OECTA’S ANNUAL BEGINNING TEACHERS CONFERENCE

FILL YOUR OWN BAG OF TRICKS!

Conference Registration
It is always an exciting time when OECTA undertakes its annual Beginning Teachers Conference. Each year the previous year’s conference feedback is reviewed in detail by the Beginning Teachers Committee. That feedback informs what is offered to you at this conference. Our theme of **Fill Your Own Bag of Tricks!** encourages you to pursue strategies and ideas that resonate with you, as you start your career as a Catholic Teacher and OECTA member. Strategies will apply to involving yourself in the Association, your faith, and your classroom practice. The array of workshops is extensive. Your confirmed choices will be provided on your conference name tag at registration.

This program provides an overview of the conference, as well as detailed descriptions of plenaries and workshops that you can choose from. OECTA has implemented a number of cost reduction measures this year which you need to be aware of prior to heading to the conference. Review the five points listed below so you can plan accordingly.

Please read through all of the workshop choices. Select one workshop from each session, including two of the plenaries. Once you have read the program and made your choices, you are ready to access the online registration link provided in your confirmation letter.

**NOTE:** Prior to you selecting your workshops please review the following information:

1. There are no meals or snacks provided at the conference.

2. All meals are on your own. Lunch has been expanded to 90 minutes to ensure you have time to go and purchase lunch.

3. Tea and coffee will be available throughout both days. Water is available in the main room and all breakout sessions.

4. A list of area restaurants will be provided to you at the conference.

5. There will be a dance / casual social with a cash bar on Friday evening, featuring a D.J. You can BYOB to this event, but you must have a receipt as proof of purchase to provide to the bartender.
Welcome to the 2016 Beginning Teachers Conference. I am extremely pleased to have this opportunity to connect with you as I begin the second year of my presidency. As many of you are aware, the Association is engaging in quite significant cost savings measures, so I was very relieved to be told that the Beginning Teacher’s Conference would continue to be held this year.

Last year’s Beginning Teachers Committee members had a great time developing this conference and deciding on the theme: Fill Your Own Bag of Tricks! We recognize that you all come with your own assortment of tricks, and we hope that over the next two days you will each be able to add to your bag while sharing some of your own special tricks with your colleagues.

In my message last year I was able announce the settlement of a central agreement. Unfortunately, as I write this message we still have local units who do not have a signed collective agreement. Hopefully by the time we meet this situation will have been rectified. This has been a long process, but rest assured, your Association is well prepared and ready to re-engage the government and the trustees as we head in to our next round of bargaining. No tricks, just a strong team and well developed strategies!

I have always believed that teaching is the most rewarding career and that education is the most important public service. You are members of a truly noble profession. I know the students under your care are in very capable and attentive hands.

To ensure the success of this conference, we need you to review this program, make your workshop selections, and then register through the link provided. There are a wide range of workshops, plenaries, and opportunities to network with colleagues.

I wish you all a magical conference and look forward to seeing you there.

Ann Hawkins
President
Hello Beginning Teachers!

As Chair of the Beginning Teachers Committee I wish to welcome all new teachers as we begin this school year. The Association is here to guide you in your journey as beginning teachers and throughout your career. As beginning teachers we continue to strive to build our resources. This year OECTA's Beginning Teachers Conference is all about **Fill Your Own Bag of Tricks!** with resources and strategies that will help you not only in the classroom, but in the staff room, with parents, and more. The Beginning Teachers Committee has been working hard to provide you with what you need to feel confident as a new teacher and to be prepared to take on all the wonderful experiences ahead of you. We encourage you to ask questions and familiarize yourselves with all that OECTA has to offer. Please enjoy the next couple of days!

Sabrina Buffa  
Chairperson  
OECTA Beginning Teachers Committee
# Agenda

**2016 Beginning Teachers Conference**

**Fill Your Own Bag of Tricks!**

October 14 & 15, 2016  
Toronto Airport Hilton Hotel & Suites  
5875 Airport Road  
Mississauga, ON L4V 1N1

