

Bruce Grey Elementary

MAY 2026

President - Kristen Fry

Vice President - Corinne Kalistchuck

Secretary - Karen Herchmer

Treasurer - Stacey Dahmer

Councillor - Steph Fortney

Councillor - Tammy Nadeau

Councillor - Teresa Dantas

Councillor -

Human Rights Councillor - Marie Tudor

Beginning Teacher Rep -

OT Rep - Deb Meyer

H&S Rep - Corinne Kalistchuk

Unit phone - 519 386 6575

Email-bgoecta@gmail.com

Through the courier - at the CEC to the attention of Kristen Fry

Unit website www.brucegreypoecta.com

Twitter (X) : OECTA_bg_Elem

https://twitter.com/OECTA_bg_Elem

OECTA's GUIDELINES FOR COMMUNICATION WITH PARENTS USING ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION

Electronic communication between teachers and parents or students is to only take place via Board/Ministry sanctioned software or applications and during working hours. **Neither personal devices nor personal accounts (in any application) should be used during regular working hours except on breaks/lunch.**

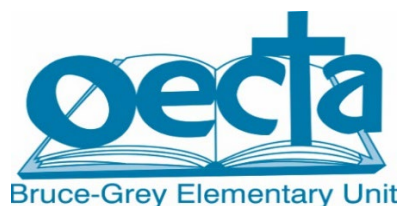
Electronic communication must abide by the Ethical Standards of the Teaching Profession (OCT) and be professional at all times. The focus should be on the assessment/report being communicated and not on personal communication.

All matters and materials electronically communicated are bound by the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA) which states that unless explicit consent is given, all information is to be kept confidential.

There is no expectation for a teacher to constantly check email, software or applications for notifications of new communications. During instructional times your focus should be on teaching and keeping everyone safe and happy. In addition - When your workday ends you are not expected to reply to electronic or phone communication from parents or your principal.

[ElectCommsBooklet-FINAL.pdf \(catholicteachers.ca\)](#)

Or the College of Teachers Advisories at [Professional Advisories | Ontario College of Teachers](#)



EAP PLAN FOR EMPLOYEES

As part of our employee benefits all members and their family have access to the Employee Assistance Program. To access our provider go to: one.telushealth.com

Username: EAP-bgcddb / **Password:** EAP

The Employee Assistance Program (EAP) is a free and confidential service provided by your employer that offers help with personal and work-related issues.

Professionally trained advisors are available to help with

- family problems
- stress, mental health, etc.
- financial
- legal matters

Call your EAP toll-free, any time, 24/7, 365 days a year: 1.844.880.9142 or 1.844.671.3327

NEW WITH YOUR BENEFITS-OTIP: WELL AT WORK

This program offers access to specialized support for teachers who experience health or wellness challenges. You are connected by email/phone/video to receive personalized strategies for staying healthy at work, navigating a return to work after illness, or accessing accommodations to remain at work.

[Well at Work | OTIP RAO](#)

Referral Form : [Well-at-Work-Referral-Form-FINAL-Fillable.pdf](#)

OECTA's PREGNANCY AND PARENTAL LEAVE BOOKLET

Expecting or adopting? You are eligible for a statutory leave of absence and other benefits such as 8 weeks of top up pay.

[PregnancyBooklet.pdf \(catholicteachers.ca\)](#)

Following the arrival of your new bundle of joy don't forget to update the Board and your OECTA benefit plan.

LOCAL WEBPAGE

It's had an update! Find forms, collective agreements, memos and newsletters.

NO PASSWORD needed.

Unit website www.bucegreoyoecta.com

OECTA UNIT ELECTIONS:

Nominations were open in April. Nomination forms were due by April 15 to Charlotte Rich at SH Teeswater, since she is the Elections Chair.

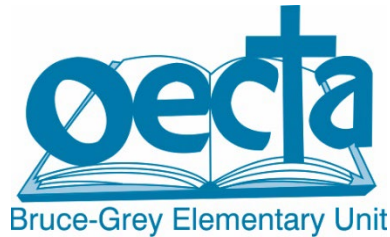
Nominations can be made from the floor on May 26 (our General Meeting) for any positions without candidates.

OECTA SUMMER AQS

Registration opened May 8 2026. Courses will run from July 6, 2026 to August 7, 2026

Courses with insufficient enrolment will be closed about June 20th at noon. So -register early.

[Additional Qualifications Courses - Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association \(OECTA\)](#)



UPCOMING EVENTS:

May 26 - Spring General Meeting OECTA - election, retiree recognition - 5pm Cargill St. Jo's Church - Basement Hall - dinner to follow

June 15 - deadline for those who applied for the AQ scholarship to submit their proof of completion to Kristen for payment.

