

The Sentinel



The Role of Trustees

Heather Manassis, President

In an effort to understand the role of trustees in the education sector, I turned to google. Unfortunately, I didn't find much that I didn't already know. I was hoping for a list of do's and don'ts for trustees, but I couldn't find one. Google directed me to the Ministry of Education and OCSTA websites and to the Ontario Education Act.

So here is what we do know, trustees are representatives elected to advocate for a particular community with regard to education and are expected to maintain a focus on student achievement and well-being. They are expected to participate in making decisions that benefit the entire board district while representing the interests of their constituents. Trustees are locally-elected representatives of the public, in our case by Catholic school supporters, and they are the community's advocate for public education. Trustees are required to carry out their responsibilities in a manner that assists the board in fulfilling its duties under the Education Act. They are expected to entrust the day-to-day management of the board to its staff through the board's director of education

Currently ten individuals comprise the Board of Trustees of the York Catholic District School Board. Carol Cotton is Chair of the Board and represents schools in Markham (Thornhill/Unionville) and Elizabeth Crowe, Vice Chair, represents schools in Aurora/King/Whitchurch-Stouffville. The names of the remaining eight trustees and the communities they represent are as follows: Theresa McNicol - East Gwillimbury/Georgina/Newmarket; Marlene Mogado - Markham (Milliken/Markham/Unionville); Teresa Ciaravella - Vaughan (Maple/Kleinburg); Dino Giuliani - Vaughan (Woodbridge, Area 2, Ward 2); Maria Marchese - Vaughan (Woodbridge, Area 3, Ward 3); Cathy Ferlisi - Vaughan (Concord/Thornhill); Domenic Mazzotta - Richmond Hill; Ann Stong - Richmond Hill.

The trustees named above were elected or acclaimed to

the Board in 2014 and will serve in their respective roles until the next municipal election in 2018. Your participation in the municipal elections in 2018 is critical. Trustees make decisions, pass motions and write policies which do in fact shape our work.

Provincially, all trustees in English-language Catholic schools belong to a larger body called the OCSTA (Ontario Catholic School Trustee Association), an acronym with which you are familiar through our experiences with provincial bargaining. OCSTA members negotiated with the province and OECTA in the last round of provincial bargaining. The mission statement of the OCSTA is "Inspired by the Gospel, we provide leadership, service and a provincial voice for Catholic School Boards in promoting and protecting Catholic education." For more than 150 years, Catholic School Trustees have focused on the development and well-being of the whole child - mind, body and spirit, making Catholic schools distinctly different than other publicly funded schools in Ontario.

One of the most notable, and perhaps laborious and challenging responsibilities of trustees, is the development of a balanced budget. Last spring, when the Board found themselves in deficit, countless hours and numerous meetings were dedicated to the budget and subsequent meetings to developing a repayment plan to eliminate the deficit. Although the ministry maintains that funding has remained the same in 2016 as it was in 2015, the allocation of funds to particular 'envelopes' has tied the hands of trustees in some areas - the most obvious of which is special education funding. We can all agree that ministry funding has indeed made things more difficult for all boards across the province. Apart from the budget however trustees are expected to collaborate with the Board to ensure that students of YCDSB receive the best possible education, rooted in the teachings of the Catholic Church, while adhering to ministry guidelines and the Education

Act; a very tall order indeed.

Recently, a 'notice of motion' by a trustee addressed the issue of the requirement of teachers to complete Religious Education Part I within the next six months. The consequence of non-completion - termination. Needless to say, the association has serious concerns about this. We have addressed this with senior management and will continue to advocate accordingly on behalf of all members. Please note the motion failed. Every year trustees write and/or update policies that direct the activities in our schools. Last spring, a new policy requiring prayer centres in every classroom was established, a previous motion ensuring that students sit for only one exam per day was also passed during the last school year. That motion required several changes to the then current practices in our high schools. Other policies with which you may be familiar include those titled *Pupil Accommodation Review (PAR)*, *Extreme Weather*, *Healthy Schools*, *Safe Schools* and *The Respectful Workplace Policy*. There are many more. Each one is developed by the Board of Trustees and all affect the operations of our schools, some affecting us more directly than others. The association reviews these policies and provides input in an effort to ensure that teacher workload is not affected.

