



## Niagara Chapter Executive Update Report *FALL/WINTER 2021*

Our hope for the APSSP newsletter is to give members information about what your executive has been doing on your behalf. Please feel free to reach out to any of our members below if you have any questions.

### Your Niagara Chapter Executive Council Representatives

- President:** Tara Colavecchia (taracolavecchia@gmail.com)  
**Vice President:** Cheryl Bechard-Howe (cherylbhowe@yahoo.ca)  
**Chief Negotiator:** Dave Peirce (pompey-dave@hotmail.com)  
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**Treasurer:** Leanne Saxton (peacelea3@gmail.com)  
**Public Relations:** Yvonne Horton (yhorton649@gmail.com)  
**Governing Council:** Jessica Gollan (jaygollan@gmail.com)  
**Secretary:** Sara Mclean (mclean\_s@hotmail.com)  
**Health and Safety Representative:** Shari Sadowsky (shari.sadowsky@gmail.com)

### Message From The President

Hello APSSP Members!

I would like to start with sending a big THANK YOU to each and every one of our APSSP members. We never could have imagined that we would be entering our second school year in a pandemic but I can confidently say that we have all done so with grace and professionalism.

I continue to meet with Senior Administration and other union executives to reflect and plan for the remainder of the school year. Discussions and planning for the 2022-2023 school year calendar have started and while the calendar does not impact APSSP members as much as it does other unions it is still a valuable committee to be a part of.

As the holiday season quickly approaches I encourage everyone to take time for themselves and enjoy any quiet time you may have. The long hours and dedication that you all provide for DSBN students and families is greatly appreciated and valued, and time for yourself is just as necessary.

Happy Holidays,  
Tara Colavecchia, President, APSSP Niagara Chapter

## Social media

**APSSP has a Twitter Account!** You can follow APSSP and see all of the great things that are happening throughout all of our chapters! Check it out at [@APSSPUnion](#)

**Another Twitter account** you will want to check out is [@MissGollan](#)

Jessica Gollan (Youth Counsellor) shares lots of great tips, strategies and information around mental health and the great things she is doing in the classrooms.

## Welcome New Members!

**Welcome to our new members! Glad to have you as a part of APSSP!**

Alexis Pizzo - Youth Counsellor  
Ashleigh Molinaro - Speech Pathologist  
Katherine Clemens - Social Worker  
Shawna Green - Youth Counsellor

*\*We encourage all new members to take a quick moment and visit [www.apssp.org](http://www.apssp.org) to learn more about your union. Upon your initial visit to the site you are asked to register and create your APSSP e-mail, this allows Provincial to reach you with any important information for their members. ANY CURRENT MEMBERS WHO HAVE NOT YET REGISTERED ALREADY ARE ASKED TO DO SO. This is a crucial step to ensuring everyone is receiving all necessary emails coming from Provincial.*

## Friendly Reminder

**Has Your Mailing Address Changed?**

APSSP likes to send thoughtful gifts from time to time. Please send Sara McLean your current address so we have the most up to date information. You don't want to miss out when we send some joy your way!

## Edvantage Cards

Edvantage is your exclusive member savings program where you can enjoy discounts on household items, clothing, electronics, travel, financial services and more! Edvantage has a new mobile friendly website where you will have access to a convenient digital Edvantage membership card. Edvantage sent each permanent member an email back in May, 2021 asking you to register for an account and create a personal password in order to access the discounts and view your digital Edvantage member card. If you have not yet registered, please be sure you do so that you don't miss out on any discounts or savings.

*\*New permanent members - your Edvantage number is on the way and will be emailed to you shortly. Existing permanent members who have lost their card or do not know their Edvantage numbers please reach out to Yvonne Horton (Public Relations) who will look into it for you.*

## Education Weekend Update

Our executive virtually attended (some of us in person) the APSSP Provincial Education Weekend held October 23rd and 24th. This year's focus was "Working Toward an Anti-Racist APSSP". Our keynote speaker, Patricia Harewood - Acting Director of Representation and Legal Services Branch of the Public Service Alliance of Canada provided some valuable material. We discussed what anti-black racism is, the historical origins of anti-black racism, and how anti-black racism shows up in our workplace. We also reflected on what we have done as individuals and as union leaders to confront anti-black racism. It was a very informative weekend and gave us lots to think about with regards to what we can do in our roles in APSSP but also in our roles at DSBN with regards to anti-black racism, equity and diversity. There was a great book recommendation that we wanted to share with you. It is titled "The Skin We're In" by Desmond Cole. This book describes the struggle against racism in Canada during the year 2017, chronicling Cole's role as an anti-racist activist and the impact of systemic racism in Canadian society.



## LET'S CELEBRATE!

### RETIREMENTS

We had two retirements in June. Jodie Miller was a Youth Counsellor with the board for 36 years and Sue Hamilton was a Youth Counsellor with the board for 35 years! Jodie and Sue were dedicated, incredible Youth Counsellors who brought a wealth of knowledge to their roles. They were kind and compassionate and worked tirelessly for DSBN students and their families. We have missed them! We reached out to them to see how they were enjoying their retirement.

