

Memo #1

Date: September 3, 2019

To: Executive/Members

Re: **Welcome Back; School Based Meetings; Simcoe Muskoka/Provincial Website; OECTA Dues and College of Teachers Fee; Prep Subjects; Health and Phys Ed Changes; OTIP News**

Welcome Back

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome back all the Catholic Elementary Teachers of Simcoe Muskoka. I hope that everyone had a restful and enjoyable Summer break.

This school year could be quite different than the school years we have experienced lately. As of right now we are still negotiating centrally. A local Collective Bargaining survey will be sent this month.

School Based Meetings

Staff meetings are to take place once a month, for up to one hour in duration. The Association encourages all members to attend these meetings, however, if you are unable to attend, please inform your principal in a timely manner. A schedule for all the monthly staff meetings for the 2018 - 2019 school year should be established in the upcoming month.

All other meetings before or after school are strictly voluntary and no one should be disadvantaged for not attending a voluntary meeting. These voluntary meetings include **division meetings; school improvement meetings; weekly morning meetings; lunch meetings and any other type of scheduled meeting that takes place outside of the instructional day.**

Simcoe Muskoka Website and OECTA Provincial Website

All of our union-based communication can be found on our local website (www.oectasimcoemuskoka.on.ca).

On this site, you will have access to memos, important documents – Conference Application Forms, Collective Agreement, and other important pieces of information.

Each teacher – if they haven't already – will need to have a personal login. If you require assistance, please contact Shannon McGlynn (smcglynn@oectasimcoemuskoka.on.ca).

As well, once registered and logged in, each teacher will have their own oectasm email account. I will be emailing memos, and other pieces of information to this email account. This email account can be forwarded – once you set it up - to your personal email, if you prefer to not have an extra email account.

The OECTA Provincial website (www.catholicteachers.ca) is separate from our local website, and as such you will need a separate ID and login. Once registered and logged in, you will be able to identify which **personal** email address you would like to receive Provincial information, such as Provincial Collective Bargaining and possible Strike Vote.

OECTA Dues and College of Teachers Fee

With the beginning of the new school year, OECTA Dues and the College of Teachers Fee for the 2019-20 school year will be deducted from your pay.

Prep Subjects

The Principal, in consultation with the preparation and classroom teachers, will assign all subjects for preparation time. Preparation time should be assigned minimizing the number of different subject areas and grade levels wherever possible.

Reportable Preparation Time Required (1-8)

Grade 1 - 6		
<i>Subject</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Number of Reportable Strands</i>
FSL	100 minutes/week	Grades 1-3 (Speaking and Listening) Grades 4-8 4 strands (Speaking, Listening, Reading and Writing)
Prep	100 minutes/week	2 strands per term (Sept to Feb and Feb to June)
Prep	40 minutes/week	1 strand per term (Sept to Feb and Feb to June)
Grade 7-8		
<i>Subject</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Number of Reportable Strands</i>
FSL	200 minutes/week	4 strands (Speaking, Listening, Reading and Writing)
Prep	40 minutes/week	1 strand per term (Sept to Feb and Feb to June)

Options for the delivery of 40-minute preparation time:

- A. 40 minutes per week (can be arranged into 2 twenty minute blocks)
- B. Week 1 and 2 schedule with 60 minutes one week and 20 minutes the other with an average of 40 minutes over the two weeks

The Arts and Social Studies are recommended for all prep areas. Science is supported as a prep subject providing there is mutual agreement (principal and teacher, or teacher and teacher).

If Health is considered, it is counted as **one strand** for reporting purposes.

Subject areas that are **not supported** for any preparation time are **Religion, Family Life, Language, Math**.

Kindergarten Prep

The principal will determine, in consultation with the Kindergarten teacher and the Preparation teacher the frame for preparation time learning opportunities and observations. At the onset, it should be clear as to which frame(s) the planning teacher(s) are to communicate the learning within a term. **It is not appropriate for the Preparation teacher to be solely responsible to teach and report on one frame of learning.**

In past practice, preparation coverage typically indicated an academic subject as the focus for planning, instruction, assessment and evaluation. However, learning is not defined by academic subjects in the Kindergarten program, therefore, selecting a focus that would **minimize disruption in the flow of the day and the assessment** in one of the four frames would be most appropriate.

The Kindergarten child's learning is the focus rather than levels of achievement. Assessment for, as, and of learning describes the child's learning experiences and what the next steps might be. In later grades, the child's understanding of learning is established so learning goals and success criteria may be appropriate measures of achievement.

Health and Physical Education Changes

The revised Health and Physical Education curriculum document was released on August 21, 2019. As of September 3, 2019, all grades will be following the “new” expectations.

Changes:

- 4 Strands
- Social Emotional Learning Skills replaces Living Skills
- New set of expectations on mental health
- Updated information on cannabis, vaping, and Canada’s food guide
- Subtle changes that deal with Human Development and Sexual Health

Teachers will continue to use the teaching material from Fully Alive to meet the expectations related to human development and sexual health.

OTIP News

School bus safety: how not abiding by the rules of the road can affect your insurance rates

Did you know that a single infraction involving a school bus can affect your car insurance premiums? Road safety, especially related to school buses and children, is very important. This importance is reflected in insurance company policies, which penalize drivers who do not exercise proper caution around children. The best course of action is to familiarize yourself with the rules of the road, and to remain vigilant around school zones and buses.

To learn more, click here: www.otipinsurance.com/article43

Water Damage: What You Need to Know

Water damage can be dangerous, not only to the integrity of your home, but also to your health. It is important to know how to prevent water damage, as well as how to recover from it. Any dwelling has the potential to experience leaks, which could cause damage to your flooring, drywall and belongings; not to mention harmful mold that can take root and cause health issues.

To learn more, click here: www.otipinsurance.com/article45

If you have any concerns, please contact the Unit office at 705-733-9625 or 1 800 558 4815