<table>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Friday</strong></th>
<th><strong>Saturday</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>8:30 am - 10:00 am</strong></td>
<td>Breakfast on your own</td>
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<td>Registration &amp; Visits to Vendor Displays</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>10:00 am - 10:30 am</strong></td>
<td>Prayer &amp; Welcome BT Committee</td>
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<td>President’s Welcome</td>
<td>Registration and Sign-in</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>10:30 am - Noon</strong></td>
<td>Workshops: Session A</td>
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<td><strong>Noon - 1:30 pm</strong></td>
<td>Lunch on your own</td>
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<td><strong>1:30 pm - 3:00 pm</strong></td>
<td>Plenary 1A: The Collective Agreement and You</td>
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<td>Plenary 1B: On Thin Ice-Maintaining Professional Boundaries</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>3:00 pm - 3:15 pm</strong></td>
<td>Break &amp; Visits to Vendor Displays</td>
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<td><strong>3:15 pm - 4:45 pm</strong></td>
<td>Workshops: Session B</td>
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<td><strong>9:00 pm - Midnight</strong></td>
<td>Social with DJ and Cash Bar.</td>
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<td><strong>NOTE: BYOB</strong> - You may bring your own drinks but <strong>must have a receipt</strong> as proof of payment to provide to the bartender.</td>
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**Saturday**  

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<th><strong>8:30 am - 9:00 am</strong></th>
<th>Breakfast on your own</th>
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<td>Registration and Sign-in</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>9:00 am - 10:30 am</strong></td>
<td>Workshops: Session C</td>
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<td><strong>10:30 am - 10:45 am</strong></td>
<td>Break</td>
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<td><strong>10:45 am - 12:15 pm</strong></td>
<td>Plenary 2A: Beginning Teacher Pension Workshop</td>
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<td>Plenary 2B: The Collective Agreement and You</td>
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<td><strong>12:15 pm - 12:30 pm</strong></td>
<td>Conference Wrap-Up and Prizes</td>
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PLENARY SESSIONS

Session one
On Friday there will be two plenary sessions for you to choose from. You will make one selection from the choices below:

1. A) The Collective Agreement and You - Tom Doyle
This workshop will introduce teachers to the fundamentals of a collective agreement: how an agreement affects individual teachers, and how individual teachers can improve their collective agreement through active participation in the process.

   B) On Thin Ice: Maintaining Professional Boundaries - Mary Lachapelle
This workshop addresses the various complaints made against teachers by parents, the Children’s Aid Society, police and the Ontario College of Teachers. Emphasis is on prevention and early assistance, as strategies, to minimize negative impact on members.

Session two
Once again on Saturday, there will be two plenary sessions for you to choose from. You will make one selection from the choices below:

2. A) Beginning Teacher Pension Workshop - Joe Pece
This workshop provides a general overview of the Ontario Teachers’ Pension Plan. The presentation will focus on aspects of the plan that affect beginning teachers such as accumulating pension credit, buying back credit, leaves of absence, survivor benefits and conditional inflation protection. The purpose of the workshop is to provide you with a better understanding of the pension plan and how to maximize the pension you receive in retirement.

   B) The Collective Agreement and You - Bruno Muzzi
This workshop will introduce teachers to the fundamentals of a collective agreement: how an agreement affects individual teachers, and how individual teachers can improve their collective agreement through active participation in the process.
WORKSHOP SESSIONS

Session A

Session A1: The Assertive Professional
Malisa Mezenberg

Professionals at all levels need the ability to project their thoughts and ideas through an assertive communication style. Saying the right thing, in the right place, at the right time, and in the right way is an indispensable career skill.
Audience: All teachers

Section A2: Cultivating our Catholic Perspective
Joseph Wey

As Catholic teachers, we know that the core of good teaching is not in the self-centred but in the centred self. This workshop offers some clear and simple ways to discover, restore and nurture our core teaching values, our distinct Catholic identity and the vocation of being a Catholic teacher.
Audience: All teachers

Session A3: Fostering Positive Parent-Teacher Relationships
Mary Lachapelle

This workshop focuses on effective communication tools that teachers can use to keep parents informed. The workshop discusses the communication practices that promote a partnership with parents and enhance students’ school success. Teachers will learn strategies to address difficulties that may arise in communicating with parents.
Audience: All teachers

Session A4: The Grievance Procedure is there to Help You – What Beginning Teachers Need to Know
Mike Ennett

In this workshop, you will review the major components of your collective agreement to understand how it outlines your rights and responsibilities. You will learn that the grievance procedure is there to help you to resolve instances when your experience doesn’t match up with what your collective agreement says. You will learn how the grievance procedure works and the importance of communicating with your school Association Representative and Unit President when you have a question about your collective agreement. You will examine real situations involving collective agreement violations and discuss appropriate solutions.
Audience: All teachers
Session A5:  
**I AM a Catholic Teacher**  
Victoria Hunt

