Ea'sy talk



Issue: April 2015

Newsletter Representing Educational Assistants & Designated Early Childhood Educators

President's Message



WOW! Can you believe that we have just 2 months/8 weeks/ 38 work days left in this school year; where has the time gone? It certainly has been a very busy year as your President and the same applies to your Executive.

There is so much work left to accomplish before July; Central and Local Bargaining, staffing process for our Designated Early Childhood Educators and Educational Assistants, preparing for our Annual General Meeting and representing our members.

Although your Executive works diligently and goes above and beyond to ensure we are able to serve and protect our members there is another group of persons who are the grass roots-boots on the ground passionate contributors to the success of our Bargaining Unit – our SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVES.

Our Reps are often the unsung heroes working on behalf of the members at their work location/school. They are our front line representatives and the ambassadors for all of our members, especially for our supply members. We would like to sincerely THANK all of our School Representatives for all of the work they do on our behalf and to ensure our members receive information in a timely fashion. THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

Remember to thank your School Rep!

See you at our Annual General Meeting, Wednesday, May 20, 2015 at 5:15 pm

Patty Coates

Although care has been taken in preparing the information contained in this publication, accuracy can not be guaranteed. The opinions and views expressed do not necessarily reflect the opinions of OSSTF

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Your input and suggestions are always welcome. Please send them to the editor:

cindywhiddend17@gmail.com



<u>Submit</u> one of your <u>recipes</u> to have a <u>chance to win</u> a 6-booklet collection of recipes from the "Best Of The Milk Calendar Recipes" collection. All EA/DECE members of District 17 are welcome. The winning recipe will be featured in the next EA/DECE newsletter. Will you be the main course???

From My Kitchen To Yours

Brought to you from Cindy Whidden's Kitchen Please let the editor know if you like it when you make it.

Broccoli Salad

- 1 bunch of broccoli cut into bite size pieces
- 8 cooked bacon slices broken into bacon bits
- 1 cup of mild graded cheddar cheese
- 1 cup of Hellman's mayonnaise (please use Hellman's mayonnaise Only)
- 2 teaspoons white vinegar
- 3 tablespoons white sugar
- Combine the broccoli, bacon and cheese in a bowl
- Combine Hellman's mayonnaise, vinegar and sugar in a separate bowl and mix
- Add Hellman's mixture to broccoli mixture
- Let sit in fridge for 2 hours before serving

Get To Know Your Executive



Julie Lapierre EABU Vice President

As a member of our bargaining unit executive, I was asked to introduce myself and provide some personal information for this edition. Your editor of EASY talk, Cindy Whidden, hopes that in upcoming editions, you will get to know the members of your executive a little better.

I have been employed with the SMCDSB since September 1996. I am a single parent and I have two grown children. My daughter lives outside of Quebec City and my son is in the Military and has lived in Edmonton, Alberta for the past 6 years. As a parent it was exciting to see them grow and gain their independence but I had difficulty accepting the fact that they "had" grown and "had" gained their independence. With them gone, I had to come up with ways to fill the time and of course the biggest one has been our union. I started as the newsletter, editor moved on to recording secretary and am presently vicepresident and grievance officer. Every day is a wonderful challenge. When I am not representing you, the members, I enjoy reading, stained glass, walking, movies and relaxing at home. During the warmer weather you can find me in my backyard with a book in one hand and a beverage in the other.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and watch for more executive members being featured in the coming editions.

Your Executive

2014-2015

President

Patty Coates

Vice President

Julie Lapierre

Treasurer

Jennifer McQuirter

Recording Secretary

Cindy Whidden

Executive Officers

Diane Baldwin

Deb Rowles

Rita Gold-Nikolic

Michelle Pauze

New Member Rep

Christine Laciak

Health & Safety Officer

Rita Gold-Nikolic

Communication Officer

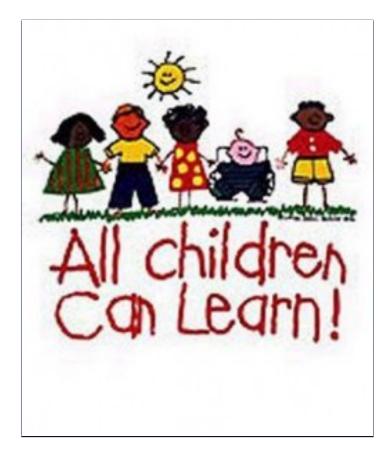
Cindy Whidden



St Joe's



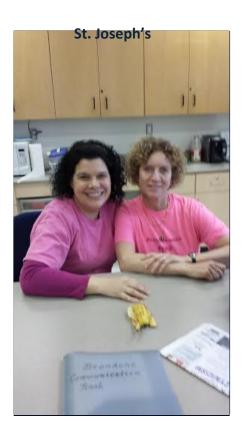




St. Marie of the Incarnation School EA and DECE social.



Celebration Of Pink













Celebration Of Pink







Annual Meeting of the Provincial Assembly

Perspectives of a Newbie

OSSTF's AMPA, (Annual Meeting of the Provincial Assembly) was held this year at the Sheraton Centre, Toronto on March 13-16. As a first time attender my hope was to gain a better understanding of the workings of our union. District 17 not only helped me to achieve that but showed me the magnitude of who we are as a union. Over 500 delegates attended representing over 66,000 members in 35 districts which are made up of 140 bargaining units.

I was actively a part of and witnessed the democratic process thriving in our union as OSSTF members listened to: our provincial candidates campaign for our vote for a seat on executive, members presenting, debating and voting on resolution changes to our constitution, watching provincial award ceremonies and listening to speeches from Paul Elliot, our president, announcing the Magnificent 7 and Liz Sandals, the Minister of Education and Andrea Horwath, the NDP leader give us their perspectives.

