

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Wow what a busy start to the school year it seems like I was just writing a message about summer vacation. I hope everyone had a restful summer break.

We are now in the new Unit Office at 61 King Street, Unit #12 in Barrie. We are slowly getting things organized and finding all the stuff we packed away last June. We have posted some pictures on our website - take a look! Or better yet - drop by! We will be planning a more official opening later in the Fall.

The start of a new school year is filled with anxiety and excitement. Also, trying to get back into a regular routine. Since you have had a relaxing and rejuvenating summer vacation don't forget to continue with keeping your health in the fore front. Taking care of yourself is your biggest priority. Continue to carve out time for yourself and your family as you get back into the routine of work again.

OTIP will be putting on a Retirement Workshop, which focuses on Benefits and financial planning on October 20 at 4:30-7:30 at the Holiday Inn in Barrie. You have to register on-line at [www.otip.com/events](http://www.otip.com/events). We will be having the OECTA retirement workshop in April - more details about that at a later date. It is never too early to look at planning for retirement.

This school year we will be transitioning from the Employer benefits for extended health, dental and life insurance. It is important that you have updated any changes in address with the Board. The Board will be providing to OECTA the information they have on file so we will be able to send you the welcome package about the new benefits. If you have moved recently or don't remember ever updating your address with the Board now would be a good time to make those necessary changes. The information about benefits comes from OECTA to your personal email address, please read those newsletters as they provide good information. As we get closer to our transition date (not likely until the Spring) I will be coming around to the schools to answer questions and provide assistance with enrolling in the new benefits plan. This will be an exciting time, but please remember that your best source of information will be the newsletters, your staff rep, and/or the Unit office, not the staff room expert.

The Board seems to be tightening their belt again this school year to be able to eliminate the 3.5 million dollar deficit that they have carried forward from the last couple of years. It appears that more people are being directed to utilize the OECTA Simcoe Muskoka Conference funds - which isn't a problem because that is what the money is for - just remember that we have only a limited amount of funds and only a certain way to be able to administer those funds.

The By-laws state:

All applications to a conference or workshop should be submitted to the unit executive in writing at least four (4) weeks prior to the conference.

Conference applications submitted to the unit executive shall be considered in the order in which they are received.

An individual may be funded for only one conference per budget year. A maximum of six (6) members may be funded from the unit for any particular conference.

The maximum amount of per person funding is \$600.

A refund, up to the maximum, shall be granted upon submission of eligible receipts

Approved funds may be used to provide an occasional teacher.

10% of allotted funds will be made available for the months of July and August.

18% of the allotted funds may be distributed in any two month period during the school year, with the exception that unused amounts from a period may be carried forward and added to the amount available in the next period.

Once the budget fund for a given year is exhausted, funds may not be reallocated from other area.

The full By-laws can be found on our website and with the OECTA Staff Representative.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the Unit office.

Have a great first semester!!!

## RETIREMENT WORKSHOP

**WALK INTO RETIREMENT WITH A PLAN**  
OTIP and Educators Financial Group - during the workshop, you'll learn about:

- Retiree health and insurance benefits
- Group Home and Auto insurance
- Life insurance solutions tailored to retiree needs and planning
- Tax and estate planning before and after retirement
- RRSPs and Investments preparations
- CPP and OAS
- Lending strategies

This complimentary workshop is open only to members and spouses. It covers valuable information that will be useful to all those planning to retire within the next five years.

Date: October 20, 2016  
Time: 4:30-7:30 p.m.  
Place: Holiday Inn - Fairview Road, Barrie  
Register: [www.otip.com/events](http://www.otip.com/events)

**\*\* Please note any dietary requirements at time of registration, a light dinner will be served.**

## PENSION CORNER

A recent change to the Teachers' Pension Plan removes the medical review requirement when you apply to increase your survivor pension within two years of retiring. You can now increase your survivor pension to 65%, 70% or 75% any time before receiving your first pension payment without a medical review.

### **Interested in changing?**

Simply sign in to your Ontario Teachers' account and go to Your Pension>Profile>Marital Information. Choosing one of the percentages displayed is all it takes to make your selection.

If you elect a higher survivor pension, you'll incur a higher reduction to your retirement pension. Once you receive your first pension payment, you can't revoke your survivor pension.

50% & 55% are also options, but they do not impact your retirement pension.

### **Not interested or unsure about changing?**

Don't worry, your eligible spouse automatically receives 60% survivor pension.

## PROJECT OVERSEAS

Project Overseas - Teachers Teaching Teachers in a joint endeavor between the Canadian Teachers' Federation and its provincial and territorial affiliates, including OECTA. This project allows OECTA to give their members the opportunity to provide teaching assistance in developing countries.

The purpose of Project Overseas is to improve the quality of education in Canada and in developing countries. Although the focus of Project Overseas is teacher professional development, the primary goal is improved teaching and learning for students around the world. Working towards quality public Education for All is the driving force behind all aspects of CTF's International Cooperation Programs.

It is required that applicants be Canadian citizens, have at least five years teaching experience in Canada and be a member of a CTF affiliate. Additional criteria are listed on the OECTA website. Applications for Project Overseas 2016-2017 are now posted on OECTA's website - [www.catholicteachers.ca](http://www.catholicteachers.ca).

All of the applications sent into OECTA are reviewed by the Educational Aid Committee. Once the candidates are selected, the final applications are sent to CTF. The successful applicants are sent to a developing country, usually in Africa or the Caribbean, to conduct professional development in-services for their overseas colleagues. While projects can take place at any time during the year, the projects are held mostly in July and August. Although candidates may have indicated a particular country as their preference, successful applicants should be prepared to be assigned to any location.

**Applications will only be accepted via email.** Please scan and email completed applications to: [project\\_overseas@oecta.on.ca](mailto:project_overseas@oecta.on.ca).

