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E.T.F.O. Etc.

Editor:
Maria Bouwmeester

President's Message By: Barb Blasutti



I can't believe that we are now half way through the school year. I hope you took time to relax, rejuvenate, and enjoy your well-deserved March Break! Very soon we will find ourselves in the midst of staffing timelines. March 31 is an important date since it is the deadline for leaves, returns, notices of retirement, and requests for transfers and increases in assignment. I encourage you to familiarize yourself with these timelines, which are available from your Steward.

never undermine your right or your decision to access sick leave.

If you are absent from work for medical reasons (sick leave) or for personal reasons, and are not replaced by an OT, you are not responsible for ensuring that your supervision duties scheduled that day are covered. Please call me if you have any questions in this regard.

I have been hearing from members who are being questioned by their Administration regarding their sick leave absences. If your principal is questioning your sick leave usage and/or your attendance at work, I encourage you to contact the local office.

GROWING SUCCESS—REPORT CARD UPDATE



The Ministry of Education has recently released its **Growing Success** document. *Growing Success* is the policy document that will usher in the changes to report cards next school year. Elementary teachers from grades one to eight will be writing **one fall progress report** and **two provincial report cards**, beginning in the 2010-2011 school year. Kindergarten was not included in the first edition of the Growing Success policy document. Final provincial Kindergarten report card templates will not be implemented until September 2011.

SICK LEAVE

According to our Collective Agreement, each teacher who is actively at work (or on paid leave) on the first school day shall be credited with twenty (20) days of sick leave. This sick leave is to be used for illness and/or for personal medical appointments or emergency dental work that cannot be scheduled outside of the instructional day. **The board's decision to not replace your absence with an Occasional Teacher should**

TEACHER WORKLOAD



I know that teacher workload is approaching a critical level. More and more has been added to your proverbial plate and less time is being provided to you in order to fulfill these responsibilities. Your Joint Committee has been working hard on your behalf attempting to communicate this to the Board. Issues that are currently being discussed include: Data Collection and Input, Money Collection/Fundraising, Farming-Out of students, and Report Cards. These items, as well as other teacher workload issues, will be the focus at our May Annual General Meeting. An update on the Joint Committee discussions will be presented to members and we look forward to hearing your feedback on this important issue. Please plan on attending! Remember --we have achieved much over the years by standing together. Only with your help can we hope to achieve more.

Barb



Where Are We?

1351 - E Kelly Lake Rd
Unit 6
Sudbury, Ontario
P3E 5P5

Highlights from our new CA!

CA = Collective Agreement

Did you know? → [Article 9.05](#) in our CA entitles a member to 2 days to attend the convocation of a family member if it is held on a school day out of town

Did you know? → The dates to hand in QECO Evaluation Statements have changed ([Article 5.03](#))



Rainbow Teachers attend a three-part series 'Classroom Assessment That Works'



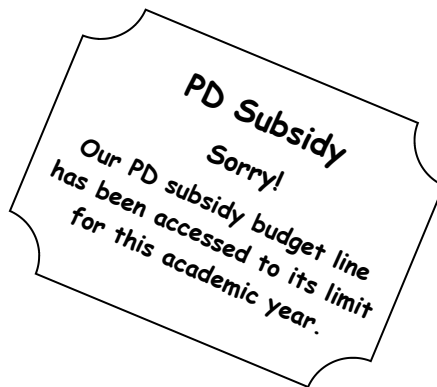
Participants taking part during the second session.

Seventeen teachers from the Rainbow local have been participating in the three-part series 'Classroom Assessment That Works'. ETFO Provincial presenters Barbe Dennis and Ruth Mackie are working with participants to provide a dynamic program designed to meet and support teacher's daily classroom assessment needs. A variety of assessment tools and strategies are being examined, as well as methods for using assessment data to inform instruction. Participants will leave with a toolbox of assessment strategies that can be utilized in their classrooms.

ETFO AQ Courses

ETFO Provincial is pleased to announce that they will be offering on-line AQ courses starting this summer. ETFO's AQ courses are developed by teachers for teachers. These are AQs that will work with your life!

There are over 20 courses being offered including kindergarten. The best part is they cost around \$650.00 per course. [Check out all the courses at etfo-aq.ca](http://etfo-aq.ca)



Upcoming Events

1. Games, Games, and More Games

Wed., March 24, 2010
6:00-8:00pm
Lansdowne P.S.