What does it mean to teach in Ontario’s publicly funded Catholic school system? Workshop participants will explore the uniqueness of our schools. Topics for discussion include the history of how and why we are funded and how our schools are different from the public system. There will be a debate about the effectiveness of the arguments to ‘defund’ the system put forward by the one-school-system proponents.  
**Audience:** All teachers

Session A6:  
**Learning to Say “No” – Teachers’ Rights and Responsibilities**  
Carla Hosseini-Tonekaboni

This workshop will highlight situations that may cause teachers to overload their schedules at the expense of their health and professional duties. Participants will learn how to handle themselves in the wake of increasing demands from students, parents and administrators.  
**Audience:** All teachers

Session A7:  
** Managing the Classroom as an Occasional Teacher**  
Susan Perry

Sound classroom management is essential for occasional teachers to ensure student success and the opportunity for continued employment. This workshop will focus on key classroom management techniques for occasional teachers that will lead to successful classroom management and allow you to fulfill the plan for the day and ensure a successful learning experience for students.  
**Audience:** All occasional teachers

Session A8:  
**Preparing for the Job Interview**  
Belinda Russo

This workshop will focus on key elements to help you prepare for the interview process for long-term occasional positions. Topics will include interview questions and responses in areas such as special education, classroom management, what it means to teach in a Catholic school, learning goals and success criteria, and much more. Put the time and effort into preparing so you are ready to walk into an interview with knowledge and confidence.  
**Audience:** All occasional teachers
Session B

Session B1: Cultivating our Catholic Perspective
Joseph Wey

As Catholic teachers, we know that the core of good teaching is not in the self-centred but in the centred self. This workshop offers some clear and simple ways to discover, restore and nurture our core teaching values, our distinct Catholic identity and the vocation of being a Catholic teacher.
Audience: All teachers

Session B2: Develop your Professional Learning Network with the Magic of TeachOntario!
TVO Education Team

TeachOntario is the space to be for learning across the province! Come and discover how this online space supports the communication, collaboration and knowledge exchange between Ontario educators. How might an online platform of educators promote learning and improve your professional practice? Explore courses and online sessions led by your peers, read about exemplary educators who have made an impact. Check out the virtual book clubs facilitated by Ontarian teacher-librarians. Share your ideas, ask questions and be part of the movement. TeachOntario, powered by TVO, is the where the learning happens!
Audience: All teachers

Session B3: Electronic Communications and Social Media
Joe Pece

This workshop addresses the various pitfalls of inappropriate use of electronic communications by teachers. Emphasis is on awareness, prevention of misuse and possible ramifications of inappropriate use.
Audience: All teachers

Session B4: Experiencing Violence in the Classroom
John Pecsenye

Many teachers may find themselves in situations where violence and harassment may be prevalent and regular occurrences. Whether the violence is experienced personally by a teacher or a teacher must deal with a violent situation it is imperative that teachers know their rights and obligations under current legislative requirements. The workshop will deal with the ‘what’s’ and ‘how’s’ of dealing with violence in the classroom.
Audience: All teachers

Session B5: Learning to Say “No” – Teachers’ Rights and Responsibilities
Carla Hosseini-Tonekaboni

This workshop will highlight situations that may cause teachers to overload their schedules at the expense of their health and professional duties. Participants will learn how to handle themselves in the wake of increasing demands from students, parents and administrators.
Audience: All teachers
Session B6:  *Managing the Classroom as an Itinerant Teacher*  
(e.g. FSL teachers or teachers who provide instruction as preparation time coverage)  
Susan Perry  
Classroom Management is an important tool for successful teaching and learning. Typical classroom management techniques, setting up the room, for example, are challenging when you work in a number of different classrooms throughout the day, none of which are your own. This workshop will focus on key classroom management techniques for itinerant teachers that will lead to successful classroom management and allow you to maximize instructional time thereby fostering student success.  
*Audience: All FSL and preparation delivery teachers*  

Session B7:  *Managing Stress in the Workplace*  
Malisa Mezenberg  
Teachers today are facing structural and curriculum changes that can result in high levels of stress and burn-out. This workshop will explore the sources of stress and provide practical strategies for effective stress-management.  
*Audience: All teachers*  

Session B8:  *Preparing for the Job Interview*  
Belinda Russo  
This workshop will focus on key elements to help you prepare for the interview process for long term occasional positions. Topics will include interview questions and responses in areas such as special education, classroom management, what it means to teach in a Catholic school, learning goals and success criteria and much more. Put the time and effort into preparing so you are ready to walk into an interview with knowledge and confidence.  
*Audience: All occasional teachers*  

