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OCTU QUICK BITES

August 2018

WELCOME TO A NEW SCHOOL / FEDERATION YEAR

July and August certainly have passed us like a blink of the eye! While many of our 10-month members have enjoyed a little down-time over the summer months, some of our 12-month members have their busiest time of year focusing on projects and “behind the scenes” work. However you may have spent the last two months, I hope you found some time to relax and enjoy the amazing summer weather we had!

It is difficult to believe a new school and federation year is upon us, and we will be welcoming students and all staff back in just one week. I would like to take a moment before the flurry of excitement begins to thank each of you for being the backbone and support to the education system. It is the members of OCTU that are often the first connection for many students, staff, and community members in schools and board offices providing helpful and informative customer service throughout the year.

While many of our members go above and beyond, it is important you also remember to take care of yourself. The simplest way of doing this at work is to ensure you take all lunch and comfort breaks every day. Start the year off with a commitment to yourself! Whether you work on your own, or with other OCTU members, set a lunch and break schedule now and agree to follow it for the entire year. Set reminders on your calendar or set alarms to remind yourself and your colleagues to take a break. You are the only person who stands between your desk and your break. ***Remember, your lunch is not paid – do not work through it!***

Your Executive and Council of Branch Reps are planning some exciting activities and workshops for members this year. Please watch for details in upcoming newsletters.

We look forward to serving the OCTU membership for the 2018-2019 federation year.

All the best for a successful start-up,

Samantha



ALTERNATE HOURS OF WORK – In effect until Friday

This is a reminder that alternate/summer hours are in effect until Friday, August 31st for all OCTU members. OCTU members are to work 6 hours/day rather than their regular 7 hours/day still receiving pay for full hours. Regular hours resume for all OCTU members Tuesday, September 4, 2018. If you have any questions, please contact Samantha at the union office.

1% SALARY INCREASE – September 1, 2018

All OCTU members may notice a slight increase in salary with a 1% increase taking effect September 1, 2018. This 1% increase is a result of the negotiated contract extension agreement all school board sector OSSTF bargaining units reached to extend our current collective agreements until August 31, 2019. This is the first of 3-scheduled salary increases for members in the 2018-2019 year, with another 1% increase on February 1, 2019 and finally a 0.5% increase on August 31, 2019.

LABOUR DAY – COME MARCH WITH US!

We are looking forward to marching in the Annual HDLC Labour Day Parade with our fellow brothers and sisters in the Hamilton labour movement! OSSTF has a strong showing of members at this event every year, with the OCTU member participation growing annually! We encourage all OCTU members and their families to join us.

The parade route changed last year, having our path beginning on Stuart Street and Bay Street, ending at Bayfront Park. Parking is available both at Bayfront Park, as well as the Metrolinx Parking lot (near the train tracks) free of charge (enter from James Street – across from Liuna Station).

The parade begins at 10:30 a.m. and all groups line up on Stuart Street. Someone from OSSTF District 21 will be there by 9:45 a.m. to hand out t-shirts and water to all participants. Below is a map of the area for lining up – OSSTF is in “Section 3” directly behind ETFO (on Stuart Street between Caroline Street and Tiffany Street).



The parade route is as follows:

10:30 a.m. groups will begin walking **south** on Bay Street to Main Street, **east** on Main Street to James Street, **north** on James Street to Strachan Street, **west** on Strachan to Harbour Front Drive and into Bayfront Park.

At the end of the parade, please feel free to stick around and enjoy a BBQ from United Way, and some live entertainment in the park.

Special Bonus: Every OCTU member who attends will be entered in a draw to win a pair of tickets to the Labour Day Classic – Hamilton Tiger Cats vs Toronto Argonauts (kick off @ 6:30p.m.).

