



President's Message

First I'd like to congratulate the PD Day committee on a wonderful day last Friday. We've had a lot of really positive feedback, particularly about the venue and the speakers.

As we reach the half way point of the school year and teachers prepare to embark on another sojourn into the weird and wacky world of Ministry Report Cards as Interpreted by Your Latest Administrator, I'd like to take a moment to remind teachers of their value and their right to basic respect. You are highly trained professionals with many years of post-secondary education. Many of you have literally decades of experience. You are among the most respected members of society. You are hard working and dedicated members of the community who are held to a very high ethical standard. In spite of all this, many teachers appear hesitant to stand up for their rights and opinions when dealing with the educational system. At School Councils teachers are sometimes convinced that they do not have the right to bring forward information. As employees they sometimes feel they can not amend or add items to staff meetings. Teachers can feel intimidated by Principal authority when it comes to using the "right words" on report cards. If you find yourself in a position like this, please remember your value. Remember that you are entitled to respect and call us if you would like some assistance in managing the situation. I wish you good health and all the best.

Peter Giuliani



Ontario
College of
Teachers

The College of Teachers declares its mandate to be, "to regulate and govern the teaching profession in Ontario in the best interests of the public."

There are 23 elected positions on Council. Seventeen candidates were unopposed at the close of nominations and have been acclaimed as members of the new Council, and will begin their term on July 1st. Multiple candidates are contesting six different positions and voting for those positions will take place online between March 9 and April 14. To see a list of Candidates and their profiles, go to www.oct.ca. ETFO will be sending information on recommended candidates.

Protect Your Rights



If you are contacted by either the police or the Children's Aid Society regarding an allegation against you, state that you are willing to cooperate but must first contact your federation and legal counsel. Then call **ETFO at 1-888-838-3836** immediately for assistance and tell them that your situation is urgent. Your union provides free experienced legal support and should be your first point of contact. Do not speak to the police or CAS until ETFO is in contact with you.

Maureen Hogan—2008 Elementary Teacher of the Year!

In October the Ontario Teacher’s Federation (OTF) announced that Maureen Hogan was the 2008 winner of their Elementary Teacher of the Year award. The award is one of three teaching awards sponsored by OTIP (Ontario Teacher’s Insurance Plan). It recognizes teachers who use innovative methods, enthuse and engage students, reflect the multi-ethnic heritage of Ontario and encourage the creative use of technology in the classroom. Maureen, a teacher at Carleton Heights, clearly fulfills these criteria.



Maureen was honoured for the exceptional work she does and for her positive approach to teaching students who, like all students, learn in their own special way. She teaches a class of students with developmental disabilities and within Carleton Heights School Maureen’s class is affectionately referred to as “Sunny Room 13”. The students are known to be special in their needs but also special as individuals. Maureen organizes her class to use real life experience to compliment the functional academic skills taught in her classroom. A talented musician who plays in a rock band, Maureen brings a creative energy to her class which encourages each child to blossom in many and varied ways. Maureen is quoted as saying “I really hope we never lose sight of what we are trying to do in a class like ours...these kids, they learn differently.” Maureen’s goal is that students leave her class as good people who have made good friendships and are able to go forward and become part of their own communities.

OCETF congratulates Maureen on winning this award but more than that we congratulate her for being a talented, dedicated teacher of whom all our members can be very proud.



ETFO HUMANITY FUND

Samantha Nutt’s moving presentation at our February 13th PD Day reminded all of us of our global responsibilities. You can help for as little as 10 cents per day by joining the ETFO Humanity Fund. OCETF was one of the first locals to establish this fund which provides international assistance to children and teachers in needy countries. The ETFO Humanity Fund is run by a board of provincial and local teacher leaders. Hundreds of OCETF members are already involved and with a quick call to our office you can be part of it too.



PD Funds

Every teacher is eligible for \$500 every two years to cover the costs for workshops or conferences. Forms are available in the OCETF On-Line Forms folder on BEAM. Contact **Margo Charles** for further information or the OCETF website.

www.ocetf.org

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