### Jodie Miller sent this message to share with everyone:

*Hello everyone!*

*I hope all is well and everyone has a smooth start to the school year. Thought I'd send a short update to let you know how I've been adjusting to retirement...Lovin it!*

*My husband Jim and I have enjoyed extending our time at our "away home" on the Trent River for the entire month of September and closed up for the winter, just before Thanksgiving.*

*Planning to make an early return again in May to enjoy a full 5 months in nature, fishing, boating and connecting with our retired friends.*

*Enjoying simple pleasures of walks with the dog, antiquing, crafting, horticulture and bird watching. Becoming quite proficient with preparing homemade raw/cooked diet for dogs and cats and have been creating new dishes and cuisine for family and friends as well.*

*So nice to have time to assist family members with wellness and home renovations and plan to save my own home-reorganizing and improvements for the colder months when I am spending more time indoors.*

*So hard to believe that Remembrance Day has come and gone and we will soon be entering the holiday season.*

*Retirees often say that they don't know how they fit their work career into their everyday living. It is true...my days are busy and full but at a pace I choose.*

*Wish you all good health and wellness for the 2021/22 school year.*

*Cheers,  
Jodie*

## LET'S CELEBRATE!

### Sue Hamilton also sent a message to share

Dear APSSP friends,

*Deciding when to retire is difficult, especially when you both enjoy the work and most importantly, the people that we have had the pleasure of crossing paths with along the way.*

*Leaving my role as a Youth Counsellor with the DSNB after 35 years was bittersweet, however, it was made that much easier knowing that our students, families and schools have the ongoing, caring support of our APSSP members.*

*Albeit a drastic change, I must admit that the transition to retirement has been relatively easy and most positive. I have enjoyed spending time volunteering, reading, exercising, completing numerous house projects and frequently getting together with family and friends, the latter including many past colleagues and other retirees. Of course, I am looking forward to resuming travel in 2022, with trips already booked this coming winter for some much needed warmth and sunshine. As for other future plans...I have much on my bucket list, so only time will tell.*

*Take care everyone - all the best,*

*Sue Hamilton*

### BIRTHS

We also had two babies born this school year to two of our Social Workers. This is very exciting news and we are so happy for both Jen Drury-Mahler and Mandy Peters!



**Jen Drury-Mahler (Social Worker) had a beautiful baby girl born on October 9th! Welcome Charlie!**



**Mandy Peters (Social Worker) also had an adorable baby girl born on September 12. Welcome McKinley!**

## UPCOMING RETIREMENT

Jen Grundy (Youth Counsellor) is retiring at the end of November after 32 years with the board! Jen is an amazing Youth Counsellor who made a big difference not only in the lives of many students, but also the many staff and co-workers who had the pleasure of working with her. Jen also dedicated 25 years to being a hard working member of your APSSP executive. She held the positions of Grievance, Secretary, Public Relations and Health and Safety..Wow! Thank you Jen! You will be missed!

### Jen wanted to share this message with all of you

*Hi Everyone,*

*WOW! 32 years. It's amazing how fast time goes!*

*I just want to take this opportunity to say that we really do work in unique roles and the support we all give each other in our (small but mighty union) really does make a difference in our day to day efforts.*

*As we all know, our time with the board is marked with ups and unfortunately, sometimes downs. It is your support and friendships that has allowed me to rise to the challenges and celebrate the triumphs. For that I am truly grateful.*

*The most important thing I have learned along this journey is that what you all do everyday DOES make a difference! To those families and children who depend on you every day...it counts.*

*Keep the faith, keep doing what you are doing. Be there for each other. Maybe we can change the world for the better...one day, one kid, one smile at a time.*

*Yours in solidarity,  
Jen Grundy*



## Health and Safety Update:

Just a reminder to members that if you are in need of PPE for COVID reasons, they are available through your administrator and or designate. The DSBN is providing face masks and shields. The board has masks from 7 different providers.

### HR sent out the following reminder:

The DSBN has provided staff with PPE that meets the guidelines outlined by the Ministry of Education and Public Health. Staff who wish to wear an N95 mask, can submit a request to [WellnessSupports@dsbn.org](mailto:WellnessSupports@dsbn.org) outlining the request and specifications of the N95 mask they wish to wear. Wellness will advise both the employee and their Administrator if the request is approved. Staff who choose to wear alternate PPE will not be reimbursed for the cost as the DSBN has provided suitable PPE that meets and adheres to all Ministry guidelines. All requests for cloth masks will be denied.

## Recipes

The Holidays are upon us and we thought we would share a holiday recipe from one of our members.

Nadia LaSelva, our Attendance Counsellor, loves to bake and has shared one of her favourite Holiday recipes.

### Big Batch Kris Kringle Cookies



2-1/4 cups flour  
1 tsp. baking soda  
1/2 tsp. salt  
1 cup butter, softened  
1 cup granulated sugar  
1/2 cup packed brown sugar  
2 eggs  
1 tsp. vanilla  
3 pkg. (4 oz. each) BAKER'S White Chocolate, chopped  
2 cups chopped pecans, toasted  
2 cups dried cranberries

#### Let's Make It

- 1 Heat oven to 375°F.
- 2 Combine flour, baking soda and salt. Beat butter and sugars in large bowl with mixer until light and fluffy. Blend in eggs and vanilla. Gradually add flour mixture, mixing well after each addition. Stir in remaining ingredients.
- 3 Drop rounded tablespoonfuls of dough, 2 inches apart, onto baking sheets.
- 4 Bake 9 to 11 min. or until lightly browned. Cool on baking sheets 3 min. Remove to wire racks; cool completely.

## Happy Holidays!

### Holiday Donation

APSSP is happy to support EFN this year. A donation of \$500.00 has been made. This is certainly an organization that all disciplines can access to help support the diverse needs of students across DSBN.

### HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

May you all enjoy a relaxing, wonderful holiday with your friends and family!

