

WELLINGTON WORKS

June 2009

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

Volume 16, Issue 7

Agenda

JUNE JULY AUGUST

Wednesday June 3rd

Local General Meeting/ REPS council
OECTA Office 4:30 p.m.

Friday June 5th

OT Inservice (Elem)
St Francis ALL DAY

Monday June 8th

Executive Meeting
OECTA Office 4:15 p.m.

Tuesday June 9th

Applause Breakfast
ICC 7:30 a.m.

Thursday June 11 - Friday June 12

Council of Presidents Toronto

Thursday June 18th

OT Inservice (Sec)
OECTA Office ALL DAY

Monday June 22nd

Executive Meeting
OECTA Office 4:15 p.m.

Wednesday June 24th

Joint Health and Safety Committee
Board Office 10:00 a.m.

Thursday June 25th

Officers Meeting with Board Admin
L.Clifford/ M. McPhee
Board Office 11:30 a.m.

August 20-22

Educating for the Common Good
Biennial Conference 2009
Toronto

Have a safe and happy summer holiday!

Wellington Works

is prepared
by

Wellington OECTA

President Jim Whitechurch

Elementary VP Judy Mullen

Secondary VP George Giovinazzo
to provide important information
to members

Wellington OECTA Annual General Meeting and Elections

Wellington OECTA Executive 2009-10

The new executive for Wellington OECTA will take office as of July 1.

The following is the executive for 2009-10:

President: Jim Whitechurch

VP (Elementary): Judy Mullen

VP (Secondary): George Giovinazzo

VP (Occasional): Nancy Baker

Secretary: Laurence Vignola

Councillors: Kathy Carere

Christine Conversano

John Maschio

Peter Stoop

Mike Topolie

Thank you to Grant Drohan and Lynda Franchetto, who are not continuing on the Executive next year, for their service to OECTA.

Summer Office Hours

The OECTA office will be closed for most of the summer but Judy, George and/or Jim will be regularly checking email and voice mail. If you leave a message on the office voice mail 519 763-3043, one of us will get back to you ASAP. Feel free to contact any of us as needed during the summer.

Jim Home 519 824 1543

Cell 519 400 5362

George Cell 519 400 5361

Judy Cell 519 400 5363

Serious problems, or emergencies, can be dealt with by contacting provincial office at 1-800-268-7230.

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THANK YOU

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LOCAL NEWS—MISCELLANEOUS

Collective Agreements Printed and Delivered

Copies of the new collective agreements, both regular and occasional, are printed and being delivered. Each member should receive an individual copy of the appropriate agreement(s). The agreements are being delivered in the following fashion

1. All regular teachers and current LTOs will be put in school mailboxes by school reps before June 12th.
2. All Occasional teachers who attend one of the inservices either June 5 or June 18 will be given theirs at these meetings.
3. All OTs who do not attend these workshops will receive their copy in the mail shortly after the 18th.
4. All teachers on leave will receive copies by mail by the 15th of June.
5. New hires, whether regular or occasional, will receive copies in hiring package.

If you do not receive your copy by the appropriate date you are asked to advise the unit office, so that we can send you the appropriate agreement. Contracts will also be posted on the provincial and local OECTA websites.



**Check out
Wellington's
local website
at**

www.oectawellington.ca

Wellington OECTA “In Appreciation” Banquet

Wellington's “In Appreciation” Banquet was held on **May 28th** at the Italian Canadian Club. At this annual event, Wellington OECTA honours our retirees, and 25 year members as well as those who have served as OECTA Reps, Executive and Committee members. A number of awards were also presented to our members and community friends.

Retirees

Lynda Franchetto	Carol Gordon
Mary Hermann	James Lafferty
Jean Laveck	Johanne Martin
Randy Remigis	Ginny Rigby
Bernadette Wells	Margie Zuccala

25 Year

Mary Hermann
Beth McCabe
Bernadette Wells

Awards Recipients:

Award of Merit - Community Member
Fr Jim Profit

Award of Merit - OECTA Member
Ruthanne Finnigan
Joy Goddard

25 year in one Award
Rosemarie McHugh

Rep of the year
Peter Marzo

Lifetime Achievement Award
Lynda Franchetto

Best Wishes to Several Administrators Departing from Wellington Catholic This Year

There are a number of administrators who are leaving Wellington Catholic this year either for retirement or other reasons.

