

Memo #1

Date: September 3, 2020

To: Executive/Members

Re: **Welcome Back; School Based Meetings; Simcoe Muskoka/Provincial Website; OECTA Simcoe Muskoka Elementary Collective Agreement; Annual Learning Plan; OECTA Dues and College of Teachers Fee; OTIP News**

Welcome Back

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome back all the Catholic Elementary Teachers of Simcoe Muskoka. I hope that everyone was able to have restful and enjoyable Summer break, despite the way the 2019-20 school year ended and how the Summer proceeded.

This year will be one like no other we have experienced as teachers. It is important that we focus on our wellness and mental wellbeing, because the stress and anxiety that we will be dealing with – along with the usual stress and anxiety we experience as teachers.

I know the daily routines of entry/exit, outside activities and washroom and hand washing will cut into curriculum, but don't let the stress of fitting curriculum into the year run your days and weeks. There is only so much time in the school day/week etc. Assess your program and place importance on the essentials and cut back on some other parts of strands/subjects – but still cover the program.

School Based Meetings

We have language in our Collective Agreement that outlines guidelines around Staff Meetings. Staff Meetings are to take place once a month, for up to one hour in duration. The Association encourages all members to attend these meetings, however, if you are unable to attend, please inform your principal in a timely manner. A schedule for all the monthly staff meetings for the 2020 - 2021 school year should be established in the upcoming month.

All other meetings before or after school are strictly voluntary and no one should be disadvantaged for not attending a voluntary meeting. **These meetings are not to be in place of monthly Staff Meetings.** These voluntary meetings include **division meetings; school improvement meetings; weekly morning meetings; lunch meetings and any other type of scheduled meeting that takes place outside of the instructional day.**

Simcoe Muskoka Website and OECTA Provincial Website

All of our union-based communication can be found on our local website (www.oectasimcoemuskoka.on.ca). On this site, you will have access to memos, important documents – Conference Application Forms, Collective Agreement, and other important pieces of information.

Currently, our website and local email are being ported over to a new server, and as a result access to oectsm email is intermittent. Access to previous emails will take time to be restored. Once up a running, notification will go out.

The OECTA Provincial website (www.catholicteachers.ca) is separate from our local website, and as such

you will need a separate ID and login. Once registered and logged in, you will be able to identify which **personal** email address you would like to receive Provincial information.

OECTA Simcoe Muskoka Elementary Collective Agreement (2019 – 2022)

We are finalizing final edits to our Collective Agreement. The Central Agreement and Local Agreement are being merged together, based upon the updates made during negotiations. Once complete, the agreement will be uploaded to our website, and paper copies will be made available.

Annual Learning Plan (ALP)

The Annual Learning Plan is the responsibility of the teacher to complete each year in between their Teacher Performance Appraisal (TPA). Teachers are advised to keep copies of their yearly ALP and submit them each year to their principal.

According to the Central Terms it states:

The Annual Learning Plan (ALP) is a component of the performance appraisal framework for experienced teachers. Experienced teachers must complete/update their ALP in accordance with Ministry and regulatory requirements. The ALP is teacher-authored and directed and is developed in a consultative and collaborative manner with the principal or designate.

OECTA Dues and College of Teachers Fee

With the beginning of the new school year, OECTA Dues and the College of Teachers Fee for the 2020-21 school year will be deducted from your pay.

OTIP News

Essential tips to keep our streets safe

As our roads and sidewalks are beginning to fill with students walking and biking to school, it's a good time to review road safety practices. Pedestrians account for 14% of all serious road injuries and 15% of road fatalities; it is up to both drivers and pedestrians to help improve the safety of our streets for all road users. Here are a few tips for both drivers and pedestrians to keep in mind as we navigate our shared spaces.

Learn more at www.otipinsurance.com/article81

OTIP welcomes you back with a chance to win \$10,000!

As a new school year begins, so does a brand-new contest from OTIP. We want to give you the chance to win **\$10,000 in cash or 1 of 2 \$500 VIA Rail gift cards** to help you get wherever it is that you want to go! You could buy that new car, save for your child's education, take a vacation or put a down payment on a new house, it is up to you!

To enter the contest for your chance to win, visit: www.OTIP.com/get_you_there

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