



President's Message



Well the first set of report cards is behind us and there really is no denying that winter is well under way (a foot of snow is hard to ignore). As we head into the holidays let me first say I hope you all have a relaxing and well deserved break. When you return there will be a number of matters which you will no doubt be hearing about and kindergarten will probably be in the forefront. At the end of October, the new model for full-day kindergarten for 4 and 5 year olds was announced. It will take five years before the program is completely implemented and all Boards have already submitted names of schools for the first year's new classes. The criteria for selection were; available space at no additional cost, impact on local day care and high needs communities. Due in large to the work by ETFO, the government recognized the need for a qualified teacher in every class and the model will see a ratio of 26 students to One teacher and One ECE worker. Obviously there remain concerns about 26 students in a class and ETFO will be meeting with representatives from OPSBA and the Minister's office next week. There is much which remains uncertain, but rest assured we will keep you up to date with information as it develops. Many of our Core French Teachers have been expressing concerns over the matter of what their obligations are for reporting at the primary level. This is an area in which there is considerable

confusion due to the wide range of approaches across the system. We are working with the Board to try to ensure a satisfactory resolution to this situation. Teachers with particular concerns or thoughts on this matter are encouraged to contact me directly through e-mail or phone at the office.

As always, we at OCETf wish you well and remind you that the organization is always just a call away. In closing, I'd like to thank, in particular, our four office support people, Cheryl, Margo, Jill and Brenda who provide so much assistance to our members and hope that they have a wonderful holiday as well.

Peter Giuliani



Self Care Tips

It's that time of year again. New Year resolutions will soon be made. Why not make one this year to have a full check-up.

When booking your annual physical this year, remember to do the "Check up from the Neck Up" too.

Your mental health is just as important as your physical health. Check up From the Neck Up is a simple, online private, mental health check-up that can identify some symptoms of common mood disorders so you can get help if you need it. You can also learn more about mood disorders so you can get help if you need it. You can also learn more about mood disorders on the site and find resources to help yourself, your family members, or friends.

Go to:

www.checkupfromtheneckup.ca for your free check up.



The Ottawa and District Labour Council, is composed of 90 affiliated locals unions representing 45,000 women and men in the city of Ottawa. OCETF is a member of this labour group which advocates for worker rights, social justice and health and safety in the workplace. This year, the ODLG Health and Safety Activist Award was presented to our own Lee Anne Feltham in recognition of her tireless efforts over the past couple of years as she worked to bring the Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee in line with regulations and spearheaded the creation of the first every systematic reporting method for safety concerns. OCETF is extremely proud of her work and we are of course delighted that it is recognized by as large and dedicated an organization as the ODLG.

OCETF Professional Development Day

February 12, 2010 — Palais des Congrès

This year's PD Day promised to Challenge the Standards of Education! We will be opening with 2 dynamic key note speakers: Alfie Kohn and Linda McQuaig. We will then be featuring workshops for a variety of interests, including workshops on teaching music, yoga for kids, puppeteering, financial planning, creativity, butterflies, Balanced Literacy in the French classroom, and more. We have bussing again this year. Stay tuned for more information.

School Visits

Released Officers are busy visiting schools to deal with specific school concerns and to review contractual changes in the new Collective Agreement (2008-2012). If you would like to book a visit please BEAM Jill Paré to schedule a mutually convenient date and time.



OCETF Local Arts Series—An Instruction to the Arts in Junior Classrooms



A dynamic four-part series full of practical ideas and strategies to help you learn about the Arts and integrate them into your junior classroom.

Release time is covered for (4) half day sessions.

Monday, January 18 (1:00—5:30 p.m.)

Monday, February 1 (1:00—5:30 p.m.)

Tuesday, February 16 (1:00—5:30 p.m.)

Monday, March 1 (1:00—5:30 p.m.)

The workshop is open to 20 applicants. Register with Cheryl Morris.



The OCETF office will be closed December 21—January 4th. If you require immediate assistance during this period please call ETFO at 1-888-838-3836.

Happy Holiday's!

Peter, Jan, Bob, Jeff, Cheryl, Margo, Jill and Brenda.