We congratulate the following three long time administrators who have announced their retirements: **Frank Cecchetto**, Vice-Principal, Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic High School; **Art Connolly**, Principal St John Brebeuf Catholic School (Erin); and **Ted Laxton**, Principal Sacred Heart Catholic School.

Tracey Lindsay, Principal, St Peter Catholic School and **Carlo Zen**, Principal St Joseph Catholic School (Fergus) have taken positions with the Upper Grand District School Board. We wish them every success in their new positions.

From the Board's Central Office **John Forestell**, Administrator of Plant and Operations and **Norina Morris**, School Effectiveness Lead are also be retiring this year.

Congratulations and best wishes to all of these departing administrators.

Technology Changes Coming This Summer to FIRST CLASS Email and Board Network

DOMAIN NAME CHANGE

Beginning August 4th, 2009 the First Class domain name will change to **wellingtoncdsb.ca**

This means that an email account will change from:
user_id@wellingtoncssb.edu.on.ca to
user_id@wellingtoncdsb.ca

NEW EMAIL ADDRESS AND ACCOUNTS

A new First Class email address will be sent to each individual employee who requires access to First Class. This new address will become effective on August 4th. Both domain names will be accepted until September 30th, 2009 after which time only the new domain name will be accepted. All First Class users will be required to **inform their external contacts** of the domain name change.

In preparation for the domain name change: All First Class accounts will be cancelled on July 24th and new accounts created during July 25th – August 3rd. **This means that these individuals will need to save any First Class files and/or emails that they wish to keep before July 24th.** Documentation to assist staff will be forwarded before the end of June.

NEW LOOK FOR FIRST CLASS

Also the First Class email system will have a different look after August 4th. Changes will be outlined in future correspondence.

LOGGING ONTO THE BOARD NETWORK ON/ AFTER AUGUST 4TH

The Board will be implementing a new password procedure protocol beginning August 4th, 2009.

All WCDSB employees with access to the Board's systems are responsible for taking the appropriate steps to select and secure their passwords. To log into the network on/after August 4th, all employees will be required to sign a form acknowledging the Board's password procedure protocol. They will then be issued a login and password and provided with a copy of the protocol. More detailed information on this procedure will follow.

Wellington wins three Provincial Young Authors Awards

Following the provincial judging of local entries, we are pleased to announce that three Young Authors in Wellington have been selected for provincial recognition.

The winners were officially announced at the June Council of Presidents June 12-13. Plaques and certificates were given to the unit at that time for presentation to all winners. All winning entries will be published in a book which goes to all winners, schools and public libraries.

The unit congratulates the following winners and their teachers:

Grades 5-6 - Poem

"*Dr. Seuss Heaven*" by Dane Nespoli, St. Paul
 Teacher: Alijha Grgis

Grades 7-8 - Short Story - French

"*Le Petit Geant*" by Hannah Allera, St. Joseph Guelph Teacher: Ed McAnany

Grades 7-8 - Nonfiction

"*Ghosts*" by Reilly Everitt-Cunningham, St. Paul
 Teacher: Vladimir Koledin

We would also like to thank all teachers who made submissions and school reps who promoted this contest within their sites.



First Pay Cheque in the New Year Comes Early

There has been a lot of divided opinion expressed on the early start to the next school year. Classes in Wellington will begin on Tuesday September 1, rather than the usual post-Labour Day start.

If you're looking for a positive on this, here's one. Because our contract calls for the first pay cheque of each school year to be on the second Tuesday of classes, an unintended result of the timetable change is that the first pay will now occur on September 8 (rather than the 15th had the school year started after Labour Day) This means there will not be a three week period between the last pay in August and the first in September, at least for this year, as there would have been without the change.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATION COURSES RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OECTA - OCSTA

SUMMER 2009 PARTS 1 & 2 GUELPH

First Session Saturday, June 20, 2009
 Final Session: Friday, July 10, 2009
 Times: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
 Class Dates: June 20 (Saturday)
 1st Week Summer: Jun 30 & Jul 1, 2, 3, 4
 2nd Week Summer: July 6, 7, 8, 9, 10

Special Note: July 3, 4 will involve a two day retreat experience at the Loyola House Retreat Centre at the Ignatius Jesuit Centre just north of Guelph. There will be an additional cost for this experience which will provide accommodation for the night (July 3) and meals for the two days. Total cost per person will be approx. \$120. Tuition cheques (\$500) are in addition to, and separate from, the retreat fees.

