

Memo #15

Date: January 27, 2020

To: Simcoe Muskoka Catholic Elementary Teachers

Re: PD from OECTA; Young Authors (Reminder); Education for the Common Good Conference; OTIP Information

PD from OECTA

Although the Association's current job action directs members not to participate in Ministry or board-mandated professional development, members are encouraged to participate in self-directed professional learning developed and delivered by your union. OECTA's Professional department continues to offer affordable, high quality professional development opportunities. During the current job action, members interested in engaging in self-directed professional development can access teacher curated PD through *Office Hours*, *Mini Courses* and *Additional Qualifications*.

Office Hours: Participants can choose to reserve a spot through advanced registration or, pending availability may be able to access the session on the provincial website at the specified start time. Interested members can access a list of available sessions as well as registration at: <http://www.catholicteachers.ca/For-Your-Classroom/Office-Hours>

Mini-Courses: Mini-Courses are module-sized professional learning courses. Each mini-course will focus on one overarching theme within a given content area. Mini-Courses run for one month, cost only \$50 and are facilitated by a qualified AQ course instructor. Upon completion, participants will receive a certificate of completion. Space is limited and registration is required. Registration is now open and will occur on a first come basis. The next scheduled session will run from February 12th to March 4th, 2020. Interested members can access registration at: <http://www.catholicteachers.ca/For-Your-Career/Mini-Courses>

AQ Courses: OECTA offers a number of AQ courses throughout the school year. Registration for OECTA's Spring AQs is currently open and closes March 16th, 2020. The spring session will run from March 30th to June 19th. For a complete list of available courses visit: <http://www.catholicteachers.ca/For-Your-Career/AQ-Courses>.

Young Authors

A reminder that in school submissions are to be given to the OECTA Rep by February 3rd. An in-school selection can be done to determine the school winners.

The OECTA Rep will send one selection per category to be included in our Unit selection.

Educating for the Common Good Conference

The Association is committed to advocacy on social justice issues. OECTA's Biennial Educating for the Common Good Conference entitled, "*Stronger Together*" takes place on April 2nd and 3rd at the Westin Harbour Castle Hotel, 1 Harbour Square. This conference is designed for classroom teachers.

Participants hear from a number of keynote speakers who are prominent in the fields of social justice and human rights. They also participate in discussions and workshops that allow them to link key issues to their classroom teachings. Previous keynote speakers have included Michel Cikwanine, Dr. Izzeldin Abuelaish, Shannon Moroney, and Dr. Samantha Nutt.

OECTA Simcoe Muskoka Elementary is able to pay for one delegate to attend. This includes registration, mileage, hotel, parking, and meal per diem.

Please complete the attached Elementary Conference Application form if interested and email back to kent.macdonald@oectasm.ca by February 7th.

OTIP Information

10 snowmobile safety tips to keep in mind before hitting the trails this winter

Now that winter is here in full force, many Canadians are looking forward to hitting the snowmobile trails and gliding over kilometre after kilometre of fresh snow. Depending on where you live, snowmobiling may be more than a recreational activity. In some rural locations, snowmobiles also serve as a valuable mode of transportation. Whether you snowmobile for fun, or to get from one point to another, there are essential safety considerations to keep in mind before heading out.

For more information, visit www.otipinsurance.com/article58.

If I'm not at fault in a car accident, do I have to pay my deductible?

If you're in a car accident and your insurance provider determines that you were not at fault, one of the first questions you probably have is "If it wasn't my fault, do I have to pay a deductible?" Although each situation is unique and there is no quick and easy answer, here are a few factors that can determine whether you will have to pay.

For more information, visit www.otipinsurance.com/article59.

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