

Welcome Back!

Here we are and it's September again. Every year, the summer seems to get a little shorter, but that extra week without pay wasn't fun! That first paycheck is always welcome. There are a few new things on your pay stub, so make sure you read this entire issue of Chalktalk.

There have been quite a few changes at OECTA since the last edition. Mike Devoy is now our President and is settling into his new role nicely. Warren has moved on to Provincial as our Third Vice President and has had to return to teaching. He is a planning time teacher in Cambridge. He is greatly missed at the office. Warren always made the job of President seem effortless, but we're all learning quite quickly how much work it really is. The "we" now also includes Christine Stockie as the new Vice President for Secondary teachers. The third member of your office executive team is me, Patrick Etmanski. I've been here a few years and am happy to be back again to serve the Elementary teachers. I'm also pleased to again be the editor of "Chalktalk". Julius Pasca-Hossu did the job last year but has moved on to other endeavours in another school board. I hope I can maintain the high standard that Julius set last year and I hope you enjoy Chalktalk this year.

Please contact me or the office staff at OECTA Waterloo if you have anything you'd like to see in an upcoming edition of our newsletter....Chalktalk.

President's Message

I am very excited to be acting on your behalf, as the President of our Unit. After more than a decade of involvement with our Unit, in a variety of capacities, stepping up to the responsibility of being President is invigorating. I have always been impressed by the variety of services performed by OECTA to improve teaching and learning conditions.

This year is off to a running start. With this being the first full year under the new contract, we'll be working hard to implement all the gains that were negotiated. Of course, the increase of 3% in salaries and allowances has been reflected on our first paycheques. As a reminder, this now places us at a financial advantage over our ETFO peers. Working conditions have also been improved, with elementary planning time increased by 10 minutes per week, a slight restructuring of supervision time, and secondary supervision reduced to 1340 minutes for the year. Work will continue with staffing committees and professional development committees.

The work of the Local Unit doesn't get accomplished only by the people in the office. The members of the Elected Table Officers, Committees, and Staff Reps all contribute many hours of their personal time on your behalf. Often, these people's efforts go unnoticed, because they make things run so smoothly. I want to publicly extend my heartfelt thanks to them, and I look forward to working with them in the coming year.

Mike Devoy

Upcoming Events

October 1

Bryan Mahn retirement

October 5

World Teachers' Day

October 8

Fall Social @ Eidelweiss
4 p.m. **FREE** food & bev.

October 14

Social Committee Meeting

October 14

ETO @ OECTA

October 16

PA Day - Spiritual Dev.

October 19

Executive Council
@ St. Mary's

November 2

Unit Mass @ St. Mary's
H.S. Chapel 4:00 p.m.

November 6

PA Day
Elem. - Report Cards
Sec. - School Based

OECTA Fees Explained

Every teacher contributes towards the operation of OECTA, which supports both Provincial and Local organizations. For day school elementary and secondary teachers, our pay stub now shows three OECTA fee deductions. OECTA fees are deducted twenty times throughout the year, since they are not deducted during the summer or the third pay of a three pay month. The basic fee is \$950 per school year for a full time teacher, which is described as "Fed Dues" on our pay cheque; this is a deduction of \$47.50. At the last OECTA Annual General Meeting, a new fee was approved for the member protection fund. This fee is described as "OECTA VAR" and is calculated as 0.12% of salary. The Local levy is set at \$78 per school year and is described on our pay cheque as "OECTA LEVY". This is a deduction of \$3.90.



From the Secondary Vice-President's Desk

The following article represents my first foray into the world of Chalktalk - ever! Effective September 1, 2009, I am pleased to be representing the Waterloo OECTA Unit as Secondary Vice-President.

For those readers who have not had the opportunity to meet me or work with me, I'd like to share with you some of my most memorable statistics: I have been teaching with the Waterloo Catholic District School Board for fifteen years (1 year at Monsignor Doyle, and the rest at St. Benedict); I still hold the record for being the "most redundant teacher" ever in the history of this Board (at 4 2/3 years); I have outlasted 23 administrators at my current school; I have taught approximately 27000 students from the city of Cambridge; I was part of the negotiating team for our previous 2 contracts; I have served in the Waterloo OECTA Unit in various capacities for 9 years, while under the reign of 4 different Presidents.

I am currently teaching in the Mathematics Department at St. Benedict high school during first period only, but will be available at the OECTA Office each day after about 11:00 am. Please know that it is my intention to be available to you, our members, to answer any of your questions, field comments or concerns, or to support you in times of need.

Chris Stockie



World Teacher Day Monday October 5

Teachers are a significant part of everyone's life. They show their students the right path and groom them to become better citizens and better people. They teach them to face the most difficult challenges of life and get through them, easily. World Teacher's Day is celebrated to pay tribute to teachers, who have dedicated a considerable part of their life to impart moral and academic knowledge to their students.

