

ETFO OT NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 10, Issue 2

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2011

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

LOCAL EXECUTIVE

**2011-2012
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-HESS**

VANESSA OAKLEY

Kawartha Pine Ridge is very fortunate in having certified, qualified, capable and enthusiastic Occasional Teachers who are anxious to be working in all of our schools. To this point in 2011, obtaining assignments has been a challenge for many of the members of the KPR Occasional Teachers' Local. This frequently results in frustration and stress for our members. In an effort to explain an individual's inability to access work, it is sometimes tempting to blame colleagues who are working more frequently or a system that assigns positions on a daily basis. Each time a concern is brought to my attention, I have researched to see if a problem has occurred or positions have been assigned unfairly. Few problems have been identified.

For the months of September and October 2011 there has been a reduction of 43 Long Term positions over the same period in 2010. Ministry funding for in school Professional Learning for classroom teachers has been reduced. Declining enrollment resulted in few contract hires. HOWEVER, there is cautious optimism that there will be more contract positions in 2012/2013.

In the mean time, please continue to support your colleagues with a friendly smile and sharing of positive strategies. Each of us has an impact in the schools in which we work.

Please assist your colleagues in accessing jobs by ensuring that you have made yourself unable in SmartFind when you are unable to work. I know that many of you are very careful about maintaining accurate availability. However, when unfilled jobs have been investigated during recent weeks approximately one third of the calls made by the system have received no answer. We need everyone to work together to correct this situation.

Reminder: It is an expectation of employment with the KPRDSB that you check the Board's internal communication system, First Class, regularly, even during the school breaks. This is the method for maintaining communication with staff. If you don't yet have a password, contact the Help Desk at Ext. 2088. For those who don't have computer access at home, First Class can be accessed at local libraries.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Plans are in the works for sessions on Integrating the Arts, Understanding IEPs, Report Card Writing, Interview Skills and 'Art on a Shoestring'.

Please watch the Occasional Employees Conference on First Class for specific times and dates. I will also send this information to those who have provided me with their email address.

As we begin to prepare for another round of negotiations, it will be VERY important to have an email address that is not connected to the Board's service. Please add your contact information to our distribution list ASAP!

Email your information to: contact@kproccasionals.com

ADVICE from ADMINISTRATORS

(Continued from the September/October newsletter.)

Offer to help out colleagues whenever you can. This will be remembered. (Of course, you would continue to honour the Collective Agreement!)

Always have back-up plans of your own for the grade you are covering. If plans are not available please report this to the office. They may have arrived there without your knowledge.

Professional attire is important.

Become familiar with the needs of the students. IERPs, IEPs, safety plans...should be part of the class profile. OT's experiences are most positive when they give students the accommodations they need to succeed.

Set the tone with a clear respectful voice at the beginning of the day. Don't be afraid to wait for the students' attention.

Take the initiative and step up to help out. It is those OTs who that staff are happy to see come in the door. Addressing a conflict in the halls instead of walking by, assisting a colleague, or just presenting as a team player—it makes the school run more smoothly.

HOW TO REACH YOUR ETFO LOCAL

OFFICE:
(705) 743-7364 or toll
Free 1 800 421 7685

HOME: 905 349 2416

MAIL:
ETFO
Occasional Teachers
2155 Davis Road
Peterborough ON
K9J 8G0

COURIER:
KPR ETFO
Occasional Teachers
Davis Rd.

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING:

Contact the office by Letter, phone or e-mail

COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT OR JOB RELATED PROBLEMS:

Contact the office Immediately. If outside Business hours, call ETFO at 1-888-838-3836.

**NEWSLETTER
INFORMATION AND
FEEDBACK**

The newsletter will be published 5 times during the year: October, December, February, April and June.

Comments or articles can be forwarded to the Editor at the office or by e-mail to contact@kproccasionals.com

**KPR OT WEBSITE:
www.kproccasionals.com**



Leave the classroom clean and organized.

Treat every job as if it is a permanent position and someone is watching. Show great caring in your role.

Keep current. Ask to join a staff for their regular staff meeting or PLC. Keep learning.

Try to stand out. Be engaged in the activities of the school rather than reading the paper in the staff room. Don't just show up at bell time and do the minimum requirements.

SMILE and look like you are enjoying the job. Remember that principals talk to each other. You would prefer that they are discussing your cheerful professionalism and willingness to be part of a team. Principals read the Occasional Employees Conference, too!!

Arrive on time or EARLY to read over safety plans, day plans, etc. If there is something you don't understand, please ask about it.

Introduce yourself to the Principal..

Seeing you in the staff room with your feet up is a bit of a turn-off.

Arrive at the school with a really positive attitude. Project an attitude that says you really like kids and that you are looking forward to the day. Let the kids know that you are interested in getting to know them and their school. Kids pick up on this instantly and it helps to build a positive climate.

Follow the day book whenever possible. Ask teacher colleagues (including the principal) for assistance as needed.

Please be as flexible as possible with anything that might have changed, or could change, throughout the day. Things can happen that are unforeseeable. Having an OT who is positive and will cheerfully help the school deal with whatever happens makes it much easier to get through anything.

Please do the job rather than sitting reading a newspaper or playing with your iPhone/iPod/Blackberry. Get up. Move around. Interact with the kids. It can be fun!!!

DVD Available in the OT Library

We have purchased the DVD Temple Grandin which can be borrowed by any of the members of the Local.

This is the biography of an accomplished woman who overcame many challenges. We are told before the movie begins, that Temple Grandin is “not like other people” but “different” is not “less”.

At age four, her parents were told that Temple would never talk and would have to be institutionalized. It was suggested that the autism diagnosis could be related to “a lack of bonding between mother and child”. Through herculean efforts of Temple and of her very determined mother, she not only learned to speak but she completed high school, college and graduate school and became an accomplished author and a pioneer in the humane treatment of livestock. The movie documents the many challenges she endured and some of her accomplishments.

I thoroughly enjoyed the DVD. It’s one of those you can watch again and again. If you’d like to borrow it, please contact me (contact@kproccasionals.com) and I will send it to you.

Seasons Greetings From the Kawartha Pine Ridge OT Executive

We wish you joy, peace and love of the season.

Please take time to refresh and renew your connections to friends and family and to reflect on the gift of freedom that we enjoy daily in our great nation.

Though we don’t know your personal situation, if it is possible, we encourage you to share with those who are less fortunate. A friendly smile and kind greeting is a gift that can be shared without a financial cost...but is priceless to the recipient.

USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS AND ADDRESSES:

ELEMENTARY TEACHERS’ FEDERATION OF ONTARIO:

**480 University Ave.,
Suite 1000,
Toronto, On
M5G 1V2**

**1-416-962-3836
Toll-free: 1-888-838-
3836
Fax: 416-642-2424**

www.etfo.ca

ONTARIO COLLEGE OF TEACHERS:

**121 Bloor St. East,
6th Floor,
Toronto, On
M4W 3M5**

**416-961-8800
Toll-free: 1-888-534-
2222
Fax: 416-961-8822**

KPR BOARD:

**705-742-9773
Toll-free:
1-877-741 4577**

ONTARIO TEACH- ERS’ PENSION PLAN

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Suite 300
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