As an association we endeavor to have a good working relationship with the Board. To that end I would encourage you to get to know your trustee. When you invite parents in for Mother's Day, Christmas, or other special occasions, or to see projects or presentations by students, invite your trustee too. In the current political climate, our trustees are important players in shaping education and how it is delivered.

Election Finance Reform Legislation: Bill 2

Transparent or Undemocratic?

By Filomena Ferraro

1st VP, Political Action Committee Chair

In the spring the Liberal government introduced measures to change the way political parties raise and spend money during, and in-between elections. The proposed legislation, Bill 2, formerly known as Bill 201, is currently in second reading and is expected to pass on January 1, 2017. The key reforms include:

- Barring corporations, unions and other groups not affiliated with political parties from making political donations
- Creating new restrictions on fundraising for politicians and political parties
- Limiting third-party spending on political advertising.

The new legislation will also propose a further amendment to ban MPPs, candidates, party leaders, nomination contestants and leadership contestants from attending political fundraising events. In addition to these legislative measures, the government has committed to working with opposition party members to develop a code of conduct that would set out fair, balanced rules for all elected officials.

All three political parties are in favour of tightening up the rules surrounding political donations. Many MPPs

however don't feel that the Liberals are addressing all of their concerns. The Progressive Conservative Party does not believe that the Liberals have been honest about who has made financial contributions to their party. There is speculation that the Liberals received massive donations from those who benefited from the sale of Hydro One. Patrick Brown and members of his party would like all parties to be required to disclose the names of donors and their respective employers. This amendment was voted down by the Liberals who hold the majority vote in legislature. (The Globe and Mail, August 30, 2016)

The New Democratic Party of Ontario offer some interesting critiques of the process and of the Bill. Under the leadership of Andrea Horwath, the NDP does not believe that the Liberals can change a process without public consultation and that this may have consequences for Ontario's democratic process. The New Democrats, along with the PCs, are in agreement regarding the elimination of corporate and union donations to political parties. However, the NDP is concerned with the restrictions affecting non-partisan advocacy campaigns. They do not want any limits on expression for any group or individuals with a view that may be different from the government's position. This limit does not exist for the government who can

communicate and advertise without restrictions. Therefore Horwath believes that "campaigns designed to raise issues, such as the need to fight climate change, improve services for children with autism or the need to raise or lower taxes, would be severely restricted". (andrea-horwath-myletter-to-premier-wynne, October 14, 2016).

If this legislation restricts non-partisan groups while allowing the government to spend an un-limited amount of tax payer dollars to communicate their position, then there seems to be an obvious flaw in the democratic process. This new legislation has also made unions realize that they will need to approach the next provincial election in a manner similar to the approach used in the last federal election. The labour movement was very organized in effectively preventing Harper's re-election without political donations of any denomination. We will have to take the same approach during the next provincial election and look at other strategies to address our interests during and in between elections. The Political Action Committee at York Catholic will be discussing and examining our approach. Committee members are certainly up for the challenge.

PAR – What Is It and What Does It Mean to You!

Article by M. Totten

The Pupil Accommodation Review (PAR) process is part of the board's Long Term Accommodation Plan, or LTAP. Details of this plan can be found at <http://www.ycdsb.ca/par/>. As decisions are made in each area as to what schools will be involved in the PAR process they are posted on this site. The PAR process has been developed to ensure that the board is making the best use of its resources. Unused space is unfunded space. The Board considers both surplus space and growth across YCDSB to determine which schools are no longer sustainable.

The Boards Long Term Accommodation Plan will focus on the following 4 R's.

- **Right Program:** student success; elementary and secondary initiatives
- **Right Facility:** physical space in the building, school yard, parking lot
- **Right-Size:** student placements, school organization
- **Right Location:** geography

The PAR process began in 2015 in Woodbridge for Immaculate Conception, St. Francis of Assisi, St. Gabriel the Archangel, and St. John Bosco and in Thornhill for Holy Family, St. Francis and St. Joseph the Worker. This year it will involve schools in Markham specifically St. Benedict, St. Francis Xavier, St. Mother Teresa, and St.

