

# **OT UPDATE**

First...may I wish you and your family and friends a wonderful Christmas season. It's always a busy time and we often forget to take time to celebrate what's important to each of us . And don't forget yourself ...**RELAX and REJUVENATE YOURSELF**....2010 will be here soon enough and you'll be back in the middle of the daily hectic schedule of an Occasional Teacher.

**\*RETIRED OTs** ...the big rumour out there is that there will be a change in the number of days available in the next school year. The change will increase the days from 20 to 50-55 with those having 95 days being grandfathered .The OTF have been in consultation with the Pension Board and the Ministry of Education and the hope is that this will be a fact sooner rather than later. **WANT AN UPDATE**...call OTF at 1-800-268-7061 and express your desire to have this file moved forward asap!

**\*READ YOUR CONTRACT**...**ARTICLE 13:08** and **Article 16:02** need your attention regularly. Principals have been reminded regularly and will be reminded again at their January Suprinco meeting that these articles must be followed except when an emergency occurs and you then must act professionally for the safety and security of all staff and students. If you have problems of implementation of either article we need to know so these inappropriate applications can be stopped.

**\*FEEDBACK FORMS for OCCASIONAL TEACHERS** (Elementary and Secondary) have been prepared and will be distributed at the January Suprinco meeting. This is a form that can be used if the principal desires. If not, you know you are responsible to leave an account of your day(s) in a particular class. This is your opportunity to let the classroom teacher know what you have done, what was not finished, student behavioural concerns and any complimentary comments you want the class to know.

**\*ESL WORKSHOP for OTs**...will take place on January 12th at the Board Offices. This is a joint project with OTs' funds paying 1/2 day compensation to each of the 50 OTs involved and the Board providing the instructors and the venue.

**\*MORE MONEY IS AVAILABLE FOR PD GRANTS FOR OTs**...If you have not received a grant in the last 3 years you may be eligible .Check out the specs on the oectaottawa.ca site or call the office.

**\*E-MAIL FOLDERS HAVE CREATED FOR OTs**...You will be informed of important information in a new way as of January 2010. If you do not want to receive information in this way you will need to inform the office and your name will be removed from these folders. This new way of communication will not decrease our use of school updates, the OECTA site, and mail-outs, when needed.

**\*OTs NOT SHOWING UP FOR ASSIGNMENTS**...If you accept an assignment from SEMs or in a legally pre-arranged agreement, you must be there. If there is a problem with your being there on time you **MUST** let the school know. This is an obligation as students and schools could be put in jeopardy .

**\*HEALTH and SAFETY CONCERNS** ...An online workshop to train OTs in the use of epi-pens to comply with Provincial Regulations re: Sabrina's Law will occur in the new year. You will be informed in the near future.

**\*PD WORKSHOPS FROM PROVINCIAL OECTA** ...3 workshops have been proposed...Workplace Issues, Class Management and Legal Issues ...We await direction from Toronto re: **DATES**.

**\*UGM** ...will be January 21st from 4:30-6:30 pm at Notre Dame HS, Room 113.

Mary Major  
President,  
Occasional Teachers



