

## Partnership West Food Bank Donations from Christmas Party



Over 120 children attended the event with parents and grandparents in tow. Santa Claus was a hit! John Watson, TBU Staff Officer, and Brad Fisher, TBU President, look over the generous donations received from the TBU Children's Christmas Party at Lil' Monkeys. Representatives of the Partnership West Food Bank expressed their appreciation for the non-perishable food that was donated. The Partnership West Food Bank provides 200,000 meals annually in the Burlington area.

## Central Agreement Provides Additional PA Day - April 8<sup>th</sup>

In a letter to Directors of Education dated December 18<sup>th</sup>, the Ministry has stipulated that the day must be devoted to provincial education priorities identified by the Minister.

The Deputy Minister specifically mentions Mathematics and/or Enhancing Equity, but other ministry initiatives include Achieving Excellence, Promoting Well-Being and Enhancing Public Confidence.

Boards are encouraged by the Ministry to consider designing professional learning opportunities in which teachers with shared subject areas/groups of students would be learning together.

## Tell Them From Me Survey Advisory Staff Should Use Caution!

HDSB uses the **Tell Them From Me** survey to review its ongoing efforts to improve school effectiveness and to meet the data gathering and reporting requirements of Bill 13: The Accepting Schools Act.

HDSB invites teaching staff to complete the online and "completely anonymous" TTFM Focus on Learning Teacher Survey in the spring of each school year to provide feedback on school improvement initiatives.

In response to member concerns, we have ascertained the following:

1. The survey is completely voluntary. There is not to be tracking of which teachers have completed the survey.
2. The logins are scrambled by the program so HDSB cannot connect the dots to the hard data.
3. A third party, The Learning Bar, compiles the data and reports.

### Comment Boxes Open to Viewing

However, the comment boxes are:

1. Visible to your school administration.
2. Used for school purposes only and are not a part of the board's research.

**Staff should exercise caution entering comments. Depending on the comment, it may be traceable back to the source.**

## Critical Path for Secondary Staffing for the 2016-17 School Year: Key Dates

February 29: Deadline for teachers to request a voluntary transfer or exchange, a leave of absence, a leave extension, a reduced assignment, extension of a reduced assignment, or to confirm return from a leave or return to full assignment, all for September 2016.

March 9: Preliminary Staff Allocation meeting.

Schools receive their initial allocation of sections for staffing, as well as letters for those teachers who are being declared potentially redundant.

March 30: Principal notifies teachers who are potentially surplus to school.

April 5: Internal Ad #1 (Open to all permanent/probationary teachers, including teachers surplus to school, but not teachers declared potentially redundant. No top up)

## Mental Health First Aid Basic Training Oakville and District Labour Council

Mental health first aid (MHFA) is the help provided to a person developing a mental health problem or in a mental health crisis. The first aid is given until appropriate professional treatment is received or until the crisis is resolved.

Mental Health First Aid Basic is a 12-hour course focused on adults interacting with adults in all environments. The course discusses the following mental disorders: substance related disorders, mood related disorders, anxiety and trauma related disorders, and psychotic disorders

Crisis first aid skills for the following situations are learned: substance overdose, suicidal behaviour, panic attack, acute stress reaction, and psychotic episode.

**Where:** Oakville and District Labour Council Office  
Unifor 707 Galaxy Club  
475 North Service Rd East,  
Oakville, Ontario L6H 1A5

**When:** Starting Wednesday April 20 at 5:30 -8:30  
(four subsequent Wednesdays)

**Who:** Any member in good standing with any affiliates of the Oakville and District Labour Council

**Cost:** \$150.00 per member attending the training. Twenty five dollars of the cost will be covered for each member by the Oakville and District Labour Council

**Contact:** Nadia Anton-Collins [nadia\\_collins@sympatico.ca](mailto:nadia_collins@sympatico.ca)  
John Watson [watsonj@osstfd20.ca](mailto:watsonj@osstfd20.ca)  
The course is limited to the first 24 members enrolling.

## OSSTF P.D. Funding Available

OSSTF/FEESO District 20 Teacher Bargaining Unit is now offering contract teachers support for self-directed Professional Development.

Members may apply for \$100 reimbursement per school year beginning July 1<sup>st</sup> (July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016) for any OTF or OSSTF PD event/conference, or any independent Ontario subject council conference (i.e. STAO, OAGEE, OHASSTA, OAME).

Funds are limited, and will be considered on a first come, first served basis.  
Application form link:

<http://www.osstfd20.ca/PDFs/teachers/Self-directed%20PD%20funds%20application.pdf>

## Maternity/Parenting Workshop

Thursday February 11, 2016  
4:30 PM to 5:15 PM

Halton Secondary Teachers' Office  
980 Fraser Drive, Unit 211, Burlington ON

Please contact Lorie Wiersma at 905-332-1228 or by email [wiersmal@osstfd20.ca](mailto:wiersmal@osstfd20.ca) to confirm attendance.

## Time is Money!

### Get the salary you deserve!

The OSSTF Certification Department evaluates teacher academic/technical credentials and issues Certification Rating Statements for salary placement purposes.

Only the Certification Department can give authoritative advice on the certification process.

Upgrading courses for use in salary placement must be approved by the OSSTF Certification Department.

Don't wait! Re-evaluate!

Go to the Certification link under Services at [www.osstf.on.ca](http://www.osstf.on.ca).

## Halton Secondary Teachers' Facebook Hits

<https://www.facebook.com/OSSTF-Halton-Secondary-Teachers-203117686487017/?ref=bookmarks>



Here is what followers are reading:

1. *Why do schools stay open when buses are cancelled?* [www.toronto.ctvnews.ca](http://www.toronto.ctvnews.ca) (1,313 hits)
2. *The chasm between high school and university* [www.thespec.com](http://www.thespec.com) (734 hits)
3. *Abolish Catholic school districts, former education minister urges* [www.cbc.ca](http://www.cbc.ca) (721 hits)

## OSSTF/FEESO District 20 Teachers

Brad Fisher, President  
Jim Young, Member Protection Officer  
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Lorie Wiersma, Executive Assistant

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