

Wellington Works



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

November December 2010

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 17th and will not re-open until January 2nd. We will check messages throughout 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.



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Elementary Report Card Task Force Established

Wellington Unit has established a task force to review the recent experience with the new elementary Progress Report. In November, Wellington Catholic Elementary Schools issued new Progress Reports as prescribed by the Ministry document "Growing Success".

A number of members have expressed many concerns with the new report and the process for completion.

The scope of the committee will not be limited but some of the areas to be considered will include:

- Workload issues – homeroom teacher, itinerant teachers, planning teachers
- Expectations - what needs to be commented on, "professional judgment"
- Timelines – timing of reports, timing of PD prep day, Quiet period
- Technology and technical issues
- Training/ Inservicing
- New IEPs
- Process for Completion – cut & paste method, handling of corrections
- Follow-up after reports – parent interviews, class reviews.
- Any other issues identified by individual members through surveys or by the committee

SEE PAGE 5 for more info



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ONTARIO ENGLISH
Catholic Teachers
ASSOCIATION

Important Information on YOUR Benefits



Change in life Event

If you have recently experienced, or will experience a change in life event, e.g. birth of child/adoption, change in marital status, or loss of spousal coverage, it is important to be aware of deadlines for notification of the Board of these changes.

If you get married, give birth or adopt and you wish to add your spouse or child to your benefits you must request this within 31 days of your dependent becoming eligible for coverage (i.e. wedding date, birth/adoption date).

If you do not request coverage within this time limit, you will have to provide proof of good health by completing a medical statement that is submitted directly to Sun Life for determination of extended health coverage. Upon receiving the medical statement, Sun Life's medical underwriter will determine if further medical is required (at your own expense), if coverage is approved, if coverage is denied, or if restrictions are placed on the coverage. Dental coverage can be added immediately upon request, however there are restrictions for the first year of coverage.

It is very important that you contact the Board Office within the specified time limits to ensure that you do not risk denial by Sun Life for dependent benefit coverage.

If you have a change in marital status you must notify the Board Office immediately to make any necessary changes to your benefit coverage. Please be aware that spousal coverage will end at such time as a divorce is finalized. With any change in marital status you may want to review your beneficiary for life insurance. A Change in Beneficiary form would need to be completed for this change to occur.

Should your spouse lose benefit coverage with his/her employer please contact us immediately to remove any coordination of benefit information or, if necessary, to add your spouse to your benefit plan effective the date of the loss of his/her coverage.

Please contact Josie Bramhill at the Board Office for the necessary forms for any of the above.

Did you know???

There is lots of information on benefits on First Class.

- Log onto First Class
- from your desktop double-click Wellington CDSB Information
- double Click Human Resources Folder

In this folder you will find a number of folders with information that may be of interest to you including employment opportunities,, wellness, health and safety, and benefit information

- If you double click on Benefits/Compensation/Pensions you will find information and various forms on your health benefits.

Some examples include:

- How to make benefit claims electronically
- Updated claims forms
- Emergency travel assistance



Important Information on YOUR Benefits



Do more, see more ... online

Signing on as a member to Sun Life Financial's Plan Member Services website allows you easy access to a range of services related to your benefits plan.

It's easy. Visit www.sunlife.ca/member and register for your Access ID and password.

Online Member Services include:

Coverage

- Get details of your medical and dental coverage.
- Look up drug information.

Claims

- Submit a drug, dental or vision care claim.
- Print personalized claim forms.
- View a claim statement.
- View claims history.

Wellness centre

- Complete your Wellness Assessment.
- Create and store your Personal Health Record.
- Visit the Health Library – more than 6,000 health topics.
- Search the Medication Library – information on over 10,000 drugs.

Pay-Direct Drug card

- Print your personalized Pay-Direct Drug card.

Secure messages

- Too busy to call with your questions? Send a secure message to Sun Life.