**The deadline for submitting applications is November 1, 2016.**

Article XI - Secondary School Organization

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Every effort will be made to maintain single course offerings. There may be situations that require the combination of courses by either level or grade, in order to have sufficient numbers of students to deliver that program. In the event that two classes have to be combined that total maximum class size will not exceed 20 students.

Such courses would be created following consultation, between the principal and teacher and in accordance with the terms of the Board Level Joint Staffing Committee.

Where such courses exist, the teacher will deliver one curriculum that shall not unduly increase the teacher's workload.

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As enrollment declines in some of our secondary schools or interest in a particular course becomes less we see combinations of courses. At the Board Level Joint Staffing Committee we look at the combined courses to determine that it fits with the language in the collective agreement - is it a good combination? Is the maximum class size no larger than 20 students? We will remind the Board that the Teacher is only delivering one curriculum.

What does one curriculum mean? Simply put it means that the teacher determines which curriculum of the combined course they wish to deliver. There is no obligation to create a new curriculum for the combined course. The teacher is able to determine based on the composition of the students which course they wish to deliver. If the teacher chooses to modify the assignments for the various levels in the class that is their choice. **At no time should the teacher be directed to deliver two courses.**

If the teacher has been directed, by your principal, to deliver two courses in the same period the teacher should have a conversation with the principal to point out that the obligation under the collective agreement is one course is delivered. If after that conversation the teacher is still directed to deliver two courses the teacher should contact the Unit office so we may assist in making the necessary changes.

Looking for a variety of resources? Try visiting [www.otffeo.on.ca](http://www.otffeo.on.ca)>Teacher Resources. You will find valuable information on a variety of organizations including links to their Internet sites and resources to assist you in your planning and professional development. Some topics you might find useful:

- Aboriginal Education
- Business
- Civics
- Computer Studies
- Financial Literacy
- Science & Technology
- The Arts
- Violence Prevention
- Bullying Prevention
- Curriculum and Assessment
- Equity and Inclusive Education

and many more.

Please note that these links are provided for information and educational purposes only. A link to a third-party website does not imply that OTF necessarily endorses the organization responsible for creating the website or agrees with the views expressed therein.

New links to resources will be added as they become available, so plan on visiting this site often.

Parent Engagement, developed by the Ontario Teachers' Federation (OTF) with funding from the Ministry of Education, is the latest in a series of projects to assist teachers in the classroom.

The website - [www.otffeo.on.ca](http://www.otffeo.on.ca)>Parent Engagement - is a complete guide to working with parents and guardians. It includes short vignettes, podcasts and practical tips and other helpful resources for teachers.

Seven modules allows the user to explore the following facets of parent engagement:

- Establishing positive relationships
- Modeling effective communication
- Working with parents & guardians to support students' academic success
- Inviting parents' & guardians' contributions to school life
- Engaging parents & guardians in wellbeing and safety issues
- Addressing equity issues and concerns
- Managing and resolving conflicts

## IN SYMPATHY WITH

Diana Columbus and Curtis Columbus, Teachers at Patrick Fogarty, on the passing of Diana's brother, Sean Oxby.

Mark Stewart, Teacher at St. Theresa's, on the passing of his mother-in-law, Lillian Parsons.

Heather Spence, Teacher at St. Theresa's, on the passing of her Grandmother, Lillian Parsons.

Connie Marrocco, Teacher at St. Theresa's, on the passing of her father-in-law, Paul Marrocco.

Larissa Nogalo, Teacher at Holy Trinity, on the passing of her mother, Diane LePage.

Triana Janveau, Teacher at St. Theresa's, on the passing of her father, Romeo Janveau.

Steve Janveau, Teacher at St. Joan of Arc, on the passing of his uncle, Romeo Janveau.

Melissa Wheatcroft, Teacher at Jean Vanier, on the passing of her father, Romeo Janveau.

Pat Brodeur, Teacher at St. Theresa's, on the passing of his mother-in-law, Mary Beany.

Janet Feir, Teacher at St. Theresa's, on the passing of her father, Vic Denise.

Rita Benvenuto, Teacher at Holy Trinity, on the passing of her Aunt, Mimma Vitale.

Susan Hughes, Teacher at St. Peter's, on the passing of her mother, Marie Novaco.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO!

Lindsey Spencer, Teacher at St. Theresa's, and her husband Jory on the birth of their daughter, Finley Rose.

Tannis McCarthy, Teacher at St. Peter's, and her husband Brendan on the birth of their son, Jameson.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

October 7 - Professional Activity Day  
St. Dominic

October 14 - Professional Activity Day  
St. Thomas Aquinas

October 17 - Professional Activity Day  
Holy Trinity

October 19 - Professional Activity Day  
St. Joan of Arc

October 21 - Professional Activity Day  
Jean Vanier

October 24 - Professional Activity Day  
St. Theresa's

October 26 - Professional Activity Day  
Patrick Fogarty

October 27 - Professional Activity Day  
St. Joe's

October 28 - Professional Activity Day  
St. Peter's

October 20 - OTIP - Walk into Retirement with a Plan  
4:30-7:30

Holiday Inn, Barrie

Register on-line - [www.otip.com/events](http://www.otip.com/events)

October 31 - Happy Halloween

November 6 - Daylight Saving Time Ends

November 8 - General Meeting @ 4:30  
Unit office, Barrie

November 8 - Executive Meeting immediately following  
General Meeting  
Unit office, Barrie

November 11 - Remembrance Day

December 13 - Executive Meeting @ 12:30  
Michael & Marion's, Barrie

December 23 - Board Holiday

December 26 - January 6 - Christmas Vacation

January 9 - Classes Reconvene

January 23 - February 1 - Semester One Final Exams