

# OPC

## Thames Valley

# Information Update

March, 2015

### **President's Remarks**

Hopefully the month of March finds us all well, looking forward to warmer temperatures and a well deserved March break! Recently, we welcomed our Provincial OPC President, John Hamilton to Thames Valley at our second general meeting of the year. John, along with other members of the provincial team shared a province wide advocacy message which will continue to evolve and roll out over the next several years. Various focus-group studies, conducted by OPC Provincial involving parents and community members concluded that significant misconceptions exist about the daily work we do as Principals. It is the goal of OPC Provincial to further educate and inform our parent communities as to the wide breadth of responsibilities we have in serving and educating their children. In collaboration with our senior administration, future initiatives and directions as to how we share our 'story' will be communicated in the months and years ahead.

Our next general meeting will follow the System Principals symposium on May 14th. At this meeting we will be holding elections for a number of positions on our local executive. Please consider running or nominating a colleague for one of these positions. Nomination forms are attached to this update. Our local OPC executive meetings are a great way to be involved and stay current on provincial happenings, as well as work with a great group of people!

In addition, we were pleased to recently have an opportunity provided to us by Director Elliot, to work with our system leaders from across the Valley. We participated in solution-based conversations in how we can work together with senior administration to address the PVP workload issues, highlighted both in Western's work load study as well as Ken Liethwood's study. The dedication of this half day's work is evidence of Director Elliot's commitment in working towards improving the workload realities that we face everyday as system leaders. We will look forward to continued conversations with senior admin as well as some tangible strategies which will help reduce the workload stressors within our PVP role.

Our OPC Scholarship committee is now receiving applications from members' children who will be attending post secondary educational programs in September. The application package has been mailed out to all of us earlier in February. The deadline for applying is March 31st.

Finally, good luck to all the candidates for Vice Principal and Principal that are presently working through promotional practices. We know this is a stressful time and represents lots of work and time! As well, thank you to those who volunteered your time to assist with mock interviews.

On behalf of your local executive, I wish you a wonderful and rejuvenating March Break!!

Jason Pratt  
President, OPC Thames Valley

### **OPC Membership Discount Programs**

Did you know that there are discount programs for OPC members? They include GoodLife and Via Rail among others. For more details, visit our provincial OPC website at <https://www.principals.ca/Display.aspx?cid=5734&pid=4436>

### **OPC Assistance**

Members are reminded that, if at any time they find themselves in a situation where they have questions or feel the need for additional support, they are encouraged to contact OPC either locally or provincially.

The local executive would be happy to provide advice or assistance up to and including supporting members in a difficult meeting situation where such support is requested.

Where the situation would be better handled by provincial representation your local executive will encourage members to seek that assistance while providing the support possible at the local level.

OPC both locally and provincially are there to support the members. Please do not hesitate to seek this assistance at any time.

### **Member Involvement**

Appreciation is extended to the following members for representing OPC Thames Valley:

Teacher Joint Health & Safety Committee – **John Richmond, Sheryl Cook-Sawyer, Andrew Smith**

CUPE Joint Health & Safety Committee – **Michele Berube**

Review of Elementary Hiring Process Committee – **Jane Hanbuch, Scott Armstrong, Ryan Ewaskiw, Ryan Nowell, Connie Cordes**

Education Week Committee – **Lisa Munro, Ruth Inglis**

TVRAA – **Murray Macdonald, Joan Cooper, Mike Moore**

TVPIC – **Matthew Bradacs**

United Way – **Chris Friesen**

### **OPC Scholarship Awards:**

Members are reminded that the deadline for submission of OPC Scholarship applications is Mar.31/13.

Applications can be submitted to Scott Purvis (Locke's P.S.), or Andrew Smith (Sir Wilfrid Laurier S.S. )

### **OPC Local Levy Tax Receipts:**

All principals and vice principals who are full members of OPC should have received a receipt for the Local Levy dues paid for 2014. This may be used for income tax purposes. If this has not arrived by now please contact Staff Officer, Ron Jones.

### **T2200 Form**

Just a reminder that the contact person who deals with the distribution of the T2200 form, that is required in order that members can deduct automobile expenses etc. when filing their income tax, is Judy Mackay ([j.mackay@tvdsb.on.ca](mailto:j.mackay@tvdsb.on.ca)) in the Payroll Department.

### **Your Executive At Work**

Some of the issues that the executive has been dealing with recently include:

Staffing, Terms & Conditions, Reg.274, Texting, Workload, Unfilled Occasional Positions, Professional Development

Jason Pratt

OPC President

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