Top 5 benefits of paperless claims processing

1. **Member Experience:** Claims are processed faster, clients receive reimbursement sooner, and fewer claims are lost or misplaced
2. **Sustainability:** Helps benefits providers reduce their carbon footprint, and achieve corporate and environmental sustainability goals
3. **Customer service:** Easier tracking from the time the claims is registered in our processing system, allowing for quicker response times to plan member questions
4. **Fraud:** Another tool to help insurers combat benefits fraud and abuse
5. **Accuracy:** Decreases the number of data entry errors

Some recent changes for those who still wish to file paper claims

Dental and Extended Health Claim Forms were recently updated. This information was previously communicated in September and updated forms were distributed to each site.

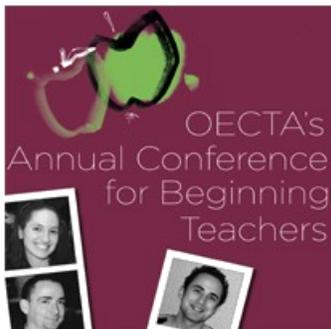
Submission of paper claims no longer goes to the Toronto office but to the new Waterloo address appearing on the updated form.

The new address for extended health and dental claims:

Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada
P.O. Box 2010 Stn Waterloo
Waterloo, Ontario N2J 0A6

These claim forms can also be found on the Sun Life website if you have registered for access to your benefits online as well as on First Class Email (See info on page 2).

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. 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.

Wellington has been allocated 6 delegates spots, 3 sponsored by provincial and 3 sponsored by the local unit. 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.

Reading for the Love of It Conference 2011



With the help of some creative funding, we will be able to send close to 30 delegates to the 2011 Reading for the Love of It Conference to be held February 10-11 in Niagara Falls. The original Joint PD Budget would have allowed about half of that. Because of the high demand, a one-time additional amount was added and Program Department through Paula Dawson, was also able to provide some additional Ministry funds for schools designated as "Schools in the Middle". This allowed Wellington OECTA and the Board to deal with a significant backlog of people wishing to attend this conference again, after several years of PD Funds being unavailable. We hope all of our delegates enjoy their "Reading for the Love of It" experience!

News release

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World Class results from a World Class School System Ontario students among the best in the world

December 7, 2010

Ontario students continue to be among the top-achieving students in the world, according to the results of the 2009 Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) released today by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

Ontario's 15 year-olds were second only to Shanghai, and statistically the same as six other jurisdictions, in performance in reading. Furthermore, Ontario's results are among the best of all participating jurisdictions in North and South America.

"These results prove that Ontario is on the right track," says James Ryan, President of the Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association. "Our schools and our teacher are great, and that translates into the excellent results that we continue to see from our students."

Noted as one of the few jurisdictions in the world with both high achievement in reading and a relatively small performance gap between students from high and low income households, Ontario continues to close the learning gap and reduce the effects of socio-economic challenges on students' learning.

"All parties should celebrate the fact that Ontario's education system is among the best in the world," adds Ryan. "The support of the government combined with the hard work and dedication of Ontario teachers is ensuring that our students can compete on the global scale."

PISA is an international, random sample, standardized assessment of reading, mathematical and scientific literacy initiated by the OECD and administered every three years to 15-year-olds. In 2009, 65 countries participated in the assessment, including 4083 students from Ontario.



Important Information for Occasional Teachers

Meeting with Human Resources

- Representatives from the unit met with HR admin on December 9 to review statistical reports and address issues with the distribution of Occasional teacher work.

Unit By-law Changes

- A number of changes to unit by-laws were approved at the Fall general meeting. One change of direct interest to OTs is that the election of the unit's Occasional VP will now occur at the general meeting of Occasional Teachers each fall rather than as part of Unit election at end of school year.

OTBLU Representatives

- Bargaining Unit representatives for Occasional Teachers were elected at OT General meeting held October 27

OTBLU Officers

President - Nancy Baker

Treasurer - Yvonne Bendo

Secretary - Roy Coughlin
(also Collective Bargaining Rep)

Also elected as rep for OTs to the unit Reps Council was Ginny Rigby.

