Educational Assistants Association

EAA NEWSLETTER

Welcome back to the 2023-2024 School Year



We are looking for a new name for our Newsletter, if you have the winning idea you will win a $50 Gas/Grocery card. We could all use that! Click the image above to make your newsletter name suggestion and stay tuned for the results.

Bingemans Rally



We want to thank the members who were able to join us at the peaceful rally at Bingemans on Friday September the 8th. Our small but mighty group did an amazing job getting our Association seen. Some great speakers and wonderful energy from all groups who came out! We hope to find other opportunities to get out there and make a difference. If we don't make waves, we'll drown!

Click the image above to see photos from the event.



Looking to Enroll in our Benefit Plan?

Around mid September the Board will send the names of EAA members who are eligible for benefits to OTIP. These eligible members will receive an enrolment email from OTIP. To make sure you get the coverage you need, you must enroll by the deadline indicated in the enrollment email. If you have not received the enrolment email by the last week in September please reach out to OTIP directly. 1-800-267-6847
Make sure to check your OTIP portal regularly, if you need help reach out to *office@wrdsbeaa.com*

Enrolling in OMERS

All WRDSB employees who do not hold an Ontario College of Teachers certificate have their pension through OMERS. The Board works directly with OMERS every January to come up with a list of eligible employees for enrollment. You are defined as eligible (and are given the option to join) if you meet one of the following conditions in both the previous two calendar years:

1. ***You have worked 700 hours (perm or term); or***
2. ***You earned at least 35% of the CPP earnings limit***

In January, once an employee has met one of these requirements, a letter will be sent out to see if they are interested in enrolling in OMERS; the employee will be set up at that time. Please note, that once you become a member you will remain in the plan going forward, even if your hours or income fall below the eligibility requirements (until you resign or retire).

Are you in your first Term or Permanent Position?

Section L11.01 of our Collective Agreement states: 'An allowance for experience may be granted at time of employment, (for initial Term or Permanent positions), provided such request and required documentation specified by the Board is received within 5 months of the date of hire. Such allowance shall be at the discretion of the Senior Manager, Human Resource Services or designate.'

If you have any questions about the qualifications needed, you will need to reach out to your prospective HR reps for the answers.

Here is the link to the HR reps (sign in with your PAL): HR REPS

If you have any questions please reach out to the EAA office: office@wrdsbeaa.com

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Town Hall series - EAA Professional Development

Join us in the first two of the PD series as we explore, learn, question and implement practical tools and strategies for the classroom. Pre register for the Zoom Meetings below:

Pre register for September 25, ***6:30 pm - 8:00 pm - ABC Logs 101***

Pre register for October 23, ***6:30 pm - 8:00 pm - Functions of Behaviour***

Space is limited to 25 registrants

Key Member

Now is your chance to sign up to be your school's Key member for the 2023-2024 school year!

Each school needs one, what does a key do?

- ***Set up (if required) and maintain a bulletin board with the latest and greatest posters and flyers that are sent to you by the CYW and EA Rep's.***
- ***Attend 3 virtual meetings a year to get updates to pass along to others in your school! These meetings are also a chance to answer questions that the members in your school may have.***
- ***If it sounds like a lot, how about having a colleague work with you and be Co-Keys? Many hands make light work!***

Just click the key image below and fill out a quick and painless Google form! Please note we need personal email addresses and not WRDSB email addresses.



The first Key Member Meeting of the year is scheduled for Oct 24th from 6:30pm-8:00pm

Any questions please reach out to office@wrdsbeaa.com

EAA General Meeting

This year's meeting is scheduled for November 16th 6:30-8:30. We are asking for your input on having the meeting in person or virtually. Please click on the image below to submit your feedback.



Staying Healthy and Safe at Work

We have a duty to report all incidents of violence we experience at work.

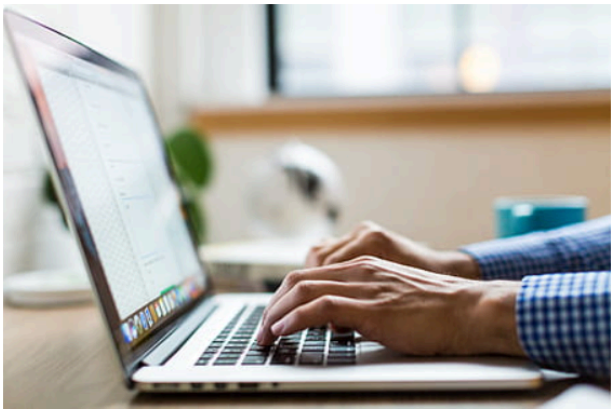
Click on this link to be taken to the WRDSB incident reporting page, you should take time during your working hours to complete these incident reports as soon as possible. Call your SERT or ADMIN for coverage.

If you have any questions about health and safety and your job email healthandsafety@wrdsbeaa.com and I will get you an answer.



SMACA - ***You do not have to take SMACA hours. If you do have SMACA hours you are not to perform EA or CYW duties***

LOA- ***Unfortunately the board is denying our requests for unpaid Leave of Absences. If you take your leave anyway and put in sick days, you will be called into a meeting with the board. A member of the EAA Executive will be there to support you in this meeting, but previous meetings have resulted in member termination when caught in dishonesty. We have filed a Policy Grievance in this regard.***



Update Your Contact Information

It is important to make sure the WRDSB has your current contact information.

- ***Sign into the Staff Intranet at the very bottom of the WRDSB webpage.***
- ***Click on "Self Service Portal" and sign in using your WRDSB account.***
- ***On the left hand side click Personal-Profile-Address & Contact-Edit.***

It is also important to check your pay stub regularly in this portal.



LOCAL NEGOTIATIONS

Commencing October 16, 2023

We will keep you updated as discussions progress

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Our mailing address is:
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