2222.

LONG TERM DISABILITY 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.

Teacher Absence from School

Some important information about teacher absences:

Absence due to illness:

When you are absence due to illness:

- you must report your illness to your administrator according to established timelines.
- you must inform your administrator that you are "ill"; simply saying you are "going to be off" or "away today" is not sufficient.
- you do not have to nor should you provide any specifics about your particular illness
- any medical documentation should only be provided to Joanne Gibson at the Board Office and not to site administrators.

Note: that the Board is within its managerial rights to ask for medical evidence for any period of absence. General practice is to require "medical" after 3 days, but the Board may ask for any period of time even less than 3 days.

Other Absences

The contract outlines very clearly other provisions governing various other absences.

"Personal" Days

Our collective agreement does **not** provide for so-called "personal days". There are, however, a variety of provisions for absences for family medical emergency, graduations and specialized appointments which cannot be made outside of the school day as well as for bereavement, quarantine and jury duty.

Beginning Teachers Conference 2011



OECTA'S Annual Conference for Beginning Teachers will be held **February 24 - 26, 2011** at the Sheraton on the Falls Hotel in Niagara Falls, Ontario. 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.

Each bargaining unit is allocated a certain number of Conference delegates. Locally, we will also send additional delegates at unit expense, should spots be available. If you are interested in this conference please inform Heather Frimeth at the Unit Office by **November 15, 2011**.

More information on registration will follow soon. 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.

NOTICE

Wellington OECTA Fall General Meeting

The Fall General Meeting of Wellington OECTA will be held on November 29.

The regularly scheduled Reps Council meeting will be incorporated into the general meeting and will be open to all members. This has been our practice for a number of years.

The agenda will include regular reps business as well as several items for the general membership (budget, bylaws etc.)

All OECTA members are encouraged and welcome to attend.

MONDAY

NOVEMBER 29

4:30 P.M.

OECTA UNIT OFFICE

RETIREMENT AND SERVICE

RECOGNITION DINNER

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16

5:30 p.m. Cocktails 6:30 p.m. Dinner

ITALIAN CANADIAN CLUB



The following people will be recognized:

Retirees

Joan Berry	Cynthia Morris
Judy Bristow	Bill Nagy
Margaret Brocklebank	Lino Parolin
John Candiotto	Paul Phelan
Kathryn Chelli	Cecylia Piotrowski
Mike Collins	Patricia Plat
Cathy Dalicandro	Patricia Power
Gerry Gemin	Joan Salajko
Monika Harendarz	Margaret Sehl
Kathy Ingram	Dave Smyth
Peter Ingram	

25 Years of Service

Vince Campolongo	Edwin McAnany
Catherine Chiarelli	Paul McNamara
Eileen Clinton	Jerome Raso
Heather Frimeth	Patricia Spedler
Brenda Goetz	Barbara Tremblay
Joan Jeffery	

Important Information for Occasional Teachers



Please remember to check the Supply Teacher Communications site on First Class for current info pertaining to Occasional Teachers.

Recent notices concerning Inclement Weather Procedures and a report on Occasional Teacher Bill 157, have been posted on this site.

To make it easier for the board to keep you active on the supply list, please remember that you may choose a geographical area (either city, county, or both) and grade levels; but not specific schools.

Also, you cannot request to have future calls only. Everyone must take all calls.

If you are booking off for longer than two months, you must set Susan Paoli know in writing (either a letter or email). This will then be recorded as a leave of absence and not a book off. This will be beneficial to you when the board looks at the total days statistics.

Don't leave your class unsupervised

Members are strongly advised to avoid leaving students unsupervised in a classroom at any time. Leaving a classroom unattended, even for a few moments can be risky and place a teacher in a serious position should anything untoward occur. If you must leave your classroom, you are advised to ensure that a neighboring teacher or another adult is asked to keep an eye on your room. If necessary, call the office and ask that someone be sent down to help.

Remember: Be Wary, Be Wise.



Advice on the Use of First Class Email and Other Electronic Communication

Particularly with the recent changes, members are cautioned to be careful in the use of the Board's email system.

The Conference known as OECTA is open to all teachers (regular and occasional). Teachers should avoid sending emails on individual issues, particularly those of a personal nature, to this conference. If you are looking for answers from the OECTA unit office you should be directing email directly to Jim, Heather, George and/or Nancy, or to Unit's email at oecta.wellington@rogers.com. Please ensure that your use of the Board email remains appropriate and professional.

Using reply sender function is also an important way to ensure that only those who need to get replies get them.

Members 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.

For more advice on use of email and other technology please see OECTA's pamphlet on "Appropriate and Professional Use of Electronic Communications" available on the provincial and local websites.

Implementation of the new Elementary Progress Report

In November, Wellington Catholic Elementary Schools will issue new Progress Reports as prescribed by the Ministry document "Growing Success". As with any new initiative there have been considerable growing pains and a level of anxiety in our schools.

OECTA has been actively involved in the development of the implementation plans in Wellington. We continue to strive to make the implementation as painless as possible. We have been engaged at a variety of levels in discussions on the expectations for this new report, the process for its completion, the adequacy of the Board's technology and efforts to ensure clarity and consistency in the messaging in regards to the new reporting regime.

We would like to hear from members following the reports about their experiences with the new format. We invite members to provide input to us either directly or through a survey which will be provided to their site rep.



Upcoming Meetings and Events

November 4 and 5—OECTA Council of Presidents—Toronto

November 8—Unit Executive 4:15

November 10—Unit Budget Committee

November 11—Wellness Committee

November 16—Board Recognition Dinner—Italian Canadian Club

November 22—Unit Executive 4:15

November 22—Board Leadership Transition Committee 1-3

November 24—FACE Regional Workshop

November 29—Reps Council and Unit Fall General Meeting 4:30—Unit Office

November 29—Board Memorial Mass



DID YOU KNOW?

- ✓ Wellington OECTA has almost 500 regular members and close to 200 occasional teacher members.
- ✓ Provincially, OECTA represents approximately 40,000 teachers who teach in the Catholic System throughout the province

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
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