Vincent de Paul. In Maple schools involved in the PAR process are Blessed Trinity, Father John Kelly and Our Lady of Peace. In June of 2016, following the PAR process, the decision was made to close Holy Family CES in Thornhill. The decision for the Woodbridge PAR schools will be made at the October 25th board meeting. The decision regarding which of the Maple schools under review will close will be made at the February 28th board meeting and a decision for the schools under consideration in Markham will be made later this school year. The schools selected to close in each of these areas will be closed for September 2017.

In 2018-2020 the PAR process **may** occur in each of the following areas:

Aurora: Holy Spirit, Light of Christ, Our Lady of Grace, St. Joseph (Aurora), and St. Jerome
East Gwillimbury: Good Shepherd, Our Lady of Good Counsel
Georgina: Our Lady of the Lake (Gr. 7 & 8), Prince of Peace, St. Bernadette, St. Thomas Aquinas
King: Holy Name, St. Mary (Nobleton), St. Patrick (Schomberg)
Markham – North: All Saints, San Lorenzo Ruiz, St. Joseph (Markham), St. Julia Billiard, St. Monica
Markham – Centre: St. Edward, St. John XXIII, St. Justin Martyr, St. Kateri Tekakwitha, St. Matthew, St. Patrick

(Markham)

Markham – Thornhill: St. Anthony, St. Michael Academy, St. Rene-Goupil – St. Luke
Newmarket: Canadian Martyrs, Notre Dame, St. Elizabeth Seton, St. John Chrysostom, St. Nicholas, St. Paul
Richmond Hill – North: Corpus Christi, Father Frederick McGinn, Father Henri Nouwen, Our Lady of Hope, Our Lady of the Annunciation, St. Marguerite d'Youville
Richmond Hill – South: Christ the King, St. John Paul II, Our Lady Help of Christians, St. Anne, St. Charles Garnier, St. Joseph (Richmond Hill), St. Mary Immaculate
Vaughan – North Woodbridge/Kleinburg – Guardian Angels, Pope Francis, St. Agnes of Assisi, St. Andrew, St. Emily, St. Mary of the Angels, St. Michael the Archangel, St. Padre Pio, St. Stephen, St. Veronica
Vaughan – South Woodbridge West: Our Lady of Fatima, San Marco, St. Angela Merici, St. Clement, St. Margaret Mary, St. Peter
Whitchurch-Stouffville: St. Brendan, St. Brigid, St. Mark

In order to staff appropriately during the PAR process, the following staffing processes have been put in place and mutually agreed upon by OECTA-York Unit and the York **Catholic District School Board**.

School Closure

1. a) The school that closes shall be referred to as the “closing” school and shall assign students to another building.
b) When a school closes, all staff will be automatically declared excess.
2. The school that receives students shall be referred to as the “receiving” school.
3. Staffing in the receiving school will be completed with existing enrollment and without incorporating closing student enrolments. If excess is declared in the ‘receiving’ school (based on existing student enrolment) those teachers will be declared excess and will not have access to positions created by incoming students.
4. Newly created positions resulting from closing school’s students will be first available to staff excessed from closing school based on seniority.
5. Newly created positions are not available to teachers on staff in the receiving school.
6. If there was excess at the receiving school, and if all positions are not filled by staff from the closing school(s), then those teachers who were excessed at the receiving school may elect to be recalled to one of the positions remaining, according to seniority.
7. Any remaining vacant positions will then be made available to all teachers through the excess/transfer process.
8. Once student enrolment has been combined, (receiving school’s students with closing school’s students), teachers excessed from the receiving school and/or from the closing schools who choose ‘right of recall’ will be offered positions by seniority, regardless of their original position.

Central Positions

- 1 For centrally hired positions (FSL, Music, and Phys. Ed.), staff will be treated as per the regular staffing process including placement day.
2. Teachers in the receiving school will be the first to have schedules topped up.

3. If a full-time position becomes available in a receiving school, it shall be offered to the teachers from the closing school before being included on the vacancy list for placement day.

4. If an itinerant position becomes available in the ‘new’ school, the regular staffing process will apply. The most senior teacher in the school(s) with which the ‘new’ school is being paired will be the first to be offered the pairing. A pairing of the receiving school and another school will allow staff from the closing school to be considered for that pairing.

