



E.T.F.O. Etc.

Editor:
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President's Message By: Barb Blasutti



This past month, teachers all across the province experienced the growing pains of the Ministry's new "Growing Success" Assessment/Evaluation program. To say that moving from Teachers Partner to a web-based program was challenging is an understatement at best. I want to thank

those teachers who kept the Local informed about the numerous issues related to the program—from the software to the "training video" to eSIS issues—your feedback was helpful in helping to address the numerous glitches. Any teacher who is still experiencing difficulty loading/running the program from home should contact the Local office.

Province-wide, there appeared to be a huge difference between what the Ministry of Education said would happen during the implementation of the new Fall Progress Report and the realities teachers faced as they began the process of completing these reports. Because the Ministry did not make reporting guidelines available as promised, school boards developed their own guidelines for the Fall Progress Report—in many cases without regard for the principles set out in the Ministry's Growing Success document. In response, ETFO (Provincial) then set out its own Guiding Principles. Here in Rainbow, the guidelines set out by our board respected most of the principles set out in the Ministry's Growing Success document and were, to a large degree, consistent with ETFO's Guiding Principles.

While the Rainbow Local did not officially "approve" any aspect of the Fall Progress Report, we did reach the following common understanding with the board:

COMMENTS

► comments are to describe, in overall terms, what the students can do. They are to be general in nature and provide parents with personalized and meaningful feedback.

► the term "personalized comment" does **not** mean that every student must have a different comment

LEARNING SKILLS/WORK HABITS

► homeroom teachers will provide a letter grade for each skill/habit

► it is **not** necessary for teachers to comment on all areas of this section

SUBJECT AREAS

► homeroom teachers will enter achievement **checkmarks** for subject areas they teach / subject area teachers will enter the achievement **checkmark** for subjects they teach

► teachers are to comment in the areas of language and math, as well as any areas that students are "progressing with difficulty"

► comments are **not** required in other subject areas
► teachers are **not** required to completely fill in the comment box

ETFO has long lobbied for two formal reporting periods. The fall progress report was intended to maintain meaningful communication to parents while **reducing** teacher workload. To help determine if this is indeed the reality, the ETFO Provincial Office will survey locals and members regarding implementation of the fall progress report.

The goal of the survey is to gather information that ETFO can then bring forward to the government with an aim to resolving issues in time for the 2011 progress report. I will let your Steward know when this on-line survey is ready to receive your input!



What is the Spirit Horse tour?

Roseneath Theatre's award-winning production of **Spirit Horse** is a beautiful play about two First Nations children who are caught between two worlds—the traditional ways and the modern ways of the city. They are given new hope by a *Spirit Horse* that rides into their lives. Adapted by celebrated Ojibwe playwright Drew Hayden Taylor, the play is being performed for Grades 3 to 8 students in 20 Rainbow schools



Spirit Horse is presented by the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO) and the Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association (OECTA) with funding from the Ontario Ministry of Education.

The tour is a major Arts professional development initiative that will make dance, drama, music and the visual arts come alive in classrooms. Much more than an engaging theatre experience, the play presents teachers with a wonderful teaching tool for exploring contemporary Aboriginal issues and delving into issues of social justice and anti-racist education with students.

The tour schedule for Rainbow schools is being finalized—check with your Steward or your principal to see if your school will receive a free presentation of this amazing performance. More information on Spirit Horse can be found at www.spirithorse.ca.

Barb

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Where Are We?

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

Highlights from our Collective Agreement

Did you know? ► Personal Leave has been negotiated to enable teachers to deal with personal issues they are unable to address outside of the instructional day.

(Article 9.08)



ETFO Rainbow Teachers attend General Meeting



Sudbury General Meeting
Wednesday, October 20th, 2010



Island General Meeting
Tuesday, October 26th, 2010

- Trustee Election summary
- Growing Success/Report Cards
- Grievance update
- Collective Bargaining update



ETFO AQ Courses

Check out all the courses at www.etfo-aq.ca

Many on-line courses offered for \$650.00. Save money and enroll in courses designed by teachers for teachers. ETFO AQ courses are accredited by the OCT and ARE recognized by QECO for grid movement in most cases.

