

Members Update for December 3rd, 2021

Christmas Break – Just so you have it handy and can plan visits with family & friends over the break, here's a list of days that we're working and not working.

December 17th - last day of school

December 20th to 23rd - regular working days – alternate hours in effect - confirm hours with supervisor

December 24th - half working day – members work up to 4 hours, daycares to close at noon and need to be cleaned after closing - in buildings with daycares someone will have to stay late and work until approximately 1-1:30pm

December 27th & 28th - days off in lieu of Christmas and Boxing Days

December 29th – same as December 20th to 23rd - regular working day

December 30th - half working day – same as December 24th

December 31st - day off in lieu of New Years Day

January 3rd - school resumes – all schedules back to normal

Holiday Travels – There's been quite a few questions about what rules have to be followed about travelling over the break. Things are changing almost daily with travel restrictions and guidelines from the Federal government with a new Covid variant surfacing recently. If you are taking time off and traveling during the break, the HWDSB will require you to be ready to work when school resumes and it's up to you to know the guidelines about traveling to your destination and the conditions of isolating or quarantining upon your return. Our suggestion is to be in contact with your travel agent and keep an eye on the Federal guidelines by following [this link](#). I already know of a few members who have had to cancel their travel plans due to recent changes so please be aware of the situation.

New CUPE National Documents – To say that I despise virtual meetings even more after last week would be an understatement. Patrick Cumbo, Darlene Barrick and myself attended the CUPE National Convention on behalf of our Local and while I would've much rather it had been held in Vancouver as planned, it was all virtual. 6 days of virtual meetings, online voting, deliberating constitutional amendments & resolutions, sector and provincial caucuses wasn't much fun at all and quite draining. But, at 5pm on Friday, it was over and all 3 of us rejoiced. There were a couple documents that I wanted to bring to your attention that were shared at the convention and you'll find them posted on the website under the Resources tab and click on CUPE National. Once the changes are made to reflect the constitutional amendments that were passed and a new version of the CUPE Constitution is available, we will post that there as well.

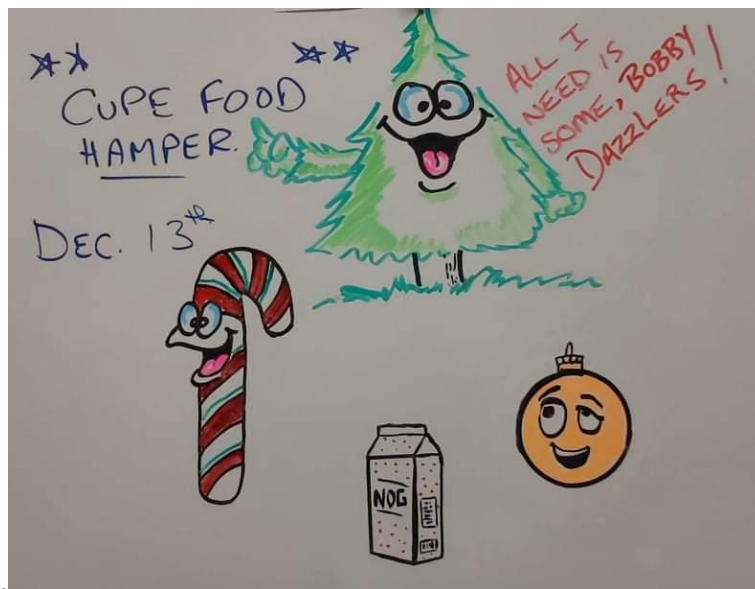
Striking Alberta Education Workers - If you haven't heard, there is a small Local in Alberta that has been on strike for fair wages for the past month. We will be sending a cheque to help their local through their strike and you can follow along with what's happening – and read stories like [this one](#) about CUPE 1630 and what the issues are. They are totally justified in their strike and have the support of the community and students which will be key to them winning their demands – just like it was for the 20,000 CUPE workers in New Brunswick last month.

