

Memo #19

Date: January 28, 2021

To: Simcoe Muskoka Catholic Elementary Teachers

Re: **Report Cards Update; Johnson Insurance and OTIP News**

Report Cards Update

On January 25, 2021 the Ministry of Education issued a memorandum titled “Further Guidance on Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting for the 2020-21 School Year”, attached for your reference.

The memorandum references the *Growing Success* policy documents and reiterates the important role that **teacher professional judgement has in assessment, evaluation and reporting practices.**

Memo Highlights:

- Optional Ministry curated comment for Kindergarten Communication of Learning:
This reporting period reflects learning that has occurred in a modified learning environment as required by the provincial public health guidelines. The pandemic may have resulted in the need for possible adaptations to teaching and assessment practices. Ongoing communication with your child’s educators will provide additional information pertaining to their progress.
- Optional Ministry curated comment for elementary report cards:
This reporting period reflects learning that has occurred in a modified learning environment as required by the provincial public health guidelines. The pandemic may have resulted in the need for possible adaptations to curriculum and assessment practices. Ongoing communication with your child’s teacher will provide additional information pertaining to student progress.
- Flexibility in Kindergarten Communication of Learning comments:
In some cases where children have not consistently engaged in learning during the pandemic, educators can describe the learning opportunities that have been provided and evaluate growth and learning in relation to those Kindergarten Program expectations that have been observed.
- Use of “I” in grades 1 to 10 report cards:
For the report card, teachers will use their professional judgement to determine when the use of “I” is appropriate and in the best interests of the student (*Growing Success*, p. 42).

Additionally, some other changes related to reporting that have been previously communicated by the Ministry include:

New Math Curriculum Grades 1 to 8

- One letter grade/percentage mark that best reflects the overall learning of the student in mathematics.
- When assessing, consideration should be given to the student’s integrated learning across the strands taught in each reporting period.
- Comments will describe significant strengths, next steps and may describe growth in learning.
- Teachers may reference a particular strand in their comments.

To summarize, teachers are able to freely use the above comments without questioning from your school administrator. If space is an issue, it has been suggested that the Ministry of Education COVID comment be placed in the Learning Skills section to refer to all sections of the Report Card. Again, this is the determination of the teacher.

Teachers have been dealing with an unprecedented amount of change since school began, and as a result we need to realize that Report Cards will not look similar to what they would have during a “normal” school year. With the increased transitions due to COVID protocols, to the movement of students from remote to face-to-face the curriculum expectations should be reduced and as a result our Report Cards will have less content. That is acceptable under our current circumstances.

For teachers in the Virtual School there will be some Learning Skills that may be very challenging to assess properly, therefore use your professional judgment and if necessary, leave the box blank.

Johnson Insurance and OTIP News

Johnson Insurance would like to thank OECTA Simcoe Muskoka Elementary teachers for their hard work and dedication and for making a difference every day. Johnson is donating \$20 to OECTA Simcoe Muskoka Elementary Unit for each quote provided to Simcoe Muskoka Elementary teachers between Feb 1– Mar 31. Visit: www.johnson.ca

Myth buster: The truth about working with an insurance broker

If you’ve never worked with an insurance broker, you may have questions about what they do and how they are unique in the marketplace. Learn how OTIP insurance brokers advocate for thousands of members like you ensuring they make the right choice for their auto and home insurance needs.

Learn more at www.otipinsurance.com/article97.

5 common driving violations and how to avoid them

While we all do our best to obey the rules of the road, sometimes even the most seasoned drivers find themselves on the other side of a traffic stop. Getting pulled over for a driving violation generally results in a ticket to pay, along with a potential increase to your car insurance premium. Worried you may have picked up some bad driving habits over the years? As a refresher, here are some of the most common driving violations and how to avoid them.

Learn more at www.otipinsurance.com/article98.

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