



From the President

Spring 2014

Editor: Donna Howey President

Grand Erie Elementary Teachers' Federation

GEETF Meetings and Events are listed on our website

www.geetf.ca

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/GEETF

Twitter: @geetfo

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Diagnostic Assessment Requirements—New!

On April 8th, 2014, the GEDSB Elementary Coordinator, Nancy Norton, sent an email to all elementary teachers regarding the use of diagnostic assessment in support of student learning. The documents attached to that email are the new GEDSB expectations. They are now in compliance with Policy/Program Memorandum 155 Diagnostic Assessment in Support of Student Learning. The former system standards for assessment which included timelines to complete Kindergarten diagnostics, DRA, CASI and OCA are no longer in place.

Teachers are expected to use diagnostic, formative and summative assessment.

Principals may **not**:

Direct a teacher to do a full class diagnostic assessment with a due date.

Direct a teacher to input their results into the Student Data Information System unless release time is provided.

Teachers will use the Board's approved diagnostics. According to their own professional judgement, teachers will determine which students will be assessed, the frequency of, and the appropriate timing for use of the diagnostic tool.

Learn the Party Positions on Key Issues

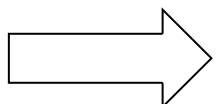
Every school will receive an "ETFO Election 2014 Newsletter". This newsletter unfolds to reveal the positions of each party on public education issues teachers believe to be key to building better schools. Find out each party's position on:

- Class Size
- Standardized testing
- Full-day Kindergarten
- Students with Special Needs
- Funding for elementary schools
- Right to strike and labour reforms
- Poverty

This information is also available at: <http://www.etfo.ca/OntarioElection2014>.

I urge you to look at this document as you consider your vote.

On June 12th, **VOTE** for a candidate that aligns with ETFO's Building Better Schools.





Our Office

You will find us at our office at 49 Dalkeith Drive, Units 1 & 2, Brantford. Our phone number for local calls is 519 753-9291 and toll free at 888 753-9291. The office is open each day from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Many evenings the office is open much later due to meetings and workshops. We also endeavour to leave Fridays at 3:30 pm.

Celebrate PRIDE!

One part of creating a safe and inclusive classroom is ensuring that LGBTQ families and their children are welcomed and respected in our schools. Regionally, GEETF members can show their support and celebrate by attending **Brantford Pride events on June 21st.**

(www.brantfordpride.ca)

Join me in the Brantford Pride Walk 12 noon; and at Pride in the Park 1pm to 5pm.



Men of GEETF—Will you take a walk in high heels to end domestic violence?

One of our male teachers was telling me how he and another colleague have participated in, "**Men in Heels- Standing Tall Against Domestic Violence**" for two years. He was speaking of the importance of teachers standing up on this issue. He was surprised that we don't have teams of male teachers participating in this important community fundraising event for Nova Vita.

The GEETF Status of Women Committee will provide a \$100 sponsorship to each GEETF team that does this walk. Find out more at: <http://www.novavita.org/men-in-heels.php>

The event takes place at Harmony Square downtown Brantford on **Saturday June 21st**. Registration at 10 am. Event starts at 11:15.

Health and Safety Mandatory Training

I have made my first attempt to complete the latest mandatory training. Twenty minutes in, I received a phone call that I had to take. When I went back to the training video, I had been kicked out. I have heard teachers have had similar experiences. I will endeavour to complete this training as I prioritize the many tasks I am required to do before the end of June.

Effective July 1st, there is a new requirement that all workers and all supervisors have basic occupational health and safety awareness training. This is important. In fact, all of our mandatory training is important enough to have assigned work time allotted for its completion. We are working towards this.

ETFO Summer Academy Courses

This summer there are over 80 ETFO Summer Academy Courses. There is no better PD deal for teachers! These are 3 day courses held across the province. ETFO Summer Academy courses are designed by teachers to meet teachers' practical needs. This year there is a special focus on math and technology courses. However, topics also include the arts, assessment, class management, literacy, kindergarten and special education. Find out more at: <https://summeracademy.etfo.ca/> Register soon. They fill up quickly.