

Occasional News

Volume 12 Issue 3

February 2010

Please note:

- Draw for a paid day for completing our survey.
- College of Teachers fees are due. LTO's have had this deducted by the Board.
- Be aware that you must teach 10 days by June 1 to automatically renew to our OT list.
- Read and file all newsletters and bulletins.
- Contact the office for answers to questions and to address concerns. Email is best.

Inside this issue:

Black History Month	2
Set Up for Success - updates	2
Professional Development	3
Bill 157 and ETFO response	3
Register for our Annual Dinner	4
Bill 157 comes in force Feb. 1	4
Contact info	4

President's Message

After twelve years of copying, folding, addressing and mailing 650 newsletters, your executive thought it was time for a change. Change is a hallmark of education and some of the greatest changes I have seen involve the use of technology. From opaque projectors to Elmo and from film strips to DVD's, teachers have learned new technologies in order to stay relevant. For this reason we are moving toward electronic communication.

Truth be told, the day after we mail a newsletter it is already out of date. New issues emerge and new opportunities present themselves. Electronic communication allows us to send immediate messages directly to you. This is also a greener approach to communication that allows for a far smaller carbon footprint.

Feedback on this issue is much appreciated.

Members are asked to complete a communications/professional development survey at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/N6FTZ9S>

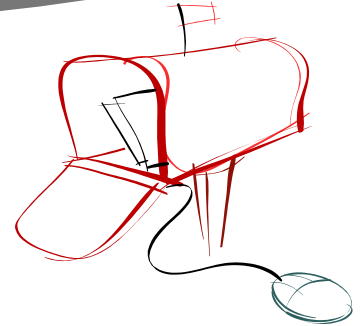
Each identified member who completes a survey will be entered into a draw to receive **a paid day**. The survey can also be accessed on our website www.uppercanadaot.com

Speaking of change ...

.....the government has announced it will go ahead with full-day kindergarten staffed by certified teachers. Their vision will see 26 students in a class with a teacher and an ECE. Full day kindergarten sites in UCDSB can be found at <http://www.ucdsb.on.ca/News/Current+News/Spotlight/Full+Time+Kindergarten+Sites.htm>

... the Ministry has announced that report cards will move to two formal reporting periods and one informal (check-mark) report. Also beginning next year teachers will receive 2 additional PA days dedicated to completing the formal report cards.

... Leona Dombrowsky



(Prince Edward-Hastings) has been appointed Minister of Education and Kathleen Wynne moved to Transportation. The following link provides more info <http://www.leonadombrowsky.com/bio.aspx?id=biography>

... Alberta teachers have succeeded in having Grade 3 testing removed and Gr. 6 and 9 testing is under review. BC teachers have advised parents to withdraw their children from testing, with some success, and Australian teachers have voted to boycott all aspects of the test. Teachers know who needs help and how to give it. The billion spent on EQAO, and its attendant "cottage industries", would go a long way to providing the resources at-risk kids need to succeed.

While there is much to reflect on, please remember to stay in touch!

Diane

Looking for OT's

Schools in Cornwall, as well as Pleasant Corners, Plantagenet, S J MacLeod (Bainsville), Benson (Cardinal), Maple Grove (Lanark) and Rothwell-Osnabruck (Ingleside)

February is Black History Month.— lessons and ideas available

Black History Month, was initially created to affirm African Canadian students in schools and in the community at large. The Canadian Negro Women's Association introduced the celebration of Black History Month to Toronto in the 1950s. This black Canadian community initiative was adopted by the Ontario government in 1979, thanks to its championing by the Ontario Black History Society. In 1995, the House of Commons declared a national Black History Month, which went into effect in 1996. For the past 31 years in Ontario, school children have been invited to take part in events and celebrations during February that honour the history of black Canadians.

Elementary teachers in Ontario celebrate Black History Month in their classrooms and schools as a way of honouring Black Canadians past and present who have made an enormous impact on our society and on the development of Canada as a nation. Black History Month is also a time for all Ontarians to learn about the contributions of our black communities, and the history of their ongoing struggle for equity and social justice.

"Elementary teachers continually strive to create inclusive and equitable classrooms where all students are recognized for their cultural, racial, and historical backgrounds," said Sam Hammond, President, Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario. "When children see themselves reflected in the classroom environment through the curriculum they learn that they matter and that their ancestry is respected and acknowledged."

Black History Month ideas available at <http://www.etfo.ca/resources/forteachers/pages/default.aspx>



College of Teachers fee of \$120 is due.

Unless you have paid your fees, you may not continue to teach.

Paying on-line is best as you will get an immediate receipt.

www.oct.ca OR 1-888-534-2222.

You have a collective agreement right to check the accuracy of your personnel file ,or to designate someone else (us, perhaps?) to check it for you. Write Hilary Close to make an appointment

Set Up For Success - Keeping Updated

Our collective agreement lists the rights and responsibilities of all parties. As a member, it is our responsibility to **inform the Board if our contact information has changed** due to a move or a new phone number. Likewise, please keep the Board apprised of any changes in your availability. For either of these issues,

contact Human Resources through hilary.close@ucdsb.on.ca **Do not contact Canpage yourself.**

Apply to Education is an addition to the communication mix this year. Please ensure your availability is updated there as well.

