

Occasional News

Volume 14
Issue 3

January-February



Important Dates

May 23

**General Meeting
Morrisburg 5-6pm**

- Election of 2012 Executive
- Election of AGM Alternates
- Presentation of the Preliminary Submission and vote of acceptance.

June 7

**Celebration Dinner
Perth 5:30—7:30**



From Diane's Desk

Thank you to everyone who took time to respond to our UCARRIS survey. The results of our conversation with the Board are posted on page 2. Thank you also to everyone who has let us know when jobs are cancelled with less than 3 hours notice or when schools have reduced your day's pay due to a late arrival. We have dealt with issues promptly and the board has been very cooperative.

As more members get used to UCARRIS, they report satisfaction with it. The most welcomed feature is the ability to book off particular days so no calls are received. The most common complaints surround too many calls

from outside of your family of schools or not enough calls at all. **This is a negotiation year so you can be assured that the callout system will be addressed in the next collective agreement.**

Communication is always key so I urge you to stay informed. In the next few months you will receive communication concerning bargaining. The Collective Bargaining Committee will present to you the Preliminary Submission (changes we wish to make to the collective agreement). You will have an opportunity to discuss it, recommend any necessary changes and vote on it. This is your future so we hope to



see you in Morrisburg.. In the meantime, read your newsletter and email, ask questions and check out info and video at <http://www.controlyourfuture.ca>

Collective Bargaining 2012



Control Your Future

Focus on Equity – Black History Month

Black History Month exists to remind us all of the rich contributions within our society from people of African and Caribbean decent, and of their ongoing struggle for equity and social justice. This focus provides our classrooms with an excellent opportunity to recognize the strengths and resiliency of communities that historically have been marginalized, as well examining issues of racism and the impact of discrimination on these communities. Below are some resources you may wish to use:

Sweet Clara and the Freedom Quilt <http://www.etfo.ca/Resources/ForTeachers/Documents/Black%20History%20Month%20Activities.aspx>

Brown Angels: An Album of Pictures and Verses [http://www.etfo.ca/Resources/ForTeachers/Documents/Black History Month - Brown Angels.aspx](http://www.etfo.ca/Resources/ForTeachers/Documents/Black%20History%20Month%20Brown%20Angels.aspx)

An annotated guide to online resources on the history of Canada's Black community. <http://blackhistorycanada.ca/>



UCARRIS – Issues forwarded by members were addressed at the January 13 Occasional Teacher - Board Relations Committee

Most of the issues related to telephones have been resolved. It has been an onerous task to track down the thousands of different types of lines and rectify this issue.

Please contact the office if you experience difficulty with UCARRIS or copy us on Communication to patti.mcnamee@ucdsb.on.ca



- ✦ The Board agrees that the ability to book off availability day by day has been helpful for OT's.
- ✦ Timesheets will certainly continue until the end of March and will likely continue until the end of this school year.
- ✦ The most common complaint is too many calls from outside specified families of schools. The Board acknowledges this but believes that as experience with the system progresses, it will occur less often. Generally these calls are for morning assignments when time is of the essence. It is the employer's position that OT's uninterested in travelling should simply decline. An OT may decline 4 jobs in any callout period (there are 2 periods/day - morning and evening) and it seems no OT who has declined distance assignments has been prevented from receiving a local one. Much of this problem is due to schools having set up their preferred lists incorrectly. Human Resources and Patti McNamee are spending significant amounts of time going to schools to rectify this problem. More schools still need assistance.
- ✦ Human Resources regularly reminds schools that calls that continue into the school day require that the school pay the responding OT for the full assignment. Should an OT experience difficulty in being paid for the full assignment, they should contact their president ddewing@cogeco.ca
- ✦ Many OT's report that while they know who they are replacing, they do not know the grade. Increasingly teachers are re-entering their identity and including their grade and assignment. Another communication will be issued in the coming week from Human Resources reminding principals to communicate the necessity of re-recording to their staff.
- ✦ Members had suggested folders for specialist teachers such as French, Music, Spec. Ed as they found it counterproductive to be assigned a class in which they had no expertise while a specialist was assigned a general class. The Board restated its belief that elementary teachers are generalists for the most part and that capturing those with special skills was the purpose of setting up a preferred list system.
- ✦ The process for being placed on a preferred list, as well a knowing whether you have indeed been placed on a preferred list, was the subject of conversation. Teachers are encouraged to begin a professional conversation with schools that highlight themselves and their skills. Principals are expected to respond professionally and to tell OT's whether or not they are on the school's preferred list. We asked if an email communication could be sent to OT's who had been placed on a school's preferred list. We understood that this meant that a school could also remove an OT from that preferred list if the skills were no longer required. The Board is considering that suggestion but has no reply at present.
- ✦ Inconsistent start and end times for schools has been an issue for many members. We have requested that the list of bell times be placed on INSITE so that OT's may print it and place it in their OT bag. Human Resources will request this information from Transportation and post it. Patti McNamee will email all OT's when this has been done.



Watch for local professional learning events on our website. WE have LOTS of exciting events planned for the new year

Local PL

Coming Soon.... watch the website for details
Science, technology, early learning and intermediate division learning opportunities.

ALSO

Book Club - there are so many great opportunities - right from your own home!

Please check out the following link for a list of potential books:

<http://www.etfo.ca/professionaldevelopment/etfosbookclubs/pages/default.aspx>

We would like to launch a pilot program and are seeking your suggestions.

Provincial PL Check out www.etfo.ca for registration packages

Beyond the Workshop Presenter's Palette 2012

Date: Monday, March 26 –27, 2012.