2. Everybody Move

Thurs, April 8th, 2010
4:30-7:00pm
Little Current P. S.



3. Pysanky Workshop

Thurs. March 25, 2010
4:30-7:00pm
ETFO Office



4. Dealing With Difficult People

Mon., April 12th, 2010
4:30-6:30 pm
ETFO Office



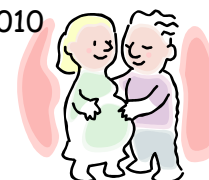
5. Retirement Workshop

Thursday, April 29, 2010
4:30-7:00pm
ETFO office



6. Pregnancy/Parental Leave

Monday, May 3rd, 2010
4:30-6:30 pm
ETFO Office



The Wellness Window

Feeling Better Now

-FeelingBetterNow® was launched in March, 2009 and is available to all OTIP LTD plan members. It is a Web-based mental health care program designed to assist in the prevention, early diagnosis and ongoing management of common emotional and mental health issues.

-FeelingBetterNow® can be utilized to assess your mental and emotional health as well as provide Diagnostic Risk Assessment Maps and Care Maps, when needed. Members can take these reports to their family doctor to receive fast, accurate treatment.

-Members do not have to submit a disability claim, be absent from work, or be receiving disability benefits to use FeelingBetterNow®.

-To access the FeelingBetterNow® Web site members will need their LTD group policy number and the access code: OTIPRAEO.

-www.feelingbetternow.com/otip

*Food for
Thought
--
Applied
knowledge
is
power!*

PROFESSIONAL RESOURCES



Come and check out this and other resources at our local office and/or purchase them from www.shopetfo.etfo.ca

Donations

Throughout the year your executive (on your behalf) pass motions to donate funds to various organizations. Since December donations have been made to: Gatchell's Blacklight show; Sudbury's Women Centre; United Way and a pizza supper was delivered to the Local 6500 Steelworkers strike lines in Copper Cliff.



Haiti Earthquake Relief

The total Haiti contributions as of February 3, 2010 from ETFO locals was \$50,820.00. ETFO Provincial has pledged to match this amount dollar for dollar in addition to the \$15,000.00 they have already donated.

School Information Finder (SIF)

The School Information Finder trivializes the hard work of teachers and the achievement of students. SIF casts achievement as a commodity to be measured and compared.

Join ETFO in its fight to have the School Information Finder dismantled. Spread the word about noSIF.ca to your friends, neighbours, and colleagues. Encourage them to visit this site and email their MPP to protest the SIF.



F.Y.I.

Bill 157

Keeping Our Kids Safe at School Act

This latest government Safe Schools initiative came into effect on February 1, 2010. All school staff were to be trained on this new legislation prior to its implementation. It is now mandatory for all school staff to respond to all types of inappropriate behaviour.

Reporting forms can be accessed through your first class >conferences>forms >student suspension.

Please contact the ETFO local office if you have not received training on Bill 157.

Just as an artist is particular about subtle hues . . .

So should we carefully choose the words that we use.



We want to hear from YOU!

If you have any questions and/or concerns please call us at the office and/or e-mail us. We are always interested in knowing what is happening at your school and/or worksite.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS :

Question: When will I know if I am redundant or surplus?

Answer: Teachers who are declared redundant will be notified on April 8, 2010. Teachers who are declared surplus to their school will be notified on April 14, 2010.

The elementary staffing time line is available on First Class at the Posting site.

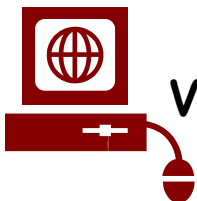
NOTE: ETFO Rainbow will be hosting an information meeting on April 13th on Manitoulin Island and April 15th in Sudbury for teachers declared redundant or surplus.

Question: How many postings can I apply for?

Answer: Any teacher who is successful in obtaining a posted vacancy may apply for subsequent vacancies but may only accept one other position that occurs for the following school year.

→This means a teacher can only move twice!

Interested in learning more about your local union—come out to our Local Annual Meeting and Silent Auction on Wednesday, May 19th , 2010 in Sudbury. Don't forget your Grand Prize Draw card!



Visit our local website at www.etforainbow.on.ca