Fire Safety – It's that time of year when lights, decorations and trees show up in classrooms. **At the end of the update I'll attach the latest memo about proper use** of all these things and who to contact when things aren't done properly. Spoiler alert – it's your area supervisor.

OSBCU Bargaining Conference – this afternoon Patrick Cumbo, Pat Amatangelo and myself will be heading to Richmond Hill for the first CUPE Ontario in person conference since March of 2020. The OSBCU will be discussing Central Bargaining items and mobilizing as well. We'll be there until Sunday afternoon and will update members with any information we can when we get back.

Shout out to Sherwood – There's one week left in the food drive we're running to help supply the Good Shepherd Food Bank program. When I spoke with the Good Shepherd co-ordinator for donations, she was so happy to hear that we were participating and I want our donation to show how our Local is capable of giving back to our community!

Congrats to the members at Sherwood Secondary for their enthusiasm and artwork in decorating their Food Drive collection box! Remember – food drive boxes will be collected Monday December 13th so get your donations in by Friday the 10th. At the end of the update you'll find a list of suggestions for possible donation items



Have a great weekend and GO CATS GO!!!!

Cheers,

Blake



Good Shepherd
Faith in people.

Give the Gift of Hope

Good Shepherd Christmas Food Drive

Our Good Food List

- Canned Soup/Stew
- Canned Beans
- Canned Meat/Fish
- Canned Vegetables
- Canned Fruit
- Canned Pasta/Pasta & Sauce
- Dry Pasta
- Pork & Beans
- Dry Beans
- Macaroni & Cheese
- Peanut Butter/Jam
- Fresh Produce
- Coffee/Tea/Juice
- Cereal/Instant Oatmeal
- Pancake Mix/Syrup
- Powdered Milk
- Healthy Snacks
- Baby Food
- Baby Formula
- Plus*
- Personal Care Products

DATE: November 30th, 2021

TO: Elementary Principals and Vice-Principals
Secondary Principals and Vice-Principals
Managers and Supervisors

FROM: Cindy Francis, Senior Manager, Human Resource Services
David Anderson, Senior Manager, Facilities Management
Lindsay Goerzen, Manager, Occupational Health and Safety (acting)

RE: ACTION: Fire Safety During the Holiday Season

Please be reminded of the following safety measures applicable in all HWDSB facilities as directed by the Hamilton Fire Department and the Ontario Fire Code.

ACTION REQUESTED: Please share a copy of this memo with staff to increase awareness of fire safety during this holiday season.

Decor

- Wall decor must be limited to 20% wall coverage in corridors, forums and foyers
- Holiday decorations are not to be hung from the sprinklered ceiling heads (1.5 feet clearance must be maintained from the bottom of the sprinklered ceiling head)
- Using hay or straw is strictly prohibited; these products are organic in nature and are subject to spontaneous combustion
- Exits, stairwells, vestibules, sprinklered ceilings and electrical fixtures and are to remain free of decorations
- Emergency signage, life safety devices, electrical devices and accessibility devices and are to remain visible and accessible at all times
- Exits and egress widths of rooms, foyers and corridors are to be maintained and unobstructed at all times
- Corridor doors, including classroom and office doors on the side facing the corridor, and doorways must be free of any combustibles

Holiday Trees

- Are to be artificial
- Are to have a CSA, ULC and/or UL fire resistance rating
- Are to be limited to a maximum height of 152cm (5ft) for interior use

- Are prohibited in corridors and stairwells and cannot obstruct exits or access to exits
- Packages and gifts as decorations are to be limited to a confined area within the radius of the tree

Lighting

- Is to be CSA approved and rated for indoor use
- Is to be plugged directly into outlet or CSA/ULC approved power bar
- Is to be unplugged by the user when the area is unoccupied
- Is to be installed and used as per the original product design
- Is not permitted in corridors or around any combustible material

All questions should be directed to the Facility Operations Supervisor for your school. Let's work together to ensure our building remain a safe place to work and learn.