



THE CURRENT NEWS

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Upper Grand Elementary Teachers' Local

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Keep Your Eyes On The Road Ahead

By the time you read this article, you will have spent an evening with the parents of your students at "Meet The Teacher", a new Local Executive Officer will have been elected for the East Guelph Region Family of Schools, the results of the Provincial Election will have been announced and you will likely be thinking about gearing up to write this year's Progress Report Cards. You may have a new teaching assignment or perhaps you are working in a different school. As you adjust to the routines of another academic year, I wonder if you feel that you have had some control over any recent changes in your life.

Change, whether you choose it or not, can be unsettling. I think it's fair to say that we all adapt to transitions more quickly and easily when we feel that we have had a degree of control over the situation. In our line of work, the greatest tools we have to empower the voice of our membership are communication, education and solidarity. In the coming months, we will need to continue to work together in order to impact positive change.

Throughout Ontario, elementary teacher Collective Agreements will expire on August 31, 2012. With that date in mind, the next major challenge for us is to prepare for the next round of bargaining. The results of negotiations will have a direct and immediate impact upon our personal and professional lives. If you haven't familiarized yourself with the current Collective Agreement, that is the place to start. As you read, reflect upon topics such as working conditions, the staffing process and leaves of absence. We have been collecting information, opinions and suggestions from members over the years but it is important that we hear from as many people as possible. What changes to the current language would you like to see? Which enhancements take priority? Tell us which practices currently in place are those that you feel should be maintained, removed or altered.

In order to move ahead, let's focus on looking through the windshield and not the rear-view mirror. I encourage you to increase your awareness and become more involved. We are currently seeking applications from the membership to become a member of the next Collective Bargaining Committee, you may call or email your ideas about specific areas that need improvement and you can identify your priorities and concerns by completing any bargaining surveys.

We will be hosting this year's Fall Annual Meeting at Monora Park in Orangeville on October 20th. After a brief business meeting, we'll host our first Pumpkin Carnival complete with a lovely dinner, games, contests and plenty of good conversation. In addition to being fun and informative, getting to know you better at an event such as this helps us to provide the best representation possible. Hope to see you there!

PROGRESS REPORTS, THE SECOND YEAR

At the end of September, the Board and Union together attended a Ministry training session regarding Progress Reports. Not much has changed from last year. This was an opportunity for Board and Federation Representatives to seek clarification regarding the criteria for effective comments. Additional details were provided to assist teachers in communicating to parents whether their student is progressing well, very well or with difficulty.

Principals and Superintendents attended an information session following the Ministry workshop. Report Card Administrators will be trained in the very near future. This information will then be shared with Teachers to help them complete the second round of Progress Reports.

On page 7 of the guide, Reporting Student Learning (an online supplement to Growing Success), it says, *"Teachers will use their professional judgment to decide which aspects of learning, which student strengths, and which next steps it is most important to comment on for any given reporting period...It is important to remember that overly long or detailed comments may result in a loss of focus with respect to the information that is critical for the student and parent to take away."*

Resources including an FAQ, list of criteria for effective comments and sample reports are available for teachers. In addition to receiving them from School Administrators, here are the directions to find them on:

First Class:

- Click on Public Conferences
- Click on Curriculum
- Click on Cur-Computers and Technology

Look for postings by Bonnie Talbot (Principal of Program) after October 5th

Staff Portal:

- Click on Program Services
- Click on Curriculum Department
- Click on Instruction

Scroll down and click on Growing Success – all of the resources are posted there.

The afternoon of the October 21st PA day is designated for assessment and evaluation and *teachers may choose to work away from their work-site (i.e. at home) for the time designated for assessment, evaluation and progress report completion provided the teacher notifies the principal in advance.*

FIFTH'S DISEASE - DON'T BE CAUGHT UNAWARE

With the return to school, there are many viruses circulating in our schools. If you are pregnant, or may be in the near future, it is advisable to get yourself tested for immunity to Fifth's Disease. This enables you and your doctor to make decisions in a timely manner, should Fifth's Disease surface in your school. If you have any questions, please speak with your doctor or contact Tamara Reso at Orchard Park.



\$1400 RSP

If you were hired by the Board between January 1, 2010 and December 31, 2010 and have successfully completed your probation period, you are eligible to receive a \$1400 RSP as stipulated in our Collective Agreement. You should expect an information package and registration form from the Educators Financial Group (EFG) in November. Do be aware that the registration form must be returned to EFG by the December deadline in order for you to receive your \$1400 RSP in February 2012 from the Board.



Questions about completing the forms need to be directed to EFG. Questions regarding procedures and the Collective Agreement can be directed to Doug Cook at Orchard Park.

YOUR DOLLARS DONATED

The Upper Grand ETFO Executive passed a motion on September 14, 2011 to donate \$2,000.00 to UNICEF. The funds are designated to help provide a measure of relief to the drought and war ravaged Horn of Africa.

