

Welcome to the Winter edition of the AAPSP newsletter. We've had a busy start to this year and it seems hard to believe that the holidays are almost upon us.

I'd like to send along our congratulations to our members who have reached milestones in their careers with the Thames Valley and hope that everyone enjoyed their Service Recognition celebrations. This is also a good time for members to start thinking about nominations for the Award of Distinction. This event tends to come up on us quickly and we have some outstanding members to celebrate!

Your AAPSP Executive and Reps have been busy with a number of new committees and established committees but here are some of the highlights.

With Negotiations now behind us, I would like to send along a very heartfelt thank-you to all the members that both worked on the team and contributed to the successful completion of another contract. Well done!

We are working on some changes to the AAPSP website, and we are looking for some input from the members. We will be posting flyers for our events, as well as posting some links to other resources. Look for the launch to happen sometime in December.

And finally we have some ideas buzzing about our social activities.

Once again we will be having a Family Winter Event after New Years. The change in the timing of this gathering has allowed more participation, and taken the pressure off many of our holiday schedules.

Although we had a lot of interest in this new outing, the Wine Tour is being postponed until the Spring. We are also in the process of setting up another Hockey night at the JLC.

Watch for these flyers to come out in a few more weeks. Please take a moment to share your thoughts with your Representatives if you have any other ideas for AAPSP Social events.

Your next newsletter will come out in the Spring, and if there is something that you would like to see in your AAPSP newsletter, please let us know.

Have a safe and enjoyable holiday season!

*Cathy Chester
President*

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Committee Update and Notices

Social Events

Wine Tour in Niagara -
Scheduled for Spring, 2009

Hockey Night at the JLC -
Scheduled for January, 2009

Winterfest Children's Party -
Scheduled for February, 2009

African Lion Safari -
Scheduled for June, 2009

Please stay tuned for more information on these events.
We are open to all suggestions for future trips or outings.
Please forward any ideas to your group representative.

Congratulations to Robin Bates and Angela Faubert who were married this summer. Congratulations also goes to Barrie Woodley and Minda Meyer who retired this summer.

A big AAPSP welcome goes to Leanne Merner in the Director's Office, Doug Forbes in Facilities, Kevin McMurray in Facilities and Michelle Verhey-Korpan in Human Resources.

If you know of someone new in your area who has joined our association, please make sure that you contact your Representative to let us welcome them properly.

Group A - Assistants

We are still in need of a Representative for this group. This position requires an hour or two of your time every month. Please contact Cathy Chester if you are interested in volunteering.

Education Week:

It's time for an up-date on the progress with Thames Valley's 10th anniversary commemorative book – "A Week in the life of the Valley." After the long summer weeks of preparation it is finally off the press. Congratulations go out to everyone involved in final picture selection, editing, text preparation, layout and production.

"A Week" includes over 500 photographs, taken by our students during Education Week. The finished work bears the imprint of hundreds of individuals at both the school and system levels. Each and everyone of Thames Valley's 184 schools is photographically represented.

"A Week in the life of the Valley" will be unveiled at a special Book Launch at the Education Centre on Wednesday, October 22, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. Cost of the book is \$25 per copy (tax included). Thames Valley's print order is only 2,200 copies, so we are urging staff and school communities to get their orders in as quickly as possible. For full details on book sales and how to order, please refer to the TVDSB website homepage and click on the Book Launch or visit www.tvdsb.on.ca/events.



Committee Update and Notices



United Way:

Last year we raised a record \$304,959 for the three United Way agencies across the Valley. Our committee is excited to keep the momentum going anticipating exceeding that donation this year. Reaching Every Classroom is the theme for Thames Valley's 2008 / 2009 United Way Campaign. It reminds us that our support helps United Way meet the needs of people in our school communities. We encourage all staff to consider a donation to United Way through payroll deductions. Again this year, Thames Valley's campaign encompasses all three United Ways in Thames Valley: Elgin-St. Thomas, London-Middlesex and Oxford.

All details for this years campaign can be found at <http://www.tvdsb.on.ca/events/unitedway.shtml>. The campaign ends November 7th.

EAP Committee:

The Employee Assistance Committee continues to meet every quarter with Wilson Banwell, our EAP Provider. The Committee reviews statistical information about usage of the plan and receives information about the service. Services offered include support for Trauma, Stress, Relationships, Physical Health concerns, Alcohol and Substance abuse, Eating disorders and many others. Support may be reached via phone, face to face meetings or the Internet.

The Board, in support of Employee Health, has once again, contracted with Wilson Banwell to run a series of "Wellness Seminars" that are available to all Employees. Topics covered run from Stress Management to How to Set Boundaries and be Assertive. Lisa Smith has information on dates and locations.

Service Recognition

30 years:

Tim Dixon
Lisa Smith
Cal Campbell
Kim Chesney
Sharron Christie

25 years:

Steve Slaney
Joe Molinaro
Glen Campbell
Michelle Helps

20 years:

Gayle Gervais
Carol McRae
Frank Boffa

15 years:

Brian Poulin
Susan Piltman
Sandi Douglas