



OECTA - Waterloo Unit

# Chalktalk

[www.oectawaterloo.on.ca](http://www.oectawaterloo.on.ca)

## President's Message

Welcome back to another year. Right now most of you are just recovering from the initial flurry of activity of setting up classes and courses as the school year began. I wish I could say that it looks like it will be a smooth and easy year ahead of us but there are significant challenges that lie on our horizon.

Each of you is aware that we are in the midst of a Provincial election. Education is already a hot topic in this election with John Tory raising creationism, faith based school funding and the EQAO scores right out of the gate. The Liberals have introduced the concept of full-day every-day kindergarten, support for post secondary students and continued movement to reduce class sizes, recognizing for the first time that junior class sizes are in need of reduction as well as primary. While the Liberals may not always do what we want they have proven over the

### New VP Secondary

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By: Michael Devoy

With the beginning of this school year, Grace da Silva has been seconded to a position at Provincial OECTA. She has taken a one year position in Counselling and Member Services. In her new position, Grace will be assisting teachers who have difficulties in their professional and personal lives that affect their work, specifically involving investigations from police, Children's Aid Society or the College of Teachers.

In Grace's absence, I will be assuming her responsibilities. I have been a teacher at both Monsignor Doyle and St. David and been involved with OECTA for many years in positions that include Treasurer, Recording Secretary, Secondary Counsellor, and a member of the our negotiating team. I look forward to taking on this new responsibility and assisting you. Feel free to contact me at the OECTA office by phone at 744-8051.

#### Up-coming Events

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Fri. Oct. 5  
P.A. Day

Mon. Oct. 8  
Thanksgiving

Wed. Oct. 10  
Provincial  
Election

*ETO*  
Mon. Oct. 15  
4:15 p.m.  
Edelweiss

*Executive  
Council*  
Mon. Oct 15  
7:00 p.m.  
St. Mary's H. S.



## President's Message from Page 1

past four years to be willing to listen and adapt their positions and policies as we implement change.

We encourage you to be involved in the local campaigns for which ever party you support. Post signs, attend all candidates meetings, write letters to the editor, distribute flyers...there are countless things you can do. Phone your local candidates campaign office to offer your support.

OECTA provincial has endorsed the following candidates locally:

Kitchener Waterloo	
Louise Ervin	Liberal
Catherine Fife	NDP
Kitchener Centre	
John Milloy	Liberal
Kitchener-Conestogo	
Leeanne Pendergast	Liberal
Cambridge	
Kathryn McGarry	Liberal

We will assist in communicating to the various campaigns any names of people willing to work at the campaign office, put up signs etc.

This is also a negotiating year. This means that in August 2008 our current collective agreement will come to an end. The outcome of the election will strongly influence negotiations. During our last round of negotiations the Province stepped up to the plate with a template from which we could negotiate our local agreements.

I encourage you to begin thinking about those things you would like us to bring to the table this round. A call for team members and surveys will be circulated early in the new year. It is important that we get as

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## ***Unit Executive***

President  
Warren Grafton

Past President  
Bill Brazeau

Treasurer  
Anton Milardovic

Vice President and  
CEO Elementary  
Patrick Etmanski

Vice President and  
CEO Occasional  
Carl Davey

Vice President and  
CEO Secondary  
Michael Devoy

Recording Secretary  
Melissa Garrett

Councillor Elementary  
Virginia Hansraj

Councillor Elementary  
Samantha Brehm

Councillor Occasional  
Paul Sousa

Councillor Secondary  
Mark Devlin

Councillor Secondary  
Ed Wyse

### **Unit Office Secretaries**

Catherine Kuhn  
Barbara Morrison

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much feedback as possible from you. Let us know

what you think, what causes you difficulty, what you want for salary etc. We need your help in putting together a proposal.

We also need your help with local level committees. Each committee has its' own budget to direct to the priorities of the local Unit. Without input from members active in the classroom these committees are in danger of not serving your needs. Experience is not necessary to sit on a committee and each committee is open to all members of the Unit (Elementary, Occasional and Secondary teachers). Committees make a great introduction to the Unit without a huge time commitment – most committees meet 4-5 times a year.

We look forward to serving you this year please feel free to call the office with your concerns and needs. If you can help out we would appreciate it but we also know you are extremely busy. Let us know what we can do for you but most of all this year take the time to enjoy your family, your students and your work. Have a great year!

Do you have anything to contribute to Chalktalk?

Email your articles to  
[vp-elementary@oectawaterloo.on.ca](mailto:vp-elementary@oectawaterloo.on.ca)

Can you find the joke in this issue?

Email me...first 3 correct answers get a prize



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