

Sept 2012

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*RTU-SER*

*Newsletter*

**WELCOME  
BACK**

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I'd like to welcome you all back for a new school year! I hope everyone had a restful summer and is ready for all the new challenges we face day to day. The school board tried a new method for welcoming back everyone. If you have any comments, please see your delegate, call our offices or email us to let us know what you thought of the new method.

**UNION  
DELEGATES**

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Delegates play an important role in our schools. They are on School Council, Special Needs Committee's as well as attending monthly meetings. They represent their school and pass on pertinent information to their colleagues. A few schools have not yet sent in their school's delegate's name. Please, if a delegate has been chosen at your school, forward it to our offices. Delegates Workshop is October 19-20th, and we will need to know the number of Delegates attending in order to make reservations at the Manoir des Sables.

**SCHOOL  
COUNCIL**

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Your School Council must be formed by September 15th. Some of the schools have already met and have had meetings. I have already received a few sets of minutes. Please don't forget to forward copies to me and Human Resources for follow-up. Don't forget the Union Delegate has an automatic seat, and teachers elect the Council Members.

**SPECIAL  
NEEDS  
COMMITTEE**

**SPECIAL NEEDS COMMITTEE**

This Committee plays a "decision making" role in the allocation of resources to support teachers with special needs students. Each decision should be voted on, this is a team decision, never just one person. Again, the minutes should be sent to myself and Gail Somerville, so as to follow up at the Parity Committee.

**RECALL LIST**

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The Recall List was the biggest ever, at 134 teachers. The good news is all 134 teachers were placed, and many received "Full Time Regular position". To get on this list, teachers need two part-time contracts in the course of three years.

**INSURANCE**

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We have had a complaint about Industrial Alliance giving erroneous information and we would like to know if there have been any other members in the same situation. If you have, please e-mail us at [rtu-ser@rtu-ser.ca](mailto:rtu-ser@rtu-ser.ca)

**VALUE ADDED****VALUE ADDED**

I will be compiling a list of ECA's (Extra curricular activities) with Human Resources, that were eligible for compensation, and it will be available to all schools. As well this year our school board will have approximately \$350,000 for Value Added!

Make sure you keep track of all you do right from the beginning. Don't leave it to the last minute.

**CLASS SIZE****CLASS SIZE**

Here are the numbers for the class sizes this year, and these numbers can be affected by the weighting of high coded students. If you have any concerns call us at 450-465-2523

|                           | <b>average</b> | <b>maximum</b> |
|---------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Kindergarden: 5 year olds | 18             | 20             |
| Grade 1: Regular area     | 20             | 22             |
| Grade 2: Regular area     | 22             | 24             |
| Grade 3: Regular area     | 24             | 26             |
| Grade 4: Regular area     | 24             | 26             |
| Grade 5: Regular area     | 24             | 26             |
| Grade 6: Regular area     | 24             | 26             |
| Secondary I               | 28             | 30             |
| Secondary II              | 28             | 30             |

**WORKLOAD****WORKLOAD**

The workload includes time spent teaching, duty, and remediation.

| <u>LEVEL</u> | <u>MAXIMUM</u> | <u>9 Day cycle</u> | <u>10 day cycle</u> |
|--------------|----------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Elementary   | 1380           |                    |                     |
| High School  | 1200           | 2160               | 2400                |

Full time teachers are responsible for 27 hours + 5 personal work hours. Each day should not exceed 384 minutes, if you do not want to be deducted more than a day for a sick day.

**NEW TEACHERS****NEW TEACHERS**

I would like to welcome all our new teachers. I have met a few of you at the New Teachers Workshops at the school board. As well if you weren't at the workshop, see your delegate for a New Teacher Handbook. And check out our website, it always has helpful information. RTU will be hosting a New Teachers Dinner in October, so make sure you find out who your delegate is for an invitation.

**PROFESSIONAL IMPROVEMENT****PROFESSIONAL IMPROVEMENT**

This year's allocation is again \$1,200. Please continue to use your allocation. There is always something new to learn, so take advantage of it!

## **PARENTAL RIGHTS AND SALARY INSURANCE**

Pregnant teachers who go on salary insurance may ask to have that period not be included in calculating their average salary for QPIP. But it is important to note that this will be applied to requests made as of July 26th, 2012, or after.

New information has come from QPAT, the years of debate are over, the practice of using the time spent on salary insurance, which in fact, is inequitable and unacceptable, and had a negative impact on teacher's benefits has finally paid off. Since July 26th, 2012, the period of time a pregnant teacher is receiving salary insurance no longer has to be calculated into her Quebec Parental Insurance Plan (QPIP) benefits. Salary insurance will remain an insurable earning, for the purpose of the calculation of QPIP benefits, this period of time spent on salary insurance while pregnant will be skipped over, if requested to QPIP by the teacher, when applying for benefits. QPIP will go back prior to the start of the salary insurance. For more information, you can contact Julie Montpetit at QPAT at 1-800-361-9870.

## **MCGILL STUDIES**

As usual, McGill University has the Distinguished Educators Seminar Series offered to our teachers. There are many seminars planned and I hope you take full advantage of them. Don't forget to apply for PIC money. For more information, contact Sylvia Sklar at 514-398-8267.

Have a great year! And don't forget to check out our website at [www.rtu-ser.ca](http://www.rtu-ser.ca)

Steven LeSueur  
**President**  
**Riverside Teachers Union**