Contact Richard Olson for more information, if required.

Location: Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic H.S., Guelph.
 Tuition Fee: \$500
 Retreat Fee: Approx. \$200
 Registration: Send ASAP a cheque for \$500 payable to OECTA to:
 Mr. Richard Olson
 Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic High School
 54 Westmount Road, Guelph, ON N1H 5H7

EDUCATING FOR THE COMMON GOOD BIENNIAL CONFERENCE 2009

Beyond the Curriculum is the theme of this year's Educating for the Common Good Conference, taking place August 20 – 22 at the Hilton Toronto Airport in Mississauga. Registration deadline is July 24.

Guest speakers include the Honourable Flora MacDonald, a former MP and Cabinet Minister, and the founder of Generations Canada, a grassroots organization helping the Afghanistan people to rebuild their country; Stephen Scharper, an Assistant Professor, Department and Centre for the Study of Religion at the University of Toronto, who has written extensively on religion, ethics, and the environment, globalization, and human rights; Michelle Dagnino, social justice advocate and youth culture expert, and Shannon Hogan, executive assistant in OECTA's Professional Development Department.

Delegates will participate in three workshops on issues ranging from making curriculum connections to global education, to educating students on what's right in developing countries, and spirituality within Catholic teaching.

Beyond the Curriculum is open to all OECTA members, but space is limited to 200 delegates. Registration is on a first come, first served basis and must be made online on www.oecta.on.ca. For conference information call Provincial Office at 1-800-268-7230 and ask for Susan Perry, ext 309, or Shannon Hogan, ext. 310.

Beyond the curriculum

BIENNIAL CONFERENCE: EDUCATING FOR THE COMMON GOOD

Speakers:

The Honourable Flora MacDonald
Founder
Future Generations Canada*

Dr. Stephen Scharper
Associate Professor
Centre for the Study of Religion
and the Centre for Environment
University of Toronto

Shannon Hogan
Executive Assistant
Professional Development Department
Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association

August 20-22, 2009
Hilton Toronto Airport
5875 Airport Road, Mississauga

Registration Deadline:
July 24, 2009

ONTARIO ENGLISH
Catholic Teachers
ASSOCIATION

www.oecta.on.ca

SUMMER PROGRAMS for Wellington Teachers —OECTA and the Board

OECTA SUMMER PROGRAMS

There will be no regular OECTA "Summer Institute" programs offered this summer. Depending on response, provincial OECTA is planning to offer some programs for occasional teachers. OECTA is offering a range of Additional Qualifications offerings (see info below and on provincial website)

The Board, however, will be offering a full slate of PD opportunities for teachers with its Summer Literacy and Numeracy Programs—See panel to right)

OECTA AQs

For Information on Religious Education AQ see page 4.

OECTA is offering three new AQ courses this summer:

Kindergarten

Teaching Combined Grades

Mathematics: Grades 7 and 8

The new courses will run August 4-20.

OECTA is also offering the following AQ courses from July 7 to July 30, 2009:

ESL Part I

FSL Part I

Integration of Technology in the Classroom Part I

Mathematics: Primary/Junior Part I

Primary Education Part I, Part II and III

Reading Part I, II and III

Special Education Part I, II and III

All courses run in various locations across Ontario, Tuesday to Thursday, starting at 8:00 a.m. for seven hours, unless otherwise posted. Course fees are \$650 and participants may pay by Visa, MasterCard or cheque.

OECTA's AQ courses are accredited by the Ontario College of Teachers and are open to all teachers in Ontario. Spaces are limited, so register early!

Want an AQ Course offered in your area?

OECTA is willing to assist teachers in establishing AQ courses in their local areas. If you have a minimum of 10 teachers interested in taking an AQ course, call the Professional Development Department: 1-800-268-7230.