French Immersion Schools

The FI teacher, who is staffed centrally, will move to the new school with the program.

The teacher in the English portion of the program will have the option of moving with the program or following the regular staffing process at his/ her home school. This may result in being declared excess.

Teacher Librarian / Core Resource

The school librarian (if full time) will remain in the position if it remains full time, or will be staffed according to the regular staffing process. 1/2 time at home school and 1/2 time at FI school).

The core resource teacher, if there is only one and the job is split between both schools, will remain in the position (1/2 time at home school and 1/2 time at FI school). If there is more than one core resource teacher, they may choose to be staffed at their own school through the regular staffing process or at the FI school in Core Resource (if a full position is available). Staffing will be determined by seniority and full time status.

For initial staffing purposes, staff can be considered for both home school and FI pairings, by seniority.

A proposal for two new schools, a second elementary school in Kleinburg in 2018-2019, and a secondary school in Stouffville in 2019-2020, are 100% dependent upon funding from the Ministry of Education.

York Catholic Teachers
presents
HOCKEY NIGHT IN DETROIT
Saturday, April 1st, 2017



Registration will OPEN on Wed. October 12, 2016 and will CLOSE on Tuesday November 29, 2016

The Social Committee of York Catholic Teachers is planning an overnight trip to Detroit to attend an exciting game between the Toronto Maple Leafs and the Detroit Red Wings, Saturday, April 1st, 2017. Don't miss the FINAL GAME FOR TORONTO vs DETROIT AT THE HISTORIC JOE LOUIS ARENA before it closes at season's end. This trip is being offered to York Unit OECTA members ONLY plus ONE guest. (* Guests must be at least 21 years of age).

The coach bus will depart from the Unit Office in Richmond Hill at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, April 1st, 2017. Accommodations have been arranged at the Best Western Plus Waterfront Hotel in Windsor. Your accommodations include a buffet breakfast. The hotel is located less than a 10 minute walk from Caesar's Windsor. Prior to departure on Sunday there will be time to shop at the Windsor Crossings Outlet Mall. The bus will depart from Windsor on Sunday, April 2nd at 3:00 p.m. (Expected arrival time in Richmond Hill is approx. 8:00 p.m.)

The cost includes game ticket, transportation, driver gratuity, accommodation and taxes. REFUNDS WILL NOT BE GRANTED FOR ANY REASON AFTER THE REGISTRATION DEADLINE on November 29th, 2016.

Single Occupancy:	\$280.00/person
Double Occupancy:	\$210.00/person
Triple Occupancy:	\$190.00/person
Quad Occupancy:	\$180.00/person

To participate, members need to register via the York Unit website, www.yctoecta.com, beginning October 12th, 2016. Payment is by MasterCard or Visa ONLY. A waiting list will be generated on the website.

IMPORTANT:

When registering on the website, please indicate the names of all the individuals occupying the room. This MUST be provided to the hotel and the OECTA member must be lodging in the room booked in his/her name. You will assume responsibility for any and all incidental costs.



ELKP, FTK, FDK, AND NOW SIMPLY “KINDERGARTEN”

Heather Manassis, President

Wow, have we seen some changes in Kindergarten! According to the newest document, and to all sources in the know, there is now only one word for the two-year program offered to children beginning school (ages 3-6) and it's simply “Kindergarten”.

