

Memo #26

Date: January 26, 2018

To: Executive/Members

Re: **Young Authors Deadline; WebExperience: Math Mondays; Balanced Day Process; Bill 115 Remedy**

REMINDER: OECTA Young Authors Awards Deadline

Submission Deadlines to the 2017-18 Young Authors Awards are fast Approaching!
Entries must be submitted to **OECTA School Association Representative by February 12, 2018**, and winning school entries must be signed and submitted to the local unit office by the School OECTA Rep, no later than **February 20, 2018**.

Submit your students' writing through your OECTA School Association Representative with the attached entry form.

There are three level of competition: school, unit and provincial. OECTA is proud to sponsor the annual Young Authors Awards. The awards celebrate the writing talents and accomplishments of students, who submit short stories, poems, nonfiction articles and reports in both English and French.

The first-place winners at the school level advance to the unit level and then to the Provincial competition. A collection of the winning entries is published in book form each year.

WebExperience: Math Mondays

OECTA's Professional Development department will continue to host **WebExperience: Math Mondays** with new sessions starting **January 29, 2018**. This online interactive professional development platform is designed for Kindergarten to Grade 12 teachers. A number of different 'experiences' have been designed to provide ideas and activities that can be used to support an engaging and balanced math program.

In an effort to make these sessions more accessible to members, they will be offered at varied times. Each live session will continue to be scheduled for an hour and will take place between 4:30p.m. – 5:30p.m. or between 7:00p.m. – 8:00p.m. Registration is not required, however interested participants will have an opportunity to request email reminders for each session. Interactive participation continues to be limited to 25 participants per session. All sessions will be recorded and available on the website for future on-demand viewing.

Check the provincial website at, www.catholicteachers.ca for a complete list of Math Monday offerings.

Balanced Day Process

As we start the new year, I have received some questions around the Balanced Day Process –how to go about entering a Balanced Day or how to change or exit from an existing Balanced Day Schedule.

The following points and dates may prove worthwhile if this is something you and your staff have been discussing. The full text can be found in our Collective Agreement – page 111 and 112.

The following process will occur if a school is considering the **implementation of, change of, or exit Balanced School Day schedule**:

- a. The schools will establish a Balanced School Day Committee comprised of the Principal or Vice Principal, School OECTA Representative and Teacher Representatives

It is best to have a discussion with your administration and OECTA Rep around establishing the committee, seeing as they will be part of it.

Committee meetings are used to discuss the pros and cons of implementing, changing or exiting a Balanced School Day Schedule.

At the meetings – if implementing a Balanced School Day Schedule – the exact time blocks need to be established before a vote. When teachers are voting, they need to know what the proposed Balanced School Day Schedule will look like.

If moving out of a Balanced School Day Schedule, there is no need to provide a schedule, because a Traditional Day Schedule is determined by administration.

- b. The School Superintendent will be informed of this step who will then inform the LBU President.

Once an individual – teacher or principal – brings up the topic, and a committee is established, the principal shall notify the Superintendent that process has begun.

- c. There will be an opportunity for full discussion and consultation by the teaching staff during a scheduled meeting comprised of the school administrative team, the teaching staff and an O.E.C.T.A. Elementary president or designate.

This occurs on the day of the vote.

- d. After the consultation process, a vote by secret ballot of the teaching staff shall be conducted by the O.E.C.T.A. Association Representative and the Principal, **no later than April 15**. If 2/3 (two-thirds) of the teaching staff chooses to adopt, change, or exit from a Balanced School Day, the principal shall proceed with implementation in accordance with the Board's direction. If 2/3 (two-thirds) is not achieved, the proposed change will not be implemented.

Please note that it is 2/3 of the teaching staff that votes. No proxy voting will be excepted.

Please book myself or Shannon McGlynn in advance, as in the past the dates approaching April 15th can fill up quickly.

Bill 115 Remedy

In September 2012, the Government of Ontario passed Bill 115 – the Putting Students First Act. Bill 115 required that any collective agreement negotiated between a school board and a teachers' bargaining unit must be consistent with a memorandum of understanding the government had negotiated with the Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association (OECTA).

ETFO and other education unions challenged Bill 115 under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, arguing that it substantially interfered with collective bargaining between school boards and bargaining agents in the education sector.

As OECTA was not part of the Bill 115 court case the remedy discussions do not apply to our affiliate.

**If you have any concerns, please contact the Unit office at 705-733-9625 or 1-800-558-4815
Thank you for sharing this information with OECTA members.**