

Memo #5

Date: September 29, 2017

To: Executive/Members

Re: **Orange Shirt Day; Conference and Workshop Funding; Shared Spaces**

Orange Shirt Day (September 30 – Orange Shirt Day: Every Child Matters)

2017 Orange Shirt Day falls on Saturday, therefore schools are welcome to organize your event for a nearby date that suits your school community.

Orange Shirt Day is a legacy of the St. Joseph Mission (SJM) residential school commemoration event held in Williams Lake, BC, Canada, in the spring of 2013. It grew out of *Phyllis' story* of having her shiny new orange shirt taken away on her first day of school at the Mission, and it has become an opportunity to keep the discussion on all aspects of residential schools happening annually.

The date was chosen because it is the time of year in which children were taken from their homes to residential schools, and because it is an opportunity to set the stage for anti-racism and anti-bullying policies for the coming school year.

More information can be found at: <http://www.angeshirtday.org/>

Conference and Workshop Funding

OECTA Simcoe Muskoka Elementary Teachers have an ability to apply for funding to attend conferences, workshops and conventions. This amount is \$500 for the current school year.

Allocation of Funds:

Our unit budget allocates funds to this line and as per our by-laws funds are dispersed to approved applicants.

Our budget year begins July 1st of each year, and 10% of the total funds are allocated to the months of July and August.

For each two-month block – beginning in September – 18% of the total funds may be dispersed, and any unused amounts may be carried forward and added to the total amount in the next two-month block. This allows us to apply unused amounts to enable more members to attend conferences in subsequent months.

Funding is approved on a cost-recovery basis only. Therefore, once approved by the executive to attend a conference/workshop, the member is responsible for sending receipts into the Unit Office, after they have attending their conference/workshop. Once received, a reimbursement cheque will be sent to the member.

High Demand PD:

This budget line is reserved for **Reading For the Love of It, Reading Recovery Conference, and When Faith Meets Pedagogy**. By separating these three conferences, it allows teachers to access PD funding during these busy funding periods.

Application for Funds:

Using the form – which can found on our website (www.oectasimcoemuskoka.on.ca) - a teacher would place their name, school etc. As well they would place the name of the conference/workshop. Location, date, fee would be referenced.

Restrictions:

Preference will be given to those applicants that have not received funding in the previous year.

A maximum of 6 members may be funded for any particular conference/workshop. And only one member per school/location.

Even with the above restrictions, those members would be placed on a waiting list, and if funds for that period are still available, they would be allowed to collect funding.

Occasional Teacher Coverage:

If a teacher is taking a work-day to attend a conference/workshop, they must consider the cost of the occasional teacher. If the school principal cannot provide financial coverage for the occasional teacher, then the cost of the occasional teacher **would have to come out of the \$500 funding provided by OECTA Simcoe Muskoka**.

CLC and OFL:

If a teacher wishes to attend a Canadian Labour of Congress or Ontario Federation of Labour sponsored conference or workshop, they are able to do so each year, and will not be restricted by the limitation of being funded for only one conference or workshop per calendar year.

Shared Spaces

In regard to preparation time, it is strongly encouraged that classroom teachers leave the classroom while the Teacher teaching an alternate subject (FSL, Music, Dance, etc.) teacher is present. We must be respectful that some of our colleagues are not in the position where they have their own classroom space to deliver curriculum. As a result, they must move from classroom-to-classroom to provide instruction, which is less than a perfect scenario for many reasons.

During the time that teachers are assigned to a classroom to deliver instruction, we have to be respectful that the space becomes theirs to use. It is a professional courtesy to vacate the space, to allow the teacher sole use of the space with the students in their care. When classroom teachers remain in the room, students can easily become confused as to who is “in charge” at that time. It is recognized that there are times when classroom teachers might have to remain during a prep period due to perform a specific task that is restricted to the classroom space, but this should be the exception, not the rule.

In the end, we are all teachers and we need to be cognisant that when an another teacher is teaching, the instructional and classroom management responsibilities clearly should be shifted to our colleague.

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