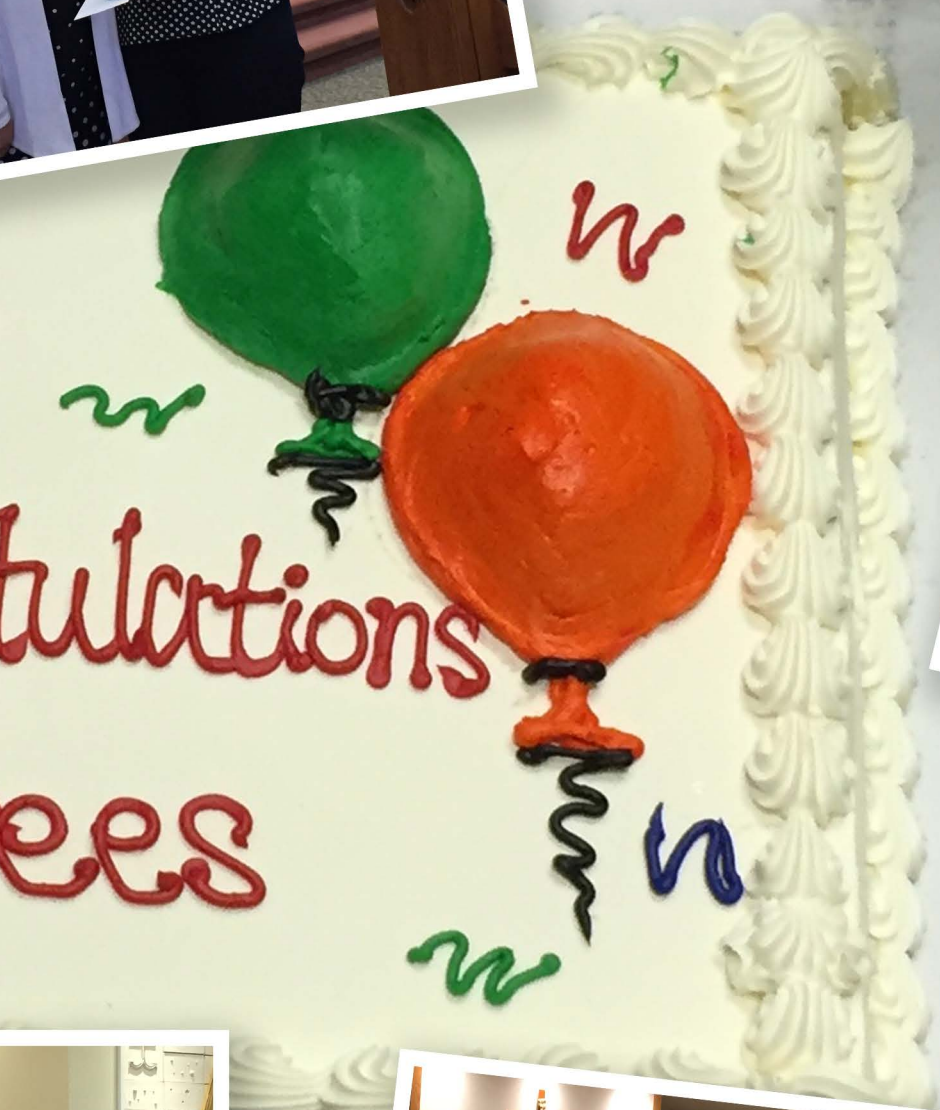
The change to the name however is minor. Changes to the program and the reporting of student achievement are much more significant. The Kindergarten program has been restructured, and although the expectations remain the same they have been redistributed under four pillars or frames; Belonging and Contributing (BC), Self-Regulation and Well-Being (SRWB), Demonstrating Literacy and Mathematics Behaviours (DLMB), and Problem Solving and Innovating (PSI). It is under these four headings that teachers will report to parents the student's learning. In January 2017 teachers will use the new “Kindergarten Communication of Learning Template” for the first time.

The association and the Board have developed a committee comprised of Kindergarten and Kindergarten PE teachers, consultants and resource staff to prepare comments in order to facilitate in the completion of this new document. In addition, the ministry has promised funding for a half day of in-service for each Kindergarten teacher and DECE pair. We have asked that the Kindergarten Phys. Ed. teachers be included in this in-service. The focus of the in-service will be assessment and evaluation under the four frames. These in-services will be done by area beginning early November.

I would like to assure each of you that the association continues to work with the board to address the concerns of the new Kindergarten program. Provincially, OECTA also continues to address these same concerns with the ministry, as promised at the bargaining table, particularly with regard to the large class sizes.







YORK CATHOLIC
TEACHERS

Retiring July or August?

Why Retiring in June Makes More Sense!!!