So let's celebrate YOU - hug a teacher today!

Another "New Kid on the Block"

OECTA Waterloo is pleased to welcome Paul Sousa as this year's President of Occasional Teachers. Paul comes to us with YEARS of experience as a daily occasional teacher and has dedicated much of his time on negotiating teams, striving to improve working conditions for this panel of teachers.

Paul will now be working out of the OECTA Waterloo office every Wednesday, and can be reached by calling (519) 744-8051. If you would like to meet with Paul, please call the office to make an appointment. He is also available to answer any questions you might have by accessing his Board e-mail account (paul.sousa@wcdsb.ca).



Now that we have your attention, we'd like to invite you to come out on Thursday, October 8th from 4:00 - 6:00 for our 3rd Annual OECTA Fall Social. This event is being held at the Edelweiss Tavern, 600 Doon Village Road, Kitchener, and promises to be a terrific time. Heartfelt thanks to Johnson's Insurance for sponsoring this event!

If you are planning to attend, we ask that you bring a non-perishable food item for our Region's Thanksgiving Food Drive. Hope to see you there!

The next Social Committee meeting is Tuesday October 13 @ OECTA beginning at 4:00 p.m. All are welcome!



OECTA Leadership Training Program 2009-2010

OECTA's Leadership Training Program reflects the Association's commitment to training strong teacher advocates and activists at the local and provincial levels. The program includes a year of foundational training, followed by specialized training in areas of membership service.

In year one, participants will gain a broad foundation of knowledge and skills in such areas as collective bargaining, communications, contract administration, leadership, and professional relations, to name a few. At the conclusion of year one, trainees will be awarded a Certificate of Foundational Training. In the second year of specialized training, participants may choose to study from many different areas, including collective bargaining, conflict resolution, member support or health and safety.

Costs for these Toronto courses will be entirely covered by OECTA, including release time, travel, accommodation, and program costs.

How can you apply? Applications forms are available on the OECTA Provincial website at www.oecta.on.ca. Please speak to Michael, Patrick or Chris at the Waterloo office if you have questions about the application process. Deadline for submissions is September 30, 2009.

"Recognizing our uniqueness as teachers in Catholic schools, we are an Association committed to the advancement of Catholic education.
As teacher advocates we provide professional services, support, protection and leadership."
OECTA Mission Statement

October is Women's History Month

Proclaimed in 1992 by the Government of Canada, Women's History Month provides an opportunity for Canadians to learn about the important contributions of women and girls over time to our society - and to the quality of our lives in the 21st century.

In recognition of this focus for the month of October, to celebrate the large percentage of women that comprise the teachers in our Board, and to model ourselves after a similar OECTA Provincial initiative, we in Waterloo would like to consider adopting a new committee: *The Status of Women's Committee*. We are calling on anyone interested in enhancing the status of women in society, reaching out to community-based women's organizations, or investigating the status of women locally and internationally, to contact their school staff rep or the OECTA office directly to find out more information.



NEW

Puzzle Corner

ChalkTalk welcomes anyone who cannot put down Sudokus; those who just keep their hands off their Rubic's Cube; people who dream in matrices... Welcome to the Puzzle Corner! It's our attempt to get you the reader engaged in our little publication. Look for a new puzzle in every issue.

In keeping with our "let's get you engaged" theme, the first 3 teachers who FAX IN COMPLETED, CORRECT answers to this issue's puzzle corner will receive a rather impressive prize - of course, very teacher-oriented.
Good luck!

SUDOKU

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FAQ's What can I use my personal obligation days for?

Personal Obligation Leave days were negotiated in order to provide teachers with the opportunity, without loss of pay or credit, to attend to those urgent personal matters which come up in life. Examples are, but are not limited to, meeting with a lawyer to close the sale of your house, attending a child's doctor appointment, attending a significant family event that is out of town and requires your presence. Personal Obligation Leave Days are not intended to be used for your own personal doctor appointment, these are sick days. Nor are they to be used for non-urgent matters such as shopping, golfing, etc.

Personal Obligation Leave Days must be pre-booked with your principal, unless in emergency.

OECTA / EDVANTAGE Number

Did you realize that the number on your OECTA membership card is also your EDVANTAGE number?
Yes, they are one in the same!



If you need an OECTA Membership card please call the OECTA Office for assistance.

Contact Us:

Michael Devoy: president@oectawaterloo.on.ca
Chris Stockie: vp-secondary@oectawaterloo.on.ca
Patrick Etmanski: vp-elementary@oectawaterloo.on.ca
Paul Sousa: vp-occasional@oectawaterloo.on.ca
Office Email: office@oectawaterloo.on.ca



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Mark Devlin

Councillor Secondary:
Rob Purificato

Unit Office Secretaries:
Catherine Kuhn
Jennifer Flanagan



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