Session B9:  *Technology Toolbox for Teachers*  
Anthony Carabache  
A Bag of Tricks requires modern tools. Acquire tools that are appropriate for teaching as we explore the creation of videos, animations, presentations, websites and blogs. Discover classroom management tools, study tools, and more. Teachers are encouraged to bring a laptop.  
*Audience: Teachers at the Junior, Intermediate and Secondary levels*
Session C

Session C1:  **Art Ideas and Activities to Use Tomorrow and Throughout the Year**  
Iva Valent

A hands-on workshop of basic pencil and pastel colouring techniques and other great art ideas, which will allow students to enhance and improve the quality of their artwork across all subject areas. Participants will come away with a year’s worth of art lessons, evaluations and samples, to add to their Bag of Tricks.  
*Audience: Elementary teachers (Best suited for teachers of Grades 4-8)*

Session C2:  **Bring Joy to Mathematics with the Magic of mPower!**  
TVO Teacher Team

TVO’s mPower is a fun and innovative, online game-based resource that builds problem-solving, critical thinking and math skills for K-6 students. It is

- Based on the Ontario curriculum
- Learner-centric
- Assessment driven
- Available on desktop and iPad

mPower encourages students to recognize that math is in both our physical and virtual worlds, and can be lots of fun. While primarily targeted to help improve student achievement and engagement in mathematics, mPower also integrates “big ideas” reflected in the current elementary Social Studies and Science curriculums.

Find out how you and your students can access this new and innovative resource!  
*Audience: K-6 teachers*

Session C3:  **The ConnectED Classroom**  
Peter Cameron

The most important connections in our lives are the ones closest to us. First, learn strategies to help connect and bond your students with one another to start the school year. Also, understand how to connect with parents and engage them in their children’s learning. Next, learn how you can easily break down the walls of your classroom and travel to places you and your students never dreamed possible. Collect authentic, real time math data, start a project that goes viral, get feedback from educators from around the globe, participate in a real time book chat with multiple classes from different cities, swim with a cave diver, run with a storm chaser...the opportunities are endless. Come learn how you can create a sense of connectedness and adventure in your own classroom, while giving your students a voice and a strong sense of their place and ability to make a positive difference in the world.  
*Audience: All teachers*
Session C4: *The Exciting World of Second-language teaching and learning*
Anna Marie Toltl

In this session, new FSL teachers will briefly review the Vision and Goals in the revised curriculum documents and will spend time examining practical ways to address the expectations while managing travel from room to room, or sharing a class with other colleagues. Beginning FSL teachers will explore key resources and tools at their disposal to support their knowledge-base and to expand their repertoire of strategies.

*Audience: FSL teachers*

Session C5: *IT'S NO ILLUSION - PBL WORKS!*
Jodi Caversan Wells

Dive head first into problem based learning. From questions and how to make 60 minutes of math work, to formative assessment, leave this session with ideas and strategies to use immediately in the classroom. Math is everywhere, let's help our students to have fun with it!

*Audience: Junior/Intermediate teachers*

Session C6: *Kinesthetic Activities in the Classroom: How to Integrate Movement Into Any Lesson*
Manon Heran

Teachers work so hard on lesson planning and students love to learn, and we all love it when everything executes well. However, sometimes “movement” needs to be added to break up a lesson, diffuse problematic student behaviour and have them refocus, stimulate kinesthetic learners, and/or enhance a lesson for excitement and exercise. This workshop will be mainly hands on where teachers will experiment with and learn various simple movement activities applicable for both the elementary and secondary classrooms. Students will get up from their desks and change the pace! To finish the workshop, a fun hip hop routine will be taught so teachers can leave with something creative to add to their Bag of Tricks.

*Audience: All teachers*

Session C7: *More than Just “Knowing the Facts”*
*Developing Students’ Number Sense and Computational Fluency*
Laura Cronshaw

Have you ever thought about what we can do to develop conceptual understanding that will help to build fluency? What about assessment practices that can help us understand student thinking and be responsive to their needs?

In this session we will explore these ideas while examining how an understanding of quantity and relationships are significant in the development of number sense and operational sense. Learn ways to help students develop and apply mental math strategies and how you can use mini-lessons including strings and number talks in your classroom.

*Audience: Primary/Junior/Intermediate teachers*
Session C8:  *Number Talks, A Math Trick for your Classroom*

Maxine Hightet

This session will focus on how to use Number Talks in the primary or junior classroom to make math thinking visible. The session will provide opportunities for participants to try Number Talks and learn how they can use these in the classroom with minimal preparation.Something that you can add to your bag