OT Info on First Class

- Occasional teacher members are reminded to check First Class for important information. All OTs have access to the OECTA conference and there are a number of specific conferences for OTs within that conference as well. All unit correspondence and newsletters are now sent only through First Class.

Visit our local website at www.oectawellington.ca

Unit Committees Active

As part of its goal to improve communication and to encourage involvement in Wellington OECTA, the Unit executive has been striving to establish a more active committee system this year.

Budget Committee

The unit budget committee mandate has been clearly defined and meeting dates for the year have been set. The committee has responsibility for reviewing and preparing the unit budget, reporting to unit executive on the unit's financial situation at regular times throughout the year, reviewing of requests for financial assistance etc.

Members: George Giovinazzo (chair), John Maschio, Kevin Reid, Laurence Vignola, Heather Frimeth

Legislation Committee

The committee has responsibility for the unit bylaws and procedures, including unit election process, and for provincial AGM resolutions.

Members: John Maschio (chair), Nancy Baker, Marty Bell, Jim Whitechurch

OT Committee

The committee has responsibility for reviewing supply callout statistics and making recommendations to the Unit Executive on issues of concern to Wellington's occasional teachers.

Members: Nancy Baker (chair), Roy Coughlin, Yvonne Bendo, Ginny Rigby, Michael Carere, Dina Fisher, Jim Whitechurch (ex-officio)

Report Card Task Force

Wellington Unit has established a task force to review the recent experience with the new Progress Report. A number of members have expressed many concerns with the new report and the process for completion.

While the primary focus of the Task Force will be the recent experience of the new Progress reports, it is likely that some of the investigation may lead into concerns and recommendations around the regular report cards as well as IEPs.

Members: Heather Frimeth, Jim Whitechurch, Linda Artuso-Jacobi Jacquie Jansen-Fazzari, Ed McAnany, Margaret O'Gorman,

In the new year the following committees will also begin work and members will be encouraged to join in the process

Communication and Public Relations Committee

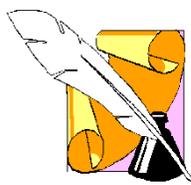
This committee will meet in the new year to look at all aspects of how we communicate with membership and explore ways to improve our Communications and PR.

Political Action Committee

With a provincial election to be held in fall of 2011, this committee will look at local political action strategies for this important event.

Watch for further info on these and other local committees.

PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING A LOCAL COMMITTEE!



Young Authors Awards

The annual OECTA Young Authors Awards/ Prix Jeunes Écrivains celebrates the writing talents of students and the teaching talents of their teachers. Each year, students submit short stories, poems, nonfiction articles and reports in both English and French. The first place winners at the school level advance to the unit level and then to the Provincial competition.

School Reps have been provided with information and entry forms for this year's contest. We are encouraging all teachers to submit examples of student work to this contest.

Wellington has a long tradition of involvement and success in this program and we are hoping that teachers will continue to showcase the work of students in Wellington Catholic.

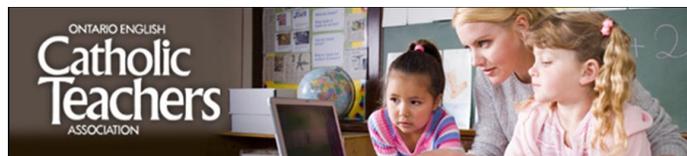
Winning entries receive acknowledgment in Wellington Works, prizes and certificates for their efforts and a collection of the provincial winning entries is published in book form each year.

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

ONTARIO ENGLISH
**Catholic
Teachers**
ASSOCIATION



Sign up for OECTA Members Centre

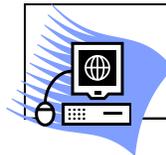
To create an account on OECTA's website:

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

EI and CPP contributions start again in January

Depending on the salary you are earning, you will notice a change in your first pay cheque in January. This is not new. Every year, the contributions for these two government programs "max-out" for many teachers at the higher end of the salary scale sometime in the latter part of the year. As such, those people receive no deductions at some point in the fall. Then the deductions start up again in January and the cycle repeats. This is typical of most boards across the province.



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www.oectawellington.ca

