district 28

District 28 Update

- District 28's Electronic Newsletter

December 2016

Protecting and enhancing public education since 1919

Only Good News for Christmas Break!

My gift to members for this holiday season is that I have decided to only share "good news" and opportunities in this last newsletter of 2016. I am going to share some links that may prove useful to you, both in your work role as well as your vacation role! (You can do the well-being survey while you wait for boarding at the airport!)

New District Website

Our District 28 Website has been "reborn" at www.d28.osstf.ca . There are many useful links, dates, documents and forms that can be found on this site including our collective agreements. Many thanks to go out to our new "webmaster", Brian Reid, for his work on the site. Please email me with any questions or suggestions you may have about our local website.

District 28 Professional Development Fund

On our new website you will find a link to a form to apply for our District 28 PD Fund. Up to $200 is available to cover the cost of taking a course for your own professional development related to your work, extra-curricular involvement or to attend an OSSTF-sponsored workshop or conference. The fund will not support professional development that, in the eyes of the Ed Services Committee, should be supported by the employer. Eligible expenses include the following (and must be according to the Provincial Guidelines, where applicable): registration fees; transportation and parking (mileage shall be at OSSTF District 28 rates); accommodations; meals; and dependent care. In their application, members must include the name and brief description of the course, workshop, or conference, and a list of anticipated expenses. Members will first pay their own expenses and then submit receipts for reimbursement.

Edvantage Discounts

The Edvantage program gives members discounts on many products and services including hotels, eye glasses, and cellular plans. Your Edvantage number is your OSSTF number which can be found on your OSSTF card. (Contact me if you have misplaced it.) I would encourage you to check out the Edvantage website to see what deals are available to you. https://www.edvantage.ca/

Educators Financial Group

Looking for a new mortgage, line of credit, RESP, RRSP or a TFSA? Are you not sure what these acronyms stand for and need some credible and FREE financial advice? Educators Financial Group (EFG) is a company owned by OSSTF that can help you navigate your financial course in life. The Christmas Break is a good time to evaluate your finances and seek out some help. Call 1-800-263-9541 to arrange a FREE appointment or check out their website. https://educatorsfinancialgroup.ca/

Ontario Teachers' Federation

OSSTF is a member of the Ontario Teachers' Federation (OTF). Need to find some added training in your teaching area? Then OTF is your source. OTF offers professional learning programs, which provide training, resources, and support in numerous areas from k-12.These excellent, ready-to-use, professional learning opportunities provide ongoing support throughout the year, in ways that work for you. There are subsidies for math and tech programs available as well. http://www.otffeo.on.ca/

Promoting Well-Being

The Ministry of Education is moving forward with a student well-being initiative this year. Recently the ministry (after much pressure from education unions) has recognized that student well-being is directly impacted by educational workers' well-being. I would encourage you to give your feedback on the ministry's initiative through their survey. Click on the "Engagement Portal" link on the following website: ontarioca/studentwellbeing

Reading Fiction for Well-Being

Staying with the topic of well-being, the health benefits of books have been recognized for centuries, proven to foster empathy, make us live longer and reduce stress. A recent Toronto Star article explores the health benefits of fiction therapy: Using books to help people cope with mental, physical and emotional problems. This article may give you something to consider when picking your Christmas reading list! https://www.thestar.com/life/2016/12/19/exploring-the-health-benefits-of-fiction-therapy.html

Update

The latest edition of Update will only be available electronically. Check it out at: http://www.osstf.on.ca/publications/update/2016-2017/44-04.aspx Jeff

OSSTF District 28 Renfrew is now on Facebook – come and join our group!

CONTACT INFORMATION

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