Julie Pauletig, Past President

With Retirement Workshops just around the corner, teachers in their last five years begin to focus more seriously on planning for life after teaching. While our birthdate is relevant in calculating our 85 factor, (our age plus the number of years teaching) this number simply provides pension plan members their eligible date of retirement without penalty. Often teachers elect to teach beyond their 85 factor working beyond their birthday and teaching until the end of the school year or finishing a term. Some colleagues, whose birthdays fall mid-year, elect to leave in December, February or March. The majority of teachers however retire in June. July and August are exceptions to the norm as an August retirement could potentially result in a loss of income for retirees.

Why do most teachers retire prior to start of the summer holidays? Upon deciding to retire a teacher will provide the employer (the board) with a resignation letter stating an effective retirement date of June 30. The employer is then obligated to pay retiring teachers all outstanding salary, all the monies that had been withheld (13.08%) for summer pay, by the end of June. This is equivalent to the four pay cheques they would have received over the summer months had they not retired. This must occur in order to receive pension benefits in July and August.

Therefore, the benefit of resigning by the end of June, as opposed to retiring in July or August, is that retired teachers are eligible to begin receiving pension payments in July. By waiting to retire at the end of August, teachers forfeit two months of pension payments (potentially more than \$7,000.00) and also delay receiving their outstanding salary upfront. Recently some teachers have elected to wait until the end of August in order to maintain dental, major medical and life insurance benefits. Two pension payments however, July and August, will in most cases be significantly greater than the cost of two months of either family or single benefit coverage through OTIP (Ontario Teachers Insurance Plan) or RTO (Retired Teachers of Ontario).

This past September 2016 the Board hired a significant number of new permanent teachers, some well after the

start of the school year. There were rumours that many teachers retired late, over the summer. This cannot possibly be accurate. Certainly there are rare situations, especially due to unforeseen circumstances, when a teacher may elect to retire in the middle of the summer. Those numbers are few however because retirees would forfeit July and/or August pension payments. When speaking to pension experts within our profession, many will advise that if you are able to plan ahead, you should retire at the end of the school year (June 30th) as opposed to the end of the contract year (August 31st), as it will benefit you financially. Again this is assuming that the member has reached his or her 85 factor. Every case varies dependent on one's birthdate. For this reason I cannot stress enough how important it is to seek advice from the pension experts at the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan (OTPP). In some cases, it is also more financially sound to retire in June even though you have a July or August birthday and may not reach your 85 factor until later in the summer. If doing so results in a penalty it is often minimal and offset by receiving pension benefits two months sooner. This personal information is available to you in advance of your retirement date by contacting the OTPP members' hotline at 1 (800) 668-0105 or (416) 226-2700. Be sure to have your Social Insurance Number, your member pension plan number (if you are uncertain they will assist you through the process), and YCDSB employee number available in the event that additional information is required.

I think the time has come for me to register for the Pension Workshop sponsored by our local unit, taking place on November 26, 2016, in order that I be best informed prior to deciding on a retirement date. To all teachers in their last five years, I recommend you attend as well, and I look forward to seeing you at this worthwhile, informative workshop.

Pension and Retirement Workshop

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 28th, 2015
8:30 A.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Richmond Hill Country Club
8905 Bathurst Street
Richmond Hill

(South of 16th Ave. and North of Hwy. #7 on the East side)

ON-LINE REGISTRATION WILL
OPEN NOVEMBER 3RD, 2015 AND
CLOSES NOVEMBER 26TH, 2015.

A light breakfast will be served at 8:15 am.
Lunch will also be provided.

Presented by JOE PECE, Department Head
Counselling & Member Services, OECTA – Provincial

This workshop is designed for teachers in their last 5 years of teaching.

This is a FULL DAY workshop which is intended to help you to plan for your retirement. Topics presented will include "The Pension Plan", "Personal Considerations", and "Financial Planning".

Registration for this workshop is ONLY available on the YCT website www.yctoecta.ca. A spouse or a significant other is welcome to accompany each member. If you find yourself in a position whereby you need to cancel your registration please call the Unit office. There is NO CHARGE to participate in this workshop.

Please note that we have only been allocated ONE pension workshop for the 2015-2016 school year.

270 SPACES ARE AVAILABLE

If you have any questions or difficulties registering please do not hesitate to contact the Unit Office at (905) 508-2008 or 1-800-269-3662.



THE 8th ANNUAL York Catholic Teachers CHRISTMAS PARTY!!