UNICEF was selected because their work is directed at helping children as well as because they are an established organization which has been involved in relief efforts in this area for many years.



UPPER GRAND ETFO WORKSHOPS

Pregnancy & Parental Leave Workshop

Wednesday, October 12, 2011

4:30 - 6:00 p.m. (Snacks provided)

Princess Elizabeth, Orangeville

Limited space available

Registration closing date: October 7th, 2011

(Please note that this workshop will be offered on 4 different dates - October 12 at Princess Elizabeth, November 2 at JD Hogarth, February 8 at Paisley PS and April 4 at Drayton Heights.

Parent-Teacher Communication Workshop

Monday, October 24, 2011

4:30 - 7:00 p.m. (Dinner provided)

Island Lake, Orangeville

Registration closing date: October 17, 2011

More than a Play

Tuesday, November 8, 2011

12:30 - 4:00 p.m. (Lunch provided)

Location: TBA

Registration closing date: October 25, 2011

This professional development is ideal for Junior/Intermediate and occasional teachers who want to increase student engagement by incorporating drama strategies, and social justice learning into their classroom program.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THESE WORKSHOPS PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.UGETFO.ORG



PA DAYS

There are six P.A. Days during the 2011-2012 school year. The afternoon of October 21st is designated for assessment and progress report completion. The full day of November 18th is designated for Parent-Teacher Interviews. The full day of January 23 and the afternoon of June 8th are designated for assessment and report card completion. A teacher may choose to work away from her or his worksite (i.e. at home) for the time designated for assessment, evaluation and report card completion provided the teacher notifies the Principal ahead of time.

Pension Workshop

Wednesday, November 9, 2011

4:45 - 7:15 p.m. (Dinner provided)

\$5.00 per person—payable at the door

Centre Wellington Community Sportsplex, Fergus

Open to ETFO Contract and Occasional Teachers

Registration closing date: November 2, 2011

ETFO WORKSHOPS



The Workshop Presenters' Palette

December 12 - 13, 2011

ETFO Provincial Office



This practical two-day workshop will provide an opportunity for members to develop skills in planning and presenting curriculum workshops to colleagues. Participants will learn to develop dynamic workshops, hone their facilitation skills and receive new presentation strategies, tips and tricks.

Registration deadline: Friday, November 18, 2011

For more information please visit www.etfo.ca

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDING 2011/2012

Why are there no funds left in Trimester 1, when it doesn't end until October 31st?

Trimester 1 runs from July 1 to October 31st, funding was accessed by members taking courses throughout the summer period and early September.

When do I need to send in my PD Funding Application?

PD Funding Applications must be approved prior to the conference/workshop/course.

This helps to ensure that there is funding available to you.

If I need O.T. coverage to take my Professional Development, who pays for that?

If your school is not paying for your O.T., the cost is yours and will form part of your PD Funding. Please indicate this on the PD Funding Application Form.



GETTING TO KNOW UPPER GRAND ETFO EXECUTIVE MEMBERS



Deepti Celetti

Deepti teaches at Rockwood PS and has been active on our Local Executive as Status Chair since 2008. In this role she works together with committee members to provide opportunities and events that promote the status of women. For three years running she has organized the Upper Grand ETFO Pamper Project which encourages members to contribute essential items such as diapers, food and toiletries to school hampers which are then collected, sorted and distributed to community shelters and organizations in need within Upper Grand. Promoting equity and social justice is a key mandate of ETFO and Deepti encourages teachers to support donations to organizations in order to help better serve those requiring a helping hand. She has attended the Provincial ETFO Annual Meeting as a Delegate and coordinated events such as the Woman to Woman Dinner to educate and invigorate members.



Robb Mason

A junior teacher at Hyland Heights in Shelburne, Robb is one of the members of UGETFO who has acquired the most seniority on the local Executive. An experienced Steward in both South and North Dufferin, he chairs the Steward Committee and has been a member of the local Collective Bargaining Committee since the inception of ETFO. His passion for member advocacy is evident in discussions surrounding teacher workload, benefits and working conditions. Trained at the Canadian Labour Congress in the area of Collective Bargaining, Robb most recently attended the 2011 ETFO Annual Meeting this past summer as a Delegate.



October 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5 New Steward Training (Orchard Park)	6 Provincial Election Day	7	8
9	10 Thanksgiving Holiday	11	12 Maternity Workshop # 1 (Orangeville)	13	14	15
16	17	18	19 UGETFO Executive Meeting	20 Fall Meeting (Monora Park, Orangeville)	21 P.A. Day PM - Assessment & Evaluation	22
23	24 Parent-Teacher Communication Workshop (Island Lake)	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					



Upper Grand Elementary Teachers' Local
FALL GENERAL MEETING/DINNER ~ Come and join the fun at our first Pumpkin Carnival
Thursday, October 20, 2011 Monora Park Pavilion
(633220 Hwy # 10, Orangeville)

