



The Bare Essentials



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ETFO Niagara

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Bare Essentials Is Now Paperless

- ETFO Niagara newsletter will now be disseminated electronically
- Will translate into significant reduction in paper use and distribution time
- Bare Essentials is posted on Local website at www.etfoniag.com and can now be found in **"First Class"** under Education Centre-> Human Resources-> Union News
- Stewards will also receive the newsletter and accompanied documentation via an e-mail fan out through regional reps.

Draft Kindergarten Curriculum Document

- Ministry of Education has released the draft curriculum for the new full-day early learning program
- Document provides the program expectations, but is still missing some of the content relating to the respective roles of the teacher and the ECE
- Document can be found at:
<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/curriculum/elementary/kindergarten.html>
- ETFO will advise when a complete document is available

Silent Auction 2010 – Another Great Success

- Thank you to the teachers, schools and individual businesses that were a part of providing the 137 donations for bidding – more than any other year!
- Although the number of Silent Auction attendees was down, generosity was up with a grand total of \$10,825 raised; \$3000 more than last year
- The shelters were especially appreciative in these difficult economic times
- A special thank you to the Status of Women Committee and the Silent Auction Organizing Committee

ETFO Retirement Dinner – June 3rd, Club Italia

- Flyer and sign-up sheet are en route to schools – please bring to the attention of a retiree in your school – **Retiree attendance is free**
- Dinner registration and money (\$30 per person) due May 20th
- Retirement Dinner Theme: Game Shows

Annual General Meeting – Information Distributed

- Packages for those Stewards/Schools unable to attend have been distributed via courier
- Newly Acclaimed ETFO Niagara Executive for the 2010 -2012 term was confirmed by elections committee (see AGM package) – ETFO Niagara would like to thank the elections committee namely; Brian Barker, Nikki Train, Michael Ridgway and Leona Watson for their work
- 2 notices of motion regarding changes to elections procedures in the constitution put forth to be discussed at fall general meeting
- Questions? Please contact the ETFO Niagara Office

Reminder: Elementary Staffing Timelines – In First Class

- Will assist teachers in understanding staffing process as it unfolds
- Click on DSBN Education Centre, then Human Resources, then Elementary Staffing Information – Teachers

Pension Updates - Communiqué

- New web-based educational materials created to assist OTPP members in a interesting and approachable way : <http://fundingyourpension.com/index.php>
- Web toll provides information on Funding your pension, Conditional Inflation Protection, Plan Maturity, What is Smoothing?, and Pension Plan Assumptions
- As a result of the 2009 filing, there were no changes in benefits or contribution rates pension plan members
- Next mandatory filing is 2012
- The Ontario Teachers' Federation (OTF) communicates news and changes to the plan and other information at www.otffeo.on.ca in the "Communiqué" section under Pensions

Niagara Teacher Celebrated

- Congratulations to Pam Rao from Glynn A Green School who received the `Frances Poleschuk Award` from C.A.P.E. – the Consultants/Coordinators` Association of Primary Educators
- Award given to exemplary educators in Early Childhood Education
- Over a 23 year career, Pam`s infectious passion and advocacy for progressive programming has had a positive impact on the educational lives of countless students

Dates to Mark on Your Calendar

June 3

ETFO Niagara Retirement Dinner