FRIDAY DECEMBER 9th, 2016
The Venetian Hall "C"
219 Romina Drive
Concord, Ontario
6:30 p.m.

Back to \$50 per person
Includes: 4-Course Meal, and Deluxe Bar

Only 240 tickets will be available for purchase on the YCT website
(www.yctoecta.com)

Registration will OPEN October 20, 2016 and will CLOSE December 2, 2016

Make this your staff social!
Great Fun!! Great Door Prizes!!
Return of "The Red Carpet" Photobooth!

29th Annual Children's Christmas Party

Featuring "CREATURE QUEST"

SATURDAY DECEMBER 3rd, 2016
from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
at St. Elizabeth CHS, Thornhill

1. If you are a York Unit – OECTA member and have children of your own, you, your spouse and all your children are welcome to attend.
2. If you are a York Unit – OECTA member but do not have children of your own, then you and related guests are welcome to attend. (Guests may include nieces, nephews, grandchildren, etc.).
3. A REGISTRATION FEE of \$5.00 per child aged 0 to 10 years old (BORN BETWEEN 2006-2016) is required. There is no charge for children older than 10 years to attend. Fees help to defray costs.
4. ONLY REGISTERED CHILDREN aged 0 to 10 years of age will receive a gift from Santa. (Older children are welcome to attend for the refreshments and entertainment, but they will not receive a gift, and they DO NOT need to register).
5. All gifts not claimed by the end of the day will be donated to an appropriate charity. NO REFUNDS WILL BE AVAILABLE AND NO GIFTS WILL BE HELD.
6. Registration will open October 20th 2016. You must register and make payment online @ www.yctoecta.com not later than 1:00 p.m. on November 24th, 2016. You will receive a receipt upon payment. This receipt is your confirmation of registration. LATE REGISTRATIONS CANNOT BE ACCEPTED.
7. Please remember that Santa will be distributing gifts directly to the children throughout the event. Pictures are allowed so don't forget to bring your cameras!



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Greg Bolton and Mike Totten

YCT website questions...

Why am I getting an “invalid User” response when I log in to the new YCT website?

The most common reason for this is that you are using a browser, usually Chrome, which has saved your board email account as your default whenever you sign in through google.

How to I stop this from happening?

There are a couple of ways of doing this:

1. Log out of your board (or other Google account) then click on the sign in button.
2. Add a new Google Account, and input your YCT email information (yes it too is Google)

How do I add an account ?

There are several ways to do this but here is a good step by step method:

1. Go to <https://accounts.google.com/Login>

NOTE: If you are already signed into your board account or any other Gmail, then click where it says Sign in with a different account

2. Your email is firstname.lastname@yctoecta.com
3. Your temp password = Your OECTA# plus 00000 (Your OECTA# is not your OCT #)
4. You will be prompted to create a strong password of your choice (It must be 8 characters in length and you must enter it twice)
5. You may be prompted to put in a cell number for Password Recovery, this is not required, simply press “DONE”.

Your yctoecta.com email inbox will now load

NOW go to our website, <http://www.yctoecta.com>, to register

1. The Google Sign in is right below the phone number at the top right of the screen click on it.
2. A window will open, and select your yctoecta.com email to use for sign in
3. You will be prompted to allow access to YCTA, agree to it (this will only happen the first time you login to our site.)

You are now logged in.

Why are we required to use the YCT, rather than a personal email address?

Over 5 years ago the York Executive decided to launch these email addresses for every member. It is critical that the local unit is able to contact members to provide them with information regarding union matters. Administration of this ensures that all email inboxes remain in existence and allows us to support members when needed.

What do I do if I have forgotten my password?

First, try the default password - your OECTA number and 5 zeros, as it may have been reset to 'default'.

If that doesn't work you will need to access the following link and complete the form, <https://goo.gl/forms/PXtNPTn7mDLg8rBB2>

I have never accessed my YCT email, what is my email address and password?

Your email address is “firstname.lastname@yctoecta.com” (gregbolton@yctoecta.com) and your password is your OECTA number and 5 zeros (1234500000)

I've tried everything, nothing works, now what?

Get yourself to a computer that is near a phone (during business hours) and call the Unit Office at 905-508-2008. One of the staff, or a release officer, will walk you through the login process.

