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Service to Members. Call Early. Call Often.

In Celebration of Catholic Education Week



Why God Made Teachers

By Kevin William Huff

*When God created teachers, He gave us special friends,
To help us understand His world and truly comprehend,
The beauty and the wonder of everything we see,
And become a better person with each discovery.*

*When God created teachers, He gave us special guides
To show us ways in which to grow so we can all decide,
How to live and how to do what's right instead of wrong,
To lead us so that we can lead and learn how to be strong.
Why God created teachers, in His wisdom and His grace,
Was to help us learn to make our world a better, wiser place.*

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CHECK YOUR “PAY STUB” OR ONLINE TO ENSURE YOU ARE ON THE CORRECT PAY GRID AND YOUR BENEFITS ARE CORRECT.

EDITORIAL POLICY
The D-Peeler is the voice of the Dufferin-Peel Elementary Unit. Members’ submissions are encouraged. Submissions must be in keeping with the aims and objectives of the Unit. Final approval of articles rests with the Editorial Board. Please direct suggestions or comments to the Unit.

UNIT OFFICE HOURS
Monday – Thursday – 8:30 am to 4:30pm
Friday - 8:30 am to 4:00 pm
In the event of an emergency, contact the Provincial Office at (416) 925-2493

UNIT SECRETARY	Mary Caines	secretary@elemdp.com
RECEPTIONIST	Diane Mulvale	receptionist@elemdp.com

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

*May 17th	Final Reps Meeting - Important survey information forthcoming
May 25th	Unit Elections - Capital Banquet Hall @ 4:30
May 30th to June 10th	EQAO Assessments
June 3rd & 4th	Everyone Learns the Kindergarten Program (ELKP) Conference
June 16th	Appreciation and Awards Dinner Capitol Banquet Hall @ 5:00 p.m. Dinner @ 6:00 p.m.
June 23rd	Berni Campbell’s Retirement Bash

DID YOU KNOW...

OTPP

Discussions have begun on the terms for a 2011 OTPP valuation filing. The fund is currently facing a \$17.2 billion shortfall. The affiliates, through OTE, are examining various means to communicate with local leadership on the issue.

Teachers are reminded that they are required to provide a minimum of thirty (30) days written notice of their intention to resign/retire to the Superintendent of Human Resources. (CA Letter of Understanding #19A). A member should always retire the last day of the month to avoid losing a month of pension.

ONTARIO COLLEGE OF TEACHERS’ PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY

“This advisory is intended to provide a context for the responsible, professional use of electronic communication and social media by members of the College.” Definitely a MUST read! www.oct.ca

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Berni Campbell

president@elemdp.com



As educators, we are called to defend education, protect the environment, be politically active, and protect our unique Catholic identity while entrusted with the

care of children. Your commitment to providing quality education to students within Dufferin-Peel is appreciated. Please keep this D-Peeler in your files for reference.

FYI

Teachers are one of the most highly educated work forces in the world. Though much more diverse, Ontario is second only to Shanghai in Literacy. Today, for narrowing the gap between the top and bottom student, Ontario is 1st!

2011-2012 OEFTA PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE

The following OEFTA members were elected to the Provincial Executive at AGM 2011.

President	Kevin O'Dwyer	(Dufferin-Peel Secondary)
First Vice-President	Chris Karuhanga	(St. Clair Elementary)
Second Vice-President	Ann Hawkins	(Dufferin-Peel Secondary)
Third Vice-President	Warren Grafton	(Waterloo)
Treasurer	Sonia Di Peta	(Toronto Elementary)
Councillor	Andrew Donihee	(Eastern Ontario)
Councillor	Louie Trinchi	(Toronto Secondary)

Ontario Teachers' Federation Governors

OTF Table Officer	Julie Pauletig	(York)
Tom Doyle		(Algonquin-Lakeshore)
Reno Melatti		(Windsor-Essex Secondary)
Richard Schrader		(Niagara Secondary)
Micheal Wozniak		(Dufferin-Peel Elementary)

UNIT ELECTION MAY 25TH, 2011 CANDIDATES

President:	David Dolan
First Vice-President:	Anne Horton
Second Vice-President:	Rose Procopio
Treasurer:	Jeremy Cox (2nd Year)
Recording Secretary:	Belinda Russo
Councillors (4):	Trena Boudreau
	Carlo Di Carlo
	Charlotte Leavitt
	Lori McCannel
	Lucia Sasso
	Mario Zarkovic

DID YOU KNOW...

