

Memo #10

Date: November 20, 2018

To: Simcoe Muskoka Catholic Elementary Teachers

Re: **OECTA Young Authors; Ministry of Education Consultation; National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women**

OECTA Young Authors

Once again OECTA is sponsoring the annual Young Authors Awards for students.

An information package has been forwarded directly to all OECTA Representatives and is enclosed here for your information.

The school package for OECTA representatives includes the following items: (which has been sent to your school OECTA Representative.)

- A flyer for posting in schools
- An entry form (cover sheet required for each entry)
- Policies and Procedures for 2018-2019

Each School may submit one entry per category and division to the Unit level of competition. (See attached for explanation of categories.)

Important Dates:

Teachers must submit their classes' entries to the OECTA Association Representative no later than February 4th, 2018.

Representatives are to send winning school entries to the local Unit Office no later than February 22nd, 2018.

Ministry of Education Consultation

If you have not already done so, we strongly encourage you and your members to participate in the online submission portion, which will remain open until **December 15**.

You can provide feedback on seven consultation areas, including STEM learning, standardized testing, and the health and physical education curriculum.

It is imperative that the government hears the perspectives of the frontline workers in Ontario's publicly funded education system. We also need to make clear that teachers are members of the community – we are not only professional educators, but also citizens, parents, and taxpayers.

You can access the link **HERE**.

National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women

The National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women is commemorated in Canada each year on December 6. On this day in 1989, 14 young women were murdered in a tragic act of gender violence at the École Polytechnique in Montreal. This is known as the Montreal Massacre and the anniversary is marked across the nation by vigils, discussions and prayer. This day reminds us to consider the women and girls for whom violence is an everyday reality and to remember those who have died because of gender based violence.

One way to take concrete action to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls is to raise awareness in our classrooms and schools. On December 6, it is encouraged that you include school announcements and prayers that address gender violence. For your convenience, a sample announcement and prayer for Elementary schools is included at the bottom of this memo. As well, on the OECTA website you will find *We Remember Through Action*, a commemorative resource guide for intermediate and senior grades, which provides ideas and links to classroom resources for teachers to facilitate problem solving and discussion in the classroom at <http://www.catholicteachers.ca/For-Your-Classroom/Curriculum-Resources/Other>

We also invite you to participate in the YWCA Rose Campaign. Ways of participating in this campaign are numerous: You can order buttons, posters, bookmarks, videos; you can send a message to your MP encouraging him/her to take action; you can participate in “Light the Night” and light your school/unit office with red lights on December 6. Information about all the different aspects of the campaign, including ordering materials, can be found at <http://ywcacanada.ca/en/pages/rose/about>.

ELEMENTARY - Sample Announcement and Prayer

December 6th is Canada’s National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. No one regardless of gender should be a victim of violence. Everyone deserves to be able to go to school and live in a community, free from harm. This December 6th remember those who have been victims and pray for an end to violence.

God of life, today we stop and remember women and girls who are suffering from harm and abuse. We pray for open hearts and minds to support women and girls. Help us to offer hope to one another and to act to end violence against women. Help us to bring about a world where women and men – boys and girls are able to love and to be loved. Amen.

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