Why do I need to login on the website?

You will need to access the website and login to be able to register for any of the events sponsored by the Local Unit

I want to register for the Hockey Game but cannot find it in the listings?

Go to the website and click on 'events'. You will see a list of upcoming events. There are many ways to sort and navigate the “Events” pages.

- If you click on “Social” you will see a listing of only the Social events.
- If the list is long you will need to use the navigation buttons to go to the next page.
- You can also sort by “Name” or “Date”.
- You can flip the view to calendar mode to search by date.
- Finally, the entire site is searchable. Type the name of the event in the “Search” bar.

There is something on the site I don't see.

We encourage the members to please contact the Unit office and make their comments and concerns known. This is a website for the members and we want to ensure that all members can be engaged and informed to the best of our abilities.

More questions . . .

Can a combined grade be equal in size to a straight grade?

Yes. The collective agreement states a combined grade must be less than a straight grade **where possible**. In Primary classes, due to the Ministry maximum of 20, you could have a Gr. 1 at 20 and a Gr. ½ at 20.

In Junior and Intermediate classes, due to the collective agreement caps, it is possible to have a Gr. 5 at 31 and a Gr. 5/6 at 31.

Although rare, you may have a combined grade higher than a straight grade. This can occur when making a ‘workable group’ for the combined class. If there are a total of 22 grade 1's, and 36 Gr. 2's, you would assign four Gr. 1's (a workable group) to the 1/2 combined (4/16) for a total of 20, a Gr. 2 of 20, leaving the Grade 1 class @ 18. The split larger than the straight because the board must be compliant with ministry maximums. This can also occur in both the Intermediate and Junior divisions.

Provincial Benefits...

As you are aware the administration of our benefit plan will be moving from our school board to Provincial OECTA. York is in the 2nd wave of the transition which will occur on Feb 1, 2017.

Recently you received notice from the Board of the need to update your personal address and contact information. It is imperative that you comply with the request in order to ensure a smooth and seamless transitions of your benefit plan.

To access the required page to update your personal data please do the following:

- Go to MyPortal and login (<https://portal.ycdsb.ca>)
- Click on “Employee Self-Service”
- Click on “Personal Information”
- Click on “Addresses”
- Click “Edit” if the information is incorrect, correct and save changes

All information about the new benefit plan will come from the Provincial office-OECTA. We anticipate that members will receive the pertinent information as the February transition date approaches.

Understanding the Earned Leave Plan (ELP)

Heather Manassis, President

The Earned Leave Plan, sometimes referred to as a partially paid day, refers to a benefit negotiated in 2014, and now accessible. What does it mean for teachers at York Catholic?

In 2015-16 members who accessed fewer than 13.9 days of absence (as defined under ELP) earned a partially paid leave day and one unpaid day. If ELP time was earned, it is displayed on “My Portal” as two separate lines, Earned Leave Plan - Paid and Unpaid. At the bottom of the “My Portal” screen, members will also see the 2015-16 target of 13.9 (unless pro-rated) and the number of absences accessed as defined by the ELP.

Teachers at York Catholic are currently entitled to 5 unpaid days, and additional 5 days at the discretion of the Director. The ELP now allows you to access two additional days; one more unpaid day, and one partially paid day for a total of 6 unpaid days and 1 partially paid day. The cost of an unpaid day, for a teacher at A4 Max is approximately \$500.00. If you qualify for an Earned Leave Plan day you can access one partially paid day for which you would be paid the daily OT rate of pay. Teachers can also access the day in half day increments and receive the daily OT rate for half a day.

Teachers who accessed fewer than 14.5 days (as defined by the ELP) in the 2016-2017 school year will earn an additional unpaid day and an additional partially paid, or earned leave day. Teachers who have earned two Earned Leave Plan days will be able to access one day in 2017/2018 at his/her regular per diem rate of pay.

There are no restrictions regarding when unpaid days can be accessed, except in the case where the Board determines that the demand cannot be met. Teachers must complete a TCH 12A 20 days in advance of the date requested and receive approval from the Board.

If you have any questions about accessing the ELP day please do not hesitate to contact the Unit Office.