EQAO – OEFTA's ADVICE TO TEACHERS

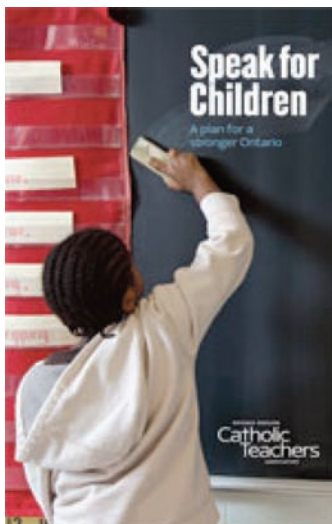
Posted on www.eqao.com and their YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/user/EQAOontario is a brief, five minute presentation of key information contained in the Administration and Accommodation Guides that teachers are required to follow. OEFTA encourages any teacher involved to view the video so that they are aware of their professional responsibilities in administering the EQAO Assessment.

TEACHERS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN EDUCATION ADVOCATES

As we gear up for the political election, the Political Action Committee would like to encourage you to follow the issues and platforms of all the major political parties as we approach the provincial election on October 6th.

Over the past eight years educators have enjoyed labour peace and stability in the profession under the current government. As educators we must ensure that a “teacher friendly legislature” is elected in October. In addition to exercising your right to vote you are encouraged to become politically involved.

A survey will be sent to all members that will provide the Unit with information deemed critical for the October election. We are not yet aware of all the parties’ platforms. They may not be available until the summer. As September is such a busy month, we want to be prepared. Please become informed regarding all party platforms before you vote. If you are interested in



joining a political party, it is very easy and inexpensive. You can also make tax deductible contributions. www.ontarioliberal.ca & www.ontariondp.com/welcome & www.ontariopc.com & www.gpo.ca. More information will follow as it becomes available.

FYI... The Green Party's platform clearly supports one non-secular school system.

Visit *Vote for Your Future* in the Members’ Centre www.oecta.on.ca

We have made gains that we feel are worth protecting. Continued full-day Kindergarten, dedicated specialty teachers in elementary schools (in the Arts, phys-ed, literacy) reduced class sizes in primary grades, and mentoring to support new teachers are examples of what we should vote for.

GET STUDENTS INVOLVED IN THE UPCOMING FEDERAL ELECTION WITH STUDENT VOTE!

With the upcoming provincial election on October 6th, students should be aware, engaged and involved in the Canadian democratic process, federal politics, the issues, the parties and platforms, and media.

DID YOU KNOW...

CHANGES TO THE CANADA PENSION PLAN

The Federal Government will gradually introduce changes from 2011-2016. This will affect you whether you are just starting your teaching career or planning to retire soon. Service Canada has on-line resources at servicecanada.gc.ca or call toll free 1-800-277-9914. Check out www.elemdp.com for further information.

GUIDELINES FOR FEES FOR LEARNING MATERIALS AND ACTIVITIES

The Ministry of Education has released new guidelines stipulating that every student has the right to attend publicly funded school without paying a fee for any learning materials or activities that are required in order to graduate. The guideline can be found on your OECTA Bulletin Board. www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/feesGuideline.pdf.

KEEPING OUR KIDS SAFE AT SCHOOL

www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/safeschools/KeepKidSafeSchool.pdf

New legislation came into effect February 2, 2010 that affects how all school board employees handle incidents at school. Incident reports should be available in your school office. The office inputs the data and provides the teacher with a numbered ticket. Keep a copy of your incident reports in a secure location. Remove the student’s name. More information may be found @ www.elemdp.com regarding what type of incidents to report. Please keep the copy given to you by your Association Rep. on file.

LINE OF CREDIT

Do you have a line of credit available should the economy change drastically to the detriment of many? It is highly recommended. Hopefully you will never have to use it but, it may be a good time to arrange one.