Location: ETFO Provincial Office - 480 University Ave, Toronto

This practical two-day workshop will provide an opportunity for members who regularly present workshops to expand their presentation skills. Participants will work to revise an existing workshop with colleagues. They will also develop effective voice strategies and continue to build their facilitation skills to develop high levels of audience engagement. **Registration deadline: Monday, February 27, 2012.**

Application form:

PDF - <http://www.etfo.ca/CalAttach/PresentersPalette.pdf>

RTF - <http://www.etfo.ca/CalAttach/PresentersPalette.rtf>

Keys to Collaboration: A Coaching Institute

Date: Saturday, May 12, 2012

Location: ETFO Provincial Office - 480 University Ave, Toronto

This workshop is a one-day workshop designed to give special education teachers skills to collaborate with classroom teachers. **Registration deadline: Friday, March 30, 2012**

Registration package

PDF: <http://www.etfo.ca/CalAttach/ETFOcoaching.pdf>

RTF: <http://www.etfo.ca/CalAttach/ETFOcoaching.rtf>

Ontario Teachers' Federation

OTF Connects, is our new online community, which brings teachers together to learn and share through free online webinars. Our online interactive sessions provide you with great PD right at your home computer. Broaden and deepen your learning in the areas of Teaching and Learning in the 21st Century, Critical Thinking, Financial Literacy and more. For details and registration, please visit: OTF Connects<http://www.otffeo.on.ca/english/events/?page_id=49>

Websites

www.ophea.net Ideas, lessons, articles and resources are located here to support you in ensuring our students are healthy and active. Follow ophea on Twitter @opheacanada

www.civix.ca If you LOVED Student Vote, check this out. Taylor Gunn has developed a whole new way to engage students in social studies and civic duty. More to come...

Suggestions and concerns related to professional learning should be forwarded to

paula.carmichael17

@gmail.com

UCOL's lending library can be accessed through

paula.carmichael17

@gmail.com

The lending library provides excellent resources for you to use

- ◇ *during daily casual work*
- ◇ *while in an LTO*
- ◇ *when completing courses and AQ's.*

If there is a resource you need, but is not in the library, let us



UCOL Lending Library

If you have borrowed an item from the lending library, please contact Paula. A few resources are in unknown locations due to being relented by a member or borrowed without filling out the card.

Upper Canada Occasionals' Local
222 Muldoon Road,
RR5 Kemptville K0G 1J0

Phone: 613-291-3147
Fax: 613-256-8321
E-mail: ddewing@cogeco.ca

Visit
www.uppercanadaot.com
For PL, resources and
lending library

The Toronto Raptors would like to extend an exciting ticket offer to members of the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan (that means you!). Now, along with discounted prices, you will receive two (2) free tickets in the Upper Bowl for every purchase you complete online by Feb 10.

Date	Time	Opponent	Cost* (\$)
Wed., Feb. 22/12	7 PM	Detroit Pistons	16, 24, 47, 66, 92, 154
Fri., Mar. 2/12	7 PM	Memphis Grizzlies	24, 36, 59, 77, 102, 170
Sun., Mar. 4/12	6 PM	Golden St. Warriors	16, 24, 47, 66, 92, 154
Mon., Mar. 5/12	7 PM	Orlando Magic	24, 36, 59, 77, 102, 170
Wed., Mar. 7/12	7 PM	Houston Rockets	16, 24, 47, 66, 92, 154
Sun., Mar. 11/12	6 PM	Milwaukee Bucks	24, 36, 59, 77, 102, 170
Wed., Mar. 21/12	7 PM	Chicago Bulls	45, 54, 75, 95, 116, 196
Fri., Mar. 23/12	7 PM	NY Knicks	45, 54, 75, 95, 116, 196

1. Cut and paste the following link in your Web browser:
<http://www.nba.com/raptors/ticketpass.html>
2. Enter "otpp" as your special offer code.
3. Find tickets for the game(s) you are interested in.
4. Complete your purchase.

Give Your School a Hug, February 13-17, 2012—an initiative of Heartspeak.ca.

Participating schools choose one day that week to literally give their school a 'hug' by encircling the school (if possible). This shared, cross-grade experience reinforces the role we ALL play in creating a safe and caring school climate and provides an opportunity for students to identify ways to make school better. With the approval of school staff, photos/videos may subsequently be shared with Heartspeak and other schools via the Heartspeak website at www.heartspeak.ca.

ETFO is inviting LGBT members from Upper Canada to participate in a focus group in **Ottawa February 13** to help identify the challenges that members face, regardless of whether they are 'out' at work or not. This is an opportunity for LGBT members to share the issues that they face and discuss best practices and resources to assist all ETFO members and school administrative staff to contribute to workplaces that are free from homophobia and transphobia.

These focus groups will be organized and held in the strictest of confidence by two ETFO LGBT staff members. No information regarding the identity of participants will be shared with others. This will require 90 minutes of your time.

LGBT members wishing to participate can call or send an email with their first name, and name of their town/city to:
Valerie Dugale, Staff Liaison- ETFO's LGBT Standing Committee:
vdugale@etfo.org or 1-888-838-3836 x2331
Adam Peer: Executive Assistant- Equity and Women's Services:
apeer@etfo.org or 1-888-838--3836 x2239

POLLARA will be conducting telephone interviews during the month of February. This survey will gauge your understanding of pension plan provisions and issues. The information gathered will guide pension education strategies. Some pre-testing of survey questions will occur February 7-13, 2012 and the survey itself will be conducted between February 15-29, 2012.

The survey has been developed with the cooperation and approval of OTF, OTPP, and the Government of Ontario. Participants will be randomly selected. ETFO members could receive a telephone call requesting an interview.

Members are encouraged to participate in the survey if contacted.

Information will be posted on the ETFO website.