

News @ 25



Ottawa-Carleton
District 25
Teachers' Bargaining Unit

Update from the Office: 729-7211

October 2007

From Your President:

Kerry Houlahan
khoulahan@osstf25.on.ca

Provincial Election Follow-up

On behalf of the District's Political Action Committee, I would like to thank all of you who exercised your civic duty by voting on October 10. I would like to extend a special thank you to teachers who contributed, either financially or by volunteering, to the campaigns of education-friendly candidates.

Experienced Teacher TPA (Teacher Performance Appraisal)

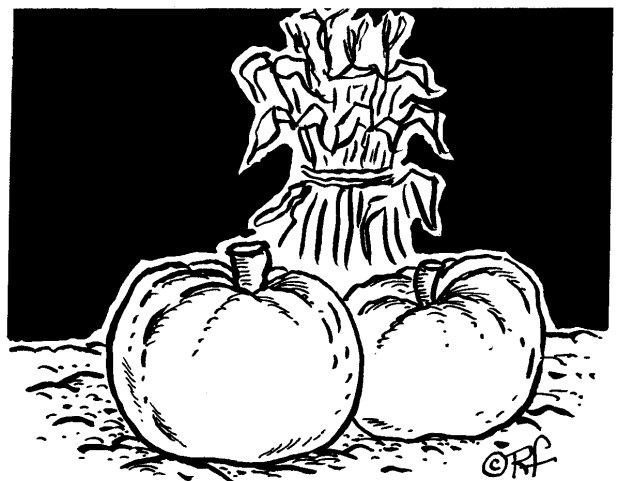
The revised TPA for experienced teachers has been implemented in the OCDSB. The revisions include a change to a 5 year cycle which means that teachers will now have 4 non-evaluation years between appraisals. If you have any questions about the timing of your appraisal, please call me.

Student Bullying

The Ministry has provided funding to teacher federations to focus on student bullying prevention initiatives. OSSTF, at the provincial level, is using those funds to provide time release for members to attend the OSSTF workshop **Beyond Bullying: Building Safe Schools**. This workshop will be presented in Ottawa in an afternoon session on November

12. More information will be available shortly through your Branch PD Rep or your Branch President.

Safe@School is a multi-faceted bullying prevention project, designed by the Ontario Teachers' Federation (OTF). One of the major components of this project is the development of an e-learning teacher training module on CD ROM. Two copies of the CD ROM will be provided to every school and a core group of teachers will be released at each school for a half day to work through the teacher training module. The teachers will then develop or revise their school's bullying prevention plan. Three to four months after viewing the CD ROM, one member from the core group of released teachers will post a bullying prevention progress report for their school on the Safe@School website. More information should be available from your principal.



From Your Chief Negotiator:

Kerri Ferguson
kferguson@osstf25.on.ca

Preparing for Negotiations

Our current collective agreement expires at the end of August 2008. Although that is 10 months away, now is the time to start preparing for the next round of negotiations. Much of this work will be done by the Collective Bargaining Committee but every teacher in our bargaining unit has a role to play.

November 13 is scheduled for Brief Presentations. This gives members the opportunity to present an issue to the negotiating team for consideration in the next round of bargaining. Look for details on the posters in your school/site or in the OSSTF folder on BEAM.

The negotiations priority survey will be run in the last week of November. The information gathered in this survey is of utmost importance during negotiations as it indicates where teachers' priorities are. Please attend the meeting at your school/site to complete the survey.

Ideas and concerns are always welcome.

From Your Membership Services Officer:

Louise Derry
lderry@osstf25.on.ca

Thinking of retiring?

Join us at the district office on November 01 for the teachers' retirement and pension workshop presented by Ruth Kirkham. This informative workshop starts at 4:30PM and refreshments are provided. If interested, register by e-mail with Evelyn Macdonald.

Certification Update

Due to improvements made to the certification regulations at AMPA 2007, the Certification Department has received four times more applications than in the past. The Certification staff has prioritized requests for category changes in order to meet the different Boards' deadlines for retroactive pay. OCDSB teachers must send all required documents to the provincial certification office before **November 18 2007** in order to meet the deadline of December 31 for retroactive pay to September 2007.

Stop paying LTD insurance

If you qualify for a **60% unreduced pension** (i.e. 30 years of credit with the teachers' pension plan and the **85 factor**), **or** will reach **age 65** you are no longer eligible for benefits and you should stop paying LTD premiums. Termination forms are available on our website in the FAQ link of the Teachers' page.

What are we talking about?

AMPA: Annual Meeting of the Provincial Assembly
ARM: Active Retired Members
CBC: Collective Bargaining Committee
COQ: Certificate of Qualifications
CPAC: Communications and Political Action
CERT: Certification
ESS: Educational Support Staff
FTE: Full Time Equivalent
LTD: Long Term Disability
OCT: Ontario College of Teachers
OLRA: Ontario Labour Relations Act
OTC: Ontario Teacher's Certificate
OTF: Ontario Teachers' Federation
OTPP: Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan
PC: Provincial Council
TPA: Teacher Performance Appraisal
WSIB: Workplace Safety and Insurance Board