Wellington Catholic Summer Literacy & Numeracy Programs

Primary: *Strategies for Reading Non-Fiction*
Kindergarten to Grade 3 July 6 and 7

Primary:
Teaching Mathematics through Problem Solving, How and Why?
Kindergarten to Grade 3 July 8 and 9

Junior and Intermediate: *Critical Literacy*
Grade 4 and up July 6 and 7

Junior and Intermediate: *Making Math Accessible to Every Student*
Grade 4 and up July 8 and 9

Intermediate: *Differentiated Instruction*
Grade 7 through 10 August 19 and 20

- These programs are open to all teachers, supply teachers, occasional teachers, librarians, SERTS, and administrators
- All programs will take place at St. Michael School, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- Lunch and refreshments are provided
- To register for primary summer programs, please e-mail Deb Watters through First Class or at debbie_watters@wellingtoncssb.edu.on.ca
- To register for junior/intermediate summer programs, please email Cathy Chaput through First Class or at cathy_chaput@wellingtoncssb.edu.on.ca



PEDOMETER CHALLENGE: A HIT

Over 300 individuals in Wellington Catholic have signed on to participate in the "Wellington Walks" pedometer challenge jointly sponsored by OECTA, OSSTF and the Board.

The walk is part of OECTA's TRIFIT wellness program. Stay tuned for future TRIFIT events and programs coming in the new school year.

PROVINCIAL NEWS

Teachers should deliver full-day learning program to 4- and 5-year olds (OECTA NEWS RELEASE June 15, 2009)

Ontario's Catholic teachers say that Dr. Charles Pascal has missed a golden opportunity to deliver the best program for Ontario's school age children.

"The research and our own experience shows that a full-day Kindergarten program delivered by certified teachers is superior to a half-day Kindergarten and half-day child care program as is proposed," says Elaine Mac Neil, president of the Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association (OECTA). Nine Catholic School Boards currently deliver a successful full day program.

Responding to the report, "With Our Best Future in Mind – Implementing Early Learning in Ontario," OECTA says that a full-day-of-learning program should provide opportunities for 4- and 5-year-olds to learn and that members of the teaching profession must deliver this education, says Mac Neil.

"Teachers are best qualified to address the needs of their students and also to provide the care they need," Mac Neil says. "Parents understand that teachers are most suited to achieve both these goals and have confidence in the profession to do so."

OECTA's position on full-day Kindergarten has been consistent since Dr. Pascal began his work. Certified teachers as defined under the Education Act and regulations, should deliver any expanded junior and senior Kindergarten program.

"It is also clear that certified teachers, more so than paraprofessionals, can provide both learning and care. Teachers can balance learning through play and readying children for formal education. And finally, the research shows that when programs are adequately funded children succeed," Mac Neil says. OECTA has presented this position in its brief and in face-to-face meetings with Dr. Pascal.

Mac Neil says that currently children entering Grade 1 bring a wide variety of experiences. "In addition to their varied socio-economic backgrounds, there are also substantial variances in their cognitive, emotional and social abilities. A full-day Kindergarten program provides an opportunity to level the playing field for every child, thus equipping them with greater chances of success."

School Information Finder labels local communities

(OECTA NEWS RELEASE June 5, 2009)

The Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association, OECTA, is calling on the Ontario government to shut down its School Information Finder (SIF) website, because of the kind of demographic information it provides. OECTA president Elaine Mac Neil says that the SIF has the potential to stigmatize school communities by focusing on labels and test results that use a narrowly defined measurement of student achievement upon which the government is becoming highly dependent.

The SIF initiative is not in keeping with the government's ambition to build confidence in publicly funded education, she says. "Student achievement is not increased by providing a means to identify schools that may be deemed inferior by some people."

"Encouraging parents to shop for schools on the basis of narrow demographic and family data about school communities doesn't improve education. Decisions about which school parents choose for their children should be based on visits to local schools."

Making it possible for parents to shop and move students in and out of schools, panders to the stereotypical attitudes that the Ministry is trying to erase in its new Equity and Inclusive Education Strategy, says Mac Neil. "It would be better to continue to invest in the success of every school instead."

OECTA, representing 36,000 elementary and secondary teachers in Ontario's Catholic schools, is one of 21 education stakeholder groups representing parents, principals, trustees, school boards and directors of education, who are calling on Education Minister Kathleen Wynne and Premier McGuinty to remove the SIF.

