

Memo #2

Date: September 5, 2018

To: Executive/Members

Re: Pay Increases; Staffing Update; OTIP News; OECTA School Representative; Online Incident Reporting; Health and Physical Education Expectations

Pay Increases

A reminder that this school year we will be receiving pay increases:

September 1, 2018:	1%
February 1, 2019:	1%
August 31, 2019:	0.5%

Please pay attention to your pay statements for the changes.

Staffing Update

Since July 1, 2018 the Board has hired about 45 new Elementary teachers. This is great news, as it is a sign that our Board is growing. However, this will put a strain on an already difficult situation – availability of occasional teachers. Furthermore, with our Board growing – especially in certain areas – the board has reported that more hiring will be completed this September and continuing into October.

I am asking teachers to be understanding with those teachers that have to take time off for sickness or medical appointments, if your prep is cancelled for the day due to the lack of occasional teachers, or if you have to be reassigned to cover a class. It's not their fault that we are in an OT shortage. Please record any lost prep in the way that is used at your school (binder, online etc.). If your prep is not being repaid, please contact the Unit Office.

This is a topic of discussion with the Board, and it isn't a local issue – the whole province is finding it challenging to have enough teachers on their OT rosters.

OTIP News

5 Reasons You Should Consider Unplugging

Between texts, emails, phone calls, calendar alerts and notifications from multiple social media platforms, being connected can seem like a full-time job. So much so that it's easy to forget that an off switch even exists.

It's a good idea to periodically re-evaluate your relationship with technology and consider making the choice to 'unplug' yourself from your devices more often.

To learn more, visit www.otipinsurance.com/article24

How to Deal with Floods

Floods are a common – and often costly – natural hazard in Ontario that can happen at any time of year. Overland water flooding can be caused by melting snow, ice jams, fresh-water hurricanes, breaking dams and heavy rainfall that oversaturates the ground. Summer thunderstorms in particular can pose a major flood risk in Canada.

Overland water flooding can leave you and your family at risk for serious injury, and your property at risk for extensive damages. Below are some tips to help you and your loved ones stay safe and mitigate potential losses from overland water flooding before, during and after the flood occurs.

To learn more, visit www.otipinsurance.com/article23

OECTA School Representative

In our Unit By-Laws (C: Section 1(1)), each school shall elect an OECTA staff representative by September 15th.

When your school has identified the school representative for the 2017-2018 school year, please notify the Unit office. (kmacdonald@oectasm.ca or j.lee@oectasimcoemuskoka.on.ca) It is important that we receive the name(s) of the school rep as soon as possible.

If your school rep has already been identified and name sent in, thank you. There is no need to resend.

Online Incident Reporting

In accordance with Ministry guidelines, all school boards are required to implement a common online reporting tool to replace the paper copies of the Safe Schools Incident Reporting Forms. Our Board has purchased an approved incident reporting system; however, the start date has been extended by the Ministry into October (October 31st at the latest). This is to allow for start-up and training. More information will be provided at a later date. For now, please continue to use the paper forms, and to keep a copy for your reference.

Health and Physical Education Expectations

I am sure many teachers have been following the media coverage of the “changes” to the Health Curriculum. The Catholic system has the benefit that we use the Fully Alive program to present the sections of the Health curriculum through a Catholic lens.

In response to the many enquires to OECTA on what has changed in the curriculum, the OECTA Communications Department has completed a comparison of the old 2015 HPE curriculum document against the newly release 2018 version.

A side-by-side comparison/chart of expectations, broken down by grade level, is attached a PDF.

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