

OTBU News and Reports

Volume 9, Issue 3

OSSTF D-12 Occasional Teachers

January, 2011

Professional Development Issue

Our Professional Development Day for 2011 will be held at a new location. Previously, we have met at 60 Mobile Drive. This year we are moving to a new venue in the heart of the city at Victoria College, University of Toronto. The agenda for the day is in this newsletter. In order to plan for workshop space and to order enough food for the breakfast and lunch provided for participants, you must make your workshop choices in advance. Space is limited, so please phone, e-mail or fax in your workshop choices to the OTBU office as soon as possible.

Selections may be phoned in to the OTBU Office:

at 416-423-3600

or

emailed to otbud12@sympatico.com

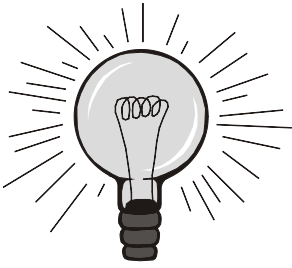
or faxed to 416-423-5439

Please send in your choices as soon as possible. Registration is on a first come, first served basis.

Parking is available at surrounding commercial lots, but may be limited as this is a very busy area of the city. It is recommended that, wherever possible, members attending the PD Day might want to use public transit (**Museum** subway station.) which is in easy walking distance of Victoria College.

For those members attending we have arranged to start off the morning with a continental breakfast and then sandwiches for lunch so that there will be no expense for food to PD participants. If you plan to attend, and you have particular food restrictions or allergies, please let the Bargaining Unit know well in advance so that the caterers at Victoria College can make appropriate arrangements.

The Executive hopes that the workshops being offered will be of benefit to those members that choose to attend, and that the day will afford us all a relaxing environment in which to meet and talk with each other about the world of Occasional teaching at the TDSB. Please note that this is an unpaid day for Occasional Teachers.



Professional Development Day

February 18, 2011

Program

8:30 - 9:15 Registration + Continental Breakfast

9:15 OTBU Executive - Welcome

9:20 - 10:15 PLENARY

Greetings from the Toronto District School Board , Occasional Teaching Office. An illustrated discussion of the operation of the newest version of SmartFind Express plus tips on how to navigate your way around the TDSB web site.

Christine McGahey & Sam Venneri

10:30 - 12:00 MORNING WORKSHOP SESSIONS - PLEASE CHOOSE ONE

A. Classroom Management for Occasional Teachers: Occasional Teachers walk into a new classroom situation every day. They have no control over curriculum, they don't, generally, know the names of the students. This is a different situation than is the case for contract teachers.. This workshop will look at some of the strategies that have worked successfully for Occasional Teachers

OSSTF Exec Assistant Bob Fisher

B. Cyber Bullying: A workshop on the perils of the Internet. Cell phones, Facebook, cameras in cell phones, social networking and Twitter have created brand new challenges. Learn how this new cyber-world affects us and what you can do to protect yourself and your students.

12:00 - 1:00

LUNCH

1:00 - 2:30 AFTERNOON WORKSHOP SESSIONS - PLEASE CHOOSE ONE

C. Positive Response(s) to Trauma: Did you ever go through a tough time and get through it?...look back and realize that it had not been a totally negative experience. This workshop will deal with personal challenges, what you did and what positives there were. You will be writing your thoughts on a computer and be taking home your work on a USB drive which will be provided in this workshop.

OTBU Member, Bev Swerling

D. From Casual to Permanent: This workshop will look at issues such as the preparation of covering letters, resumés and preparations for interviews to assist members looking to apply for LTO positions or the Eligible to Hire List.

E. Cyber Bullying: SEE DESCRIPTION OF MORNING SESSION..

LTOs and Professional Development Day - February 18, 2011

LTOs in a pre-scheduled assignment working towards their 10 days are required to participate in the scheduled professional activities approved by the Board for regular day school teachers.

Potential LTOs that are not in a pre-scheduled assignment are not required to attend PD day and this will not interrupt the count towards a determination of whether or not an assignment is a long term assignment.

However, the PD day will count as an UNPAID absence. If you decide to attend a Board approved PD session, either in the school or elsewhere, you will be paid for that day provided the assignment becomes an LTO (ie...10 or more days).



The career of an Occasional teacher can be lonely in terms of professional and social interaction with your OT colleagues. If you are interested in participating in social activities and networking opportunities among OTBU members please join Ann Burke and Paul Bocking at PAUPERS' BAR on **February 24th** at 4.30 p.m. for a drink and a snack.

PAUPERS is located at 539 Bloor Street West. It is just east of Bathurst subway station. We will meet in the main bar which is accessed at ground level. Look out for the Rosie the Riveter flag to identify our group. O.T.P.T. (Occasional Teacher Play Time)

We look forward to your companionship and ideas.

Social Activities and Networking

Where:	PAUPERS' BAR 539 BLOOR STREET WEST [just east of the Bathurst subway station)
When:	From 4:30 p.m. Thursday, February 24 th

Internationally-Trained Teachers

The next meeting of the Internationally-trained Teachers group will be held:

Where: City Adult Learning Centre
(Corner of Broadview and Danforth)
When: 4:00 p.m.
Friday, February 25, 2011

See you all there!

President's Report

By Linda Bartram, OTBU President



“You can get through life with bad manners, but it’s easier with good manners.”

Lillian Gish

Day of Pink

If you want the students to think you're cool, wear pink to school on "Day of Pink" on April 13th. For more info, go to <http://www.dayofpink.org/>

I would like to take this opportunity to thank members for all their hard work in the schools over the past term. I hope that everyone enjoyed a restful and safe holiday.

There are lots of reminders and notices in this issue. Please take note of them. Some or all of them will pertain to you and help to make your working life a little easier and maybe even a little more fun. (See Social Activities and Networking notice on page 3.)

I hope to see as many of you as can make it to our Professional Development Day on February 18th. We will see how SmartFind is supposed to work and have an opportunity to ask questions of Christine MacGahey and Sam Venneri. It will also give us an opportunity to think about some of the issues that face us daily in our school environments such as classroom management and cyber-bullying.

In the past couple of years, over 100 members have attended our Professional Development Activities. The feedback has been very positive and the food was good. This year the venue is very TTC friendly and is historically and architecturally fantastic.

Finally, I would like to ask you to PICK UP THOSE JOBS. We have many unfilled jobs (449 in December alone). If this continues, the board will hire many new Occasional Teachers. Often that half day job will turn into a full day once you get to the school, so I would advise you to take it. Unfilled jobs are bad for us all.

See you on February 18th!



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The Brickworks Toronto
A Great Place to visit. History, Art, Ice Skating,
Geology and Gourmet Hot Chocolate

Full Period On-Calls!

If you are aware of any school that regularly assigns full period on-calls to occasional teachers, please let us know.

From time to time, full period on-call is necessary in emergency situations. Our collective agreement has no language about on-calls. However, regular assigning of full period on-calls is an abuse of daily occasional teachers. Please call, e-mail or fax us.

The Paper Trail

Make sure you keep a copy of any communication you have with the TDSB (letter of intent, experience documentation, electing for benefits, renewal process for OT list, etc...)

Deadlines are deadlines and the Board is not flexible with deadlines.

E-Mails

For school related business and to access information from the TDSB, please use your TDSB Outlook account.

To communicate with the union, please use your personal e-mail address.