

Bare Essentials: June 19, 2018



Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario
Niagara Teacher Local



ETFO Niagara Local, 2601 Highway #20, R.R. #1 Fonthill, ON, Units 5 & 6, L0S 1E6
(905) 892-2917 Toll Free: 1-888-419-9484

Thanks For A Wonderful Year!

The end of an eventful 2017- 2018 school year is quickly closing in on us, but before we go we would like to thank all of our members for the continued support you have given us throughout the year. You have witnessed and worked through many changes to educational practices as well as remained unified in an *interesting* year, to say the least. Just a reminder that the ETFO Local office will be closed from June 30 until August 27. The released officers will be in Toronto for the Annual Meeting from Mon., August 13 until Thurs., August 16, 2018, and will be able to periodically check email and/or voicemail.

In the event of an emergency, such as an allegation of assault, teachers should:

- NOT participate in or consent to an interview
- Make NO statement to anyone regarding the allegations or charges
- Say "I'm willing to cooperate but am unable to comment until I contact my Federation and legal counsel."
- **Call Professional Relations Services (PRS) at 1-888-838-3836. State that your call is urgent and you will need to speak to the duty officer.**
- If you get voice mail, leave your name, phone numbers and times you are available. State that your call is an emergency. Your call will be answered, but you will be put on hold while a lawyer (on call), is contacted.

If you have any questions about benefits, they should be directed to OTIP by calling 1-866-783-6847. You need your plan information located on your Benefit Card.

With only a couple weeks remaining in the school year calendar, Jada, Brian, Gail and Tena would like to wish you a safe and relaxing summer vacation. Thank you for continuing to make a difference in the lives of Niagara's children!

ETFO Niagara Executive Update

With the recent ETFO Niagara Elections, it's time to say goodbye to some of the outgoing executive members that have decided to move on. Thanks to Weston Nesbitt (Area Rep) for serving the members over the last two years. ETFO Niagara would also like to thank Melanie Brown-Robson (PD Chair) for her service over the last 6 years, and Kevin VanLeeuwen (Area Rep) for over a decade of service. Though ETFO Niagara will miss their contributions, we wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

ETFO Niagara Needs Participants for the Annual Labour Day Parade

Every year, ETFO Niagara participates in the Annual Merritton Labour Day parade. This year's parade takes place on September 3rd, 2018. We are looking for members to come out and join in the fun. To get local children ready for school the following day, ETFO Niagara will once again be handing out pencils along the parade route. After the parade, there will be an opportunity for colleagues to connect and enjoy the last day prior to returning to work. Look for a poster with greater details to arrive in your staffroom shortly. **If you are interested in walking in the parade, please contact Gail Dunn** (vp2@etfoniagara.ca).

"Escape To Retire-itaville" Celebration

With a beach theme for the 2018 ETFO Retirement Dinner, elementary teachers were celebrated for their wonderful and sometimes challenging careers as they respectfully "surfed" off into the "sunset" of retirement. ETFO retirees got into the spirit of the evening by joining together in tropical pop songs that parodied many of the different challenges they faced over the course of their careers. **A great time was had by all and we thank everyone who came out to help us celebrate the careers of our remarkable retiring members. A special thank you to the ETFO Niagara Social Committee including Denise Blaney, Liz Bonisteel, Rikki DaCosta, Chelsea DiFranco and Rich Roach.** Your singing talents could easily lead to a second career. To all of our retirees, we wish you the best as you enter into this new phase of your life. For your information a list of this year's retirees can be found on the ETFO Niagara website, under the "What's New" tab.

Professional Learning Opportunities - ETFO Summer Academy

This year our program includes 40 practical courses being delivered across the province by experienced and dynamic presenters. All courses have been planned to meet your professional needs. The course fee includes three full days of learning, collaborating and networking with colleagues. It also provides members with lunch on site each day, as well as, a variety of useful handouts to support their planning for the fall. Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis. Courses will fill up very quickly! We look forward to another engaging and inspiring summer of professional learning with our members this July and August.

There is an opportunity that is being put on at the ETFO Niagara office. "How To Get Kids Excited About Math" will take place from July 17-19, 2018. This hands-on course will explore how to build a math community in your classroom where students are eager to learn through games and puzzles. Participants will explore ways to authenticate the curriculum, that will in turn, build your student's stamina for problem solving. By examining a balanced, comprehensive math program, the course will prepare you for Septemeber and the year ahead!

Please check out the wide variety of course descriptions and locations on the ETFO Summer Academy website (<https://events.etfo.org/courses/summer-academy/summer-academy-2018>). Take a look through the extensive course listing and then complete the easy online registration process. If you have any questions, please contact Ruth Dawson (rdawson@etfo.org) at ETFO Provincial.

PD Expense Claims During The Summer

For those members who have already been approved for PD funding for events that happen in late spring or summer, expenses will have to be submitted once the member has completed the PD event. **When submitting your claim, be sure to include a signed and completed Statement of Expense Claim form, along with your original receipts for all expenses except mileage and OT costs.** The Statement of Expense form can be found in your PD Approval email. If you can't find it, please contact Brian Barker. For courses, a proof of completion will also need to be submitted with your expense form. Failure to include a

part of the claim will delay the processing. We ask that you allow a processing time of at least 30 days.