It's hard to give this event justice in a few words. I'll just say that my experience as an AMPA newbie was at times overwhelming yet informative, exciting and an incredible opportunity!

Donna Beischlag

AMPA 2015, an experience that will resonate enlightening moments spent with fellow District 17 members.

Attending as a delegate of D17, I witnessed the multitude of educators, and various operational staff that enhance the quality of education in Ontario.

Guest speakers that inspired members to reflect on the fundamental purpose and responsibilities we as educators have.

Provincial executives that strive to enhance the conditions in which members are able to continue to provide students with equal, inclusive, compassionate education in Ontario.

AMPA 2015, time spent with sisters and brothers that stand together to protect the integrity of education in Ontario.

Luciana Arabia

Delegate AMPA

Inspirational Thought:

2015

OSSTF FALL MATH FORUM

Two members of our Bargaining Unit attended a Math Forum hosted by OSSTF on Monday, October 20th 2014. Attendees at this forum experienced a day of keynote speakers, presentations and workshops on the new and innovated ways to bring math to the students in an inquiry based method in order to engage students at all levels. Your Executive sent two members Sylvia Gallo and Catherine Johnson. Below is their experience at the Forum:

At the Math Forum there was much discussion around "How to make Math Meaningful" for children. Inspired to use what I learned at the Math Forum in my Full Day Kindergarten, class I set out a "Trick or Treat" invitation to learning. I placed 50 Halloween treats, 4 chalkboards/chalk, 4 paper bags, and student photos on the Invitation to Learning table with minimal instruction, only the request to "not eat the treat!" This was a true test of self- regulation. Over the week, the children came to the provocation and independently investigated ideas around numeration, patterning, sorting and adding. I observed and documented their conversations, negotiations and mathematical thinking. This provocation allowed each child demonstrate thinking skills, encouraged problem solving and communicative skills in a familiar and authentic setting. I watched some students work in collaboration with one another, while others watched and were influenced by what they saw or heard from their peers. As the co- constructor of learning, I decided to minimally interrupt or influence play. I intentionally provided math language (add, equals, more, less...) to enhance their ability to reflect and talk about their learning.

Sylvia Gallo—DECE St. Mary's Collingwood Elementary

As someone who has worked in a kindergarten class as well as a senior high school math class, I had my reservations about a math forum that could cover the span. I was pleasantly surprise that OSSTF managed the daunting task so well. While some of the focus was the high school educators (as you would expect) there were entry points for learning opportunities at all levels of learning. The key note speaker made math engaging; looking at calendars - a kindergarten staple as well as an algebra lesson for high school. He also engaged with candy - simple charting of data for kindergarten to a more complex function for secondary learners. Break out sessions allowed for more focused discussion on language in math, applied and academic learners, early numeracy in play based classes etc. We wrapped up with an overview of the latest technologies that can both assist and engage students in numeracy. Overall an excellent and informative session for all participants.

Catherine Johnson—EA St. Thomas Aguinas Secondary School

Next MATH FORUM will be held in Toronto on Monday, May 25, 2015. Your Executive will be sending two members to this event who have not been at an OSSTF workshop in the past.

SAVE THE DATE

Bargaining Unit
Annual General Meeting
Wednesday, May 20th
5:15 pm
OSSTF District Office
51 King St. Unit 6 Barrie

Members are encouraged to attend

EMPLOYEE and FAMILY

ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (EFAP)

COUNSELLING COACHING SUPPORT INFORMATION

1-800-663-1142

TTY 1-888-384-1152

www.homewoodhumansolutions.com

Available for all SMCDSB employees

ARC
Call in – Call out System
CHANGES
As of May 11th

1-800-844-802-5285

http://smcdsb.eschoolsolutions.com

Help Desk: 705-722-3555 ext. 289

SAVE THE DATE

District
Annual General Meeting

Thursday, May 14th

5:30 **pm**

OSSTF District Office

51 King St. Unit 6 Barrie

Members are encouraged to attend

In Memorium



December 2014

Christopher Sax - former Brother in Law of JODY MARTIN, EA

Father of RENEE PAVIC, EA

Kae Downey - Grandmother of JAYNEE HARRISON, EA

Bernard (Brian) Dukan - Father of DEE HOMENUK, EA

January 2015

Nelson King - Grandfather of EMMA SCHEPPES, EA

Robert Wellington - Step Father of DONNA HOPKINS, EA

Patrick Bernard Hogan - Father of JENNIFER DAUPHIN, EA

Annie Delaney - Mother of ANGIE TRAVERS, EA

Rob O'Brien - Son in Law of KAREN MARTIN, EA

Brother in Law of LAURA MARTIN, EA

In Memorium



March 2015

Ovila Daoust - Father in Law of LYN DAOUST, EA

Luca Martino - Son of TONI MARTINO, EA and School Representative

Elaine Murphy - Great Aunt of ELIZABETH CHILVERS, DECE

Lance Parsons - Brother of LEANNE ROTH, EA

April 2015

Benjamin Robertson - Husband of JESSICA ROBERTSON, DECE

Anna Gimpel - Grandmother of STACY HILTON, EA

Anne Marie Imbeault - Grandmother of DAN IMBEAULT, EA

Jerome Gravel - Brother of RACHEL GRAVEL, EA

Please keep these members and their families in your thoughts and prayers.

MEMBERSHIP HAS ITS BENEFITS



OSSTF members get up to 50% off home insurance

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