June 20 - Pride Parade Kincardine - plan to join us - 11 am

OECTA: NEW RESOURCES - TEACHING IN THE 21ST CENTURY

The Association has released the Teaching in the 21st Century Resource series on the Catholic Teachers' website. This series covers a variety of topics related to professional boundaries and investigations in the teaching profession. It also was curated to help Catholic teachers navigate the complexities of their profession.

There are videos, resources and documents related to the challenges of social media, Professional Misconduct, the College of Teachers, Children's Aid, investigations by police, Human Rights Tribunals and other important issues.

[Teaching in the 21st Century - Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association \(OECTA\)](#)

Here is a sample of one of the videos:

[Teaching in the 21st Century: Professional Misconduct Investigations and the Teaching Profession on Vimeo](#)

LIFE CHANGES?

A new baby, a child turning 21, a divorce, a marriage, switching to part time work, a new home?

BE CERTAIN to let the school board, OTIP Health and Dental Benefits, OECTA, the pension board and your insurance provider know. Many changes must be completed within 30 days of the event occurring.

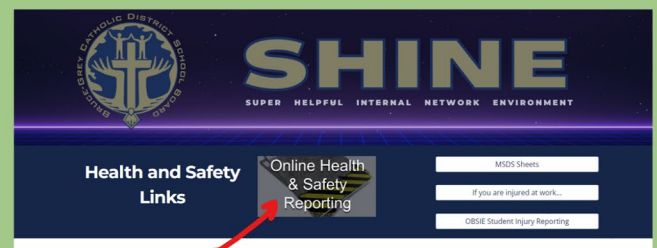
WORKPLACE SAFETY

Corinne Kalistchuk is the Health and Safety worker co-chair on the Joint Health and Safety Committee.

This committee receives summary reports of worker injury and critical (violent) incidences, with all private information redacted. All OECTA members are to continue to go online to fill in the forms after each incident.

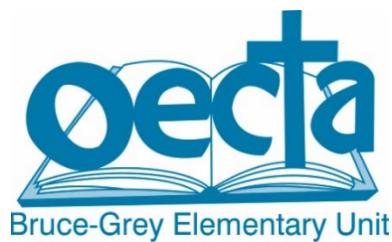
- [Safe Schools Incident form](#) - for any incident that could lead to a student's suspension
- [Workplace Violence form](#) - for any time you as a worker experience hitting, spitting, threats, etc.

These forms are found at the SHINE portal:



Please call Kristen or Corinne if you have ongoing safety incidents, that aren't being adequately addressed. There is a Ministry of Labour document around **workplace violence** in schools and the law. Take some time to read it.

<https://www.ontario.ca/document/workplace-violence-school-boards-guide-law>



THINKING OF TAKING AN AQ?

Members of OECTA Elementary can apply for an AQ scholarship each Fall. The deadline is October 31.

There is \$4000 that is divided among the applicants.

How to Apply :

- AQ courses taken from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027 are eligible
- Complete the AQ application form in October 2026, when it is sent out to the membership, in the newsletter
- When you complete your course send the Unit (Kristen Fry) proof of completion
- If your AQ is fully or partially covered by funds from the School Board or another source please know we will only cover the residual amount.

STARLING MINDS MENTAL HEALTH ONLINE HELP



- Take a mental health checkup
- Build your skills with training sessions
- Connect with others on a secure platform

[Starling - Building Your Mental Fitness](#)

Password: OECTAMEMBER

<https://www.otpp.com/home>



Check out the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan Website at www.otpp.com . You can use your SIN number to see your retirement date, and play with possible scenarios.

MEMBER ENGAGEMENT

We are always looking for members who want to become more engaged with their union. What can you do?

- ✓ Follow OECTA on social media
- ✓ Sign up for OECTA workshops and PD opportunities
- ✓ Update Kristen on your current email and phone number, and also email membership@catholicteachers.ca

NEWSLETTER DRAW for \$100 GIFT CARD

Congrats to April's winners: Jeanette Kadlecik, Elisha DiGiovanni and Maddy Valad. Want to win a \$100 Gift Card? Look in the newsletter for the answer to the question below. Submit your Answer, Name and School to enter into a Draw at oectadrawprize@gmail.com 3 monthly prizes of \$100 available. Deadline is May 31.



OECTA's local AQ scholarship has an application deadline. When it is?

_____ Answer _____ Name

_____ School



**You inspire us to serve you better,
at work, on the road and at home.**



You dedicate your life to helping others and we dedicate ours to protecting you with complete insurance solutions for the education community.

Get a quote to receive a \$20 gift card!

Why OTIP?

- We have been an advocate for the education community for nearly 50 years
- As a not-for-profit broker, our revenue is invested back into the community through a variety of support programs and services
- Save up to 25% on car insurance, and up to 50% on your home insurance when you bundle both with OTIP*
- Comprehensive and affordable coverage for motorcycles, boats, RVs, ATVs, and more
- Access to our in-house claims experts, Curo Claims, available 24/7, 365

*Restrictions apply. For more information, please see our [Privacy Policy](#).