During the summer, you can mail your claim to ETFO Niagara (2601 Hwy 20 E., Units 5 & 6, RR#1, Fonthill, ON L0S 1E6) or you can place it in the gray Dropbox located outside the office door, on the left hand side. Please include your complete mailing address, so that a cheque can be sent to the appropriate location. If you were approved for a course or another PD activity that you did not participate in, please contact Brian Barker (vp1@etfoniagara.ca) so those funds can be reallocated to members on the waiting list. While we will certainly try our best to get reimbursements out as soon as we can during the summer, P.D. dropped off during summer will not be processed as expediently as it is during the working year. **All PD claims and expenses must be submitted by September 30, 2018, in order to be reimbursed.**

Personal Information Changes

On an annual basis, approximately 100 local members move, get married, or change their phone number, but inadvertently fail to inform all of the people in the educational network of these changes. ETFO Niagara, as well as, the Ontario College of Teachers, Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan, and the District School Board of Niagara all need your most up-to-date personal information in order that important information gets to you. **For ETFO Niagara, if your personal information has changed, please fill out the Change of Personal Information form. This form is also available on our website at www.etfoniagara.ca, under the "Forms and Documents" tab.** Also, please send the information to ETFO Provincial (trecords@etfo.org) to ensure that all information on file at the Provincial office is up to date.

We Also Need Your Steward Information for the 2018-2019 School Year

The end of June is often the time of year when staffs decide who will serve as their ETFO Niagara representative or Steward. Stewardship is the vital communication link between the local office and the school. It is essential that we have the name of your school steward, so that communication can flow seamlessly throughout the year. In the event that there are two people vying for the position, an election should be conducted in schools, or a fantastic alternative is sharing the role.

If you are serving as steward, please fill out the attached Google form (<https://goo.gl/forms/mWofKd1n4g5wRoiD2>) to update your information

Offence Declarations

July 1st is right around the corner which means one thing - your offence declaration. **Please take the time to submit your offence declaration via the DSBN portal.** If you have any more questions about other end of year responsibilities, please contact one of your released officers (905-892-2917).

2018-2019 School Calendar

The school calendar for the 2018-2019 School Year was approved by the Ministry of Education, **making the official first day back to work, Tuesday, September 4, 2018.** To see the 2018-2019 calendar, please visit www.dsbn.org, under Schools, then click on School Year Calendars.

Health and Safety: Staying Safe in The Sun

With the weather warming up, and temperatures on the rise, there's more time to be outside with your students. If you are going outside to be in the sun, especially on a hot day, here are some tips to help you and your kids stay safe:

- Always wear sun protection - Use sunscreen with an SPF rating of 30 or higher. Apply it 20 minutes before stepping out in to the sun. If you are out for an extended period of time, remember to

reapply the sunscreen every 2 hours. Ensure that you apply sunscreen to any area that is exposed to sunlight. Wearing a hat and sunglasses will also protect you from UV rays.

- Stay Hydrated - Drinking water is very important. Drinking water prior to feeling thirsty helps keep your body from dehydrating.
- Keep an eye open for signs of heat exhaustion or heat stroke - heat exhaustion and heat stroke can come on suddenly. Some symptoms of heat exhaustion include feeling overheated, tired and weak. Heat stroke is more serious. The symptoms of heat stroke include lack of sweating; red, hot skin; and a fever. A person might become dizzy, confused or lose consciousness.

If you keep these things in mind, you will be able to stay safe while enjoying the sunshine.

Save The Date

June 19, 2018 - ETFO Provincial Annual Meeting Delegates' Meeting
June 22, 2018 - ETFO Niagara Executive Meeting
June 28, 2018- Last Day of School
June 29, 2018 - Professional Activity Day (Last Day of Work)
August 13-16, 2018 - ETFO Provincial Annual General Meeting
September 3, 2018 - Labour Day
September 4, 2018 - First Day of School

WIN a trip for 2 to Italy valued at over \$5,500!



Like a creamy gelato or hot espresso, one taste of Italy can linger for a lifetime. Travelling from eternal Rome and up through the hazy hills of Tuscany, you'll spend eight days sampling the best of Assisi, Siena, Florence, Bologna, Padova, Venice, and Montepulciano. Enter now to win an eight day trip to Italy from OTIP:

www.OTIP.com/OTIPcontest



Great Summer Course Coming Near You!



Niagara Teacher Local Fonthill – July 17, 18 and 19, 2018

These exciting, resource-rich courses are offered in your area this summer. Register online at www.etfo.ca and be sure to have your ETFO membership number and a credit card handy. For a small registration fee of \$75.00, participants will receive many handouts and a lunch will be provided each day. Come and join the learning and the fun!

Course Leader: Golriz Karoubi

Math is exciting and this three-day course will show you how! This hands-on course will explore how to build a math community in your classroom where students are eager to learn through games and puzzles. Participants will explore ways to authenticate the curriculum, that will in turn, build your student's stamina for problem solving. Throughout the course, participants will consider ways to set up an effective learning environment in the math class that promotes growth mindset and risk taking. Participants will also share strategies to build a math talk community as well as ways to incorporate visualizing math. Together, we will examine a balanced, comprehensive math program and get you ready for September and the year ahead.

For full course descriptions and to register, please visit www.etfo.ca.

Visit www.etfo.ca for more information and to see the other courses offered across the province.



ETFO NIAGARA

Labour Day Parade



After the Labour Day parade, ETFO Niagara is inviting members and their families to join us for food and refreshments, to celebrate!

When: Monday, September 3, 2018

Time: 11:00 AM

Where: Starting at the Pen Centre and walking to the Merritton Lions Arena

To register, please contact Gail Dunn (vp2@etfoniagara.ca) by August 15