Registration for the winter term is now open (January 17th to April 1st, 2011)

→The following NEW courses have been added to the ETFO offerings:

Education Law

Geography, Grades 7 & 8

Junior Education, Part 2

Mathematics, Pr/Jr, Specialist

Primary Education, Specialist

Social Studies, Pr/Jr, Part 1

Integration and Information of Computer Technology, Specialist

FSL Spécialiste

Inclusive Classroom, Part 2

Librarianship, Specialist

Media, Specialist

Science & Technology, Pr/Jr, Part 1

Writing, Specialist

All of the courses that were offered in the fall will be offered again.

The Wellness Window

Fifth Disease

The Local encourages all teachers who are pregnant and/or planning to get pregnant to be tested to determine their immunity to Fifth Disease.

The Rainbow District School Board has a policy on Fifth Disease with respect to teachers who are pregnant.

This policy is posted on the Board's website. Members are encouraged to speak to their steward or contact the local office for more information.



CAREpath Cancer Assistance Program

FeelingBetterNow®



are two programs available to teachers who participate in our LTD program.

For more information on these two programs please go to: www.OTIP.com

Awards and Scholarships

The 2010 EatRight Ontario Kids Recipe Challenge is for students in grades 1 to .

Students submit their favourite recipes for either school lunches or after school snacks. A team of Registered Dietitians will judge the recipes on nutrition, taste, originality, ease of preparation and the response to the question, "Why would kids like this recipe." For more information about the contest, visit the website at www.eatrightontario.ca . The deadline to enter is December 3, 2010.

Do you know a student who could use an extra \$1,500 for tuition?

They could WIN a bursary from OTIP!

If you're insured with OTIP and you, your child, step-child, niece, nephew or grandchild (under the age of 30) will be a full-time post-secondary student at a Canadian college or university for the upcoming academic year, enter online for the chance to win a bursary from OTIP.

Twelve bursaries of \$1,500 each are awarded annually.

Applications are accepted until June 15 each year.

Visit www.otip.com for more information

Donations

Throughout the year your executive (on your behalf) pass motions to donate funds to various organizations. Since September, donations have been made to: OPSEU strike fund; Mission of Tears; and Teachers Lions Club.

F.Y.I.

**Christmas Holidays and
Rainbow ETFO Office**

The Rainbow local office will be closed for the Holidays from December 23rd until January 5th.



If you have an urgent issue over the Holidays please call the provincial office at 1-888-838-3836 and ask for the PRS counselor on duty.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS :

Question: Am I entitled to Preparation Time on a PD Day?

Answer: No

-PD days are listed as Day O on the Rainbow District School Board's calendar. Teachers are provided with preparation and supervision time on a five day cycle. The five day cycle was developed to make preparation and supervision time equitable among all teachers.

Question: Which PD days are for writing report cards?

Answer: The two Assessment and Reporting days are January 21st and June 10th, 2011.

Without one ingredi-
ent in a classroom,
nothing else would
mean a thing . . .
that is the teachers
and the inspiration
that they bring.

Retirement Planning!

We are pleased to announce that Robin MacDonald from OTIP will be here to present a workshop titled; 'Walk Into Retirement with a Plan'.

Feb. 8th—Island;

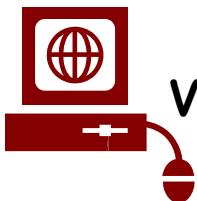
Feb 9th—Sudbury

50/50 DRAWS!

AT ALL OF OUR STEWARD AND GENERAL MEETINGS A 50/50 DRAW IS HELD TO RAISE FUNDS FOR OUR END OF THE YEAR GRAND PRIZE.

ANY MEMBER WHO HAS ATTENDED TWO GENERAL MEETINGS CAN ENTER TO WIN OCCASIONAL TEACHER COVERAGE FOR THE DAY.

The Rainbow Local's next General meetings will be on Wednesday, February 23th in Sudbury and Thursday, February 24th on Manitoulin Island.



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