Some OT's have been

"flickering" on the availability list and this is impacting their ability to work. This is a result of playing with the button that controls who can see your profile. When the UCDSB button is off so is your availability to work. Finally, it is always in your best interest to ensure that your experience and scholarship (QECCO) are current.

THE PD PAGE

Please register with the UCOL office for all local events
ddewing@cogeco.ca OR 613-291-3147

Locally offered PD

Thursday, February 25, 2010- Thinking Outside the Gym - Practical ideas for DQPE -

4 - 6:30 pm at The Stewart School (gym) in Perth. Teacher David Balfour will present an interactive workshop useful to all OT's whether daily casual or LTO. Snacks will be provided and you are asked to wear runners and comfy clothes. Bev welcomes participants to join her for a pizza (on us) after the workshop.

Thursday, March 4, 2010 "I am the Teacher: classroom management techniques designed for the occasional teacher" 4 - 7pm at Cambridge Public School near Embrun. ETFO presenter, and UCOL member, Sylvia van Campen will guide us through ways to orchestrate successful classroom interactions. This workshop suits the needs of both the daily casual and the LTO and is highly recommended.

**Tuesday, April 28, 2010 Programming for Special Needs Students in the Regular Classroom" AND
Tuesday, May 18. Both sessions 4:30 until 7:30 at Westminister Public School in Brockville**

Teachers registering for this two session workshop are expected to attend both sessions. The weeks between sessions will allow teachers to use the strategies demonstrated and report results to the group. Both sessions will be lead by Bev Assick, ETFO presenter and Special Education Instructional Leadership Consultant for the Kwartha Pine Ridge Public School Board

Questions concerning the particulars of the PD fund may be addressed to Bev Ferlatte
ferlatte@xplornet.com



Provincially offered PD To register for the following, go to etfo.on.ca

[Assertiveness Training for Women](#) March 26-27, Oakville An ETFO regional conference for women. Registration is limited to 30 participants. **Deadline for applications** is March 15.

[ETFO PQP Program - Spring/Summer 2010](#) Various locals - see flyer Visit ETFO's PQP page for course dates and registration deadlines. A [flyer](#) outlining the session is also available.

[Teachers Volunteering Abroad Conference](#) April 10, Toronto A one-day ETFO conference for teachers who want to explore opportunities to volunteer and teach abroad. Come and learn about the opportunities that exist for teacher volunteers abroad, the challenges of working abroad, and strategies for bringing experiences home. **Deadline for applications** is March 1.

[Limestone Special Education Part I](#) Spring 2010 Special Education Part I will be offered at Fairfield Elementary School in Amherstview from April 15 - July 9, 2010. **Deadline for applications** is April 1, 2010.

www.otffeo.on.ca

The *Professional Learning* tab will provide a wealth of resources to keep your skills current.

- View an on-line video. These videos cover the curriculum from Kindergarten to Grade 12 and cover most subject areas. Professional topics such as ADHD and Conflict Management are also available 24/7 and without cost

Bill 157 http://www.ontla.on.ca/web/bills/bills_detail.do?locale=en&BillID=2161

ETFO's response to Bill 157 <http://www.etfo.ca/Publications/BriefstoGovernmentAgencies/Documents/>

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INFO, PD, LENDING
LIBRARY

UCOL represents the approximately 650 occasional teachers working for the Upper Canada District School Board and is part of the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO). ETFO represents nearly 73,000 elementary public school teachers and is Canada's largest teacher union. With ETFO we seek to make collective bargaining, professional development, teacher support, leadership training and social justice a reality for all our members.



Join us on **June 3**, at the **Baldachin Ballroom** in **Merrickville**, as we celebrate our year. We provide a lovely dinner (\$50 cost to non-members) and a chance to catch up with other OT's.

MUSIC and MERRIMENT
ANECDOTES and AWARDS

5pm bar opens
6pm dinner

This is our staff party... register at
ddewing@cogeco.ca to take your place!!

Bill 157 is now the law

ETFO supports employee training that is practical, worker-based and completed during the school day. Employee training is not a voluntary activity.

On February 1, Bill 157 came into effect. Bill 157 is an amendment to the Education Act that is subtitled *Keeping Our Kids Safe at School*. Under its provisions, school staff are required to report serious student incidents to principals and principals are required to contact the parents of victims. Staff are also required to intervene and address "inappropriate disrespectful behavior among

students". There is a required **duty to report** all incidents of inappropriate or disrespectful behavior and/or other challenges to the integrity of the school community.

Under the Act, there was a requirement for all employees to be trained by November 30. Upper Canada trained its Individual School Teams January 5 and 7. At present, LTO's in schools

will receive training with-staff but **there has been no plan to train OT's at large**. I have been in contact with President Sam Hammond of ETFO and have written our Director David Thomas. At present I am awaiting a response.

Like any part of the Ed Act, you are required to know its provisions. I have put the link on the PD page and will let you know when I hear from the director.