LOCAL NEWS—MORE GOOD NEWS STORIES



REPS NIGHT AT THE RACES AND LITERACY WINS

As a thank you for their service this year, all OECTA sites reps were invited to a night at the races at Grand River Raceway in Elora. As a group, OECTA was the sponsor of one of the races and given the opportunity to have a picture taken in the Winners Circle.

Intriguingly the winning horse's name was, who'da thunk it, - LITERACY.

LTD rates to decrease again.

Corporate Benefits Analysts (CBA), our unit's LTD consultant, has again informed us that Sun Life will be providing a further decrease of 5% to LTD rates. This is the third consecutive year that the LTD premium rate has decreased. Last year the rate declined by 11%.

The LTD rate is now 36% lower than the 2001 level when CBA was initially retained by Wellington OECTA.

Sun Life has continued with the practice of presenting their proposed renewal action early while maintaining a September 1 effective date.

In 2001, after the carrier suggested that yet another substantial increase in premium rates would occur, Wellington OECTA hired CBA to investigate opportunities to control our rates. With some modest changes to the plan design recommended by CBA, we went out to the open market, in spite of the caution of the Board's benefit consultant. We went to tender and received four proposals all proposing significant reductions in rates, including the current carrier.

Since then, CBA has regularly reviewed our plan, offered advice on LTD and other benefit areas and worked with our carrier to maintain more effective management of our LTD rates. Without significant further changes to our plan, we have continued to see an overall decline in our LTD rates since that time.

ANNUAL TED BACHUSKY MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

The annual golf tournament in memory of Ted Bachusky was held on Thursday June 11 at Guelph Country Club. Despite some unruly weather, a good time was had by all. The winning foursome is pictured below.



Brian Burns (right) presents trophy to Meleti and Deanne Melehes, and Candice and Frank Occhiuto, winners of Wellington's Annual Ted Bachusky Memorial Golf Tournament.





THANK YOU

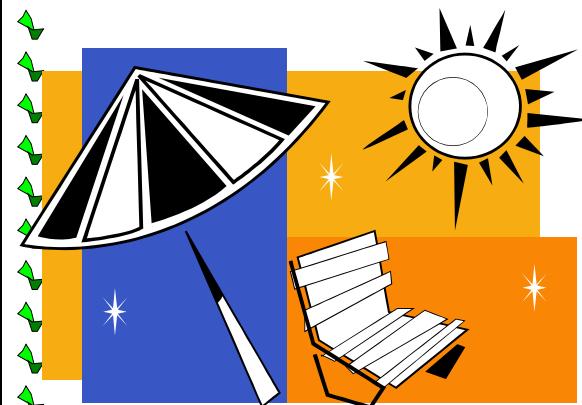
As another school year comes to an end, on behalf of all members of Wellington OECTA, I would like to thank the following:

- ... the members of the **Unit Executive** who served this year, attending multiple monthly meetings and making important decisions on behalf of Wellington OECTA members. A particular thanks to my fellow release officers **George Giovinazzo** and **Judy Mullen** for their work this year.
- ... a very special thank you to **Lynda Franchetto**, who is retiring this year, for her many years of service to OECTA
- ... all **associations reps** who faithfully served our members in schools and other locations during this past school year, by attending meetings (sometimes long meetings), distributing and collecting material, advocating, mediating, problem solving, and sticking their necks out for all of us. These front-line workers are the key to our success as a union.
- ... all **members** who served on OECTA committees, attended OECTA events and supported their professional association throughout the year.
- ... the **AGM delegation** who sacrificed the first weekend of March Break to attend our provincial Annual General Meeting as representatives of Wellington unit.
- ... our **faithful Wellington Works readers** who take the time to be informed and to care about the issues and each other.
- ... and, yes, the **Board staff and administrators** who have helped make our lives here at Wellington Unit Office interesting, sometimes challenging and at times even frustrating, yet in the end, mostly positive, rewarding, and fruitful. Your compassion, commitment and open communication is acknowledged and appreciated.

Enjoy your much deserved break!

JIM WHITECHURCH,
Wellington Unit President

Have a safe,
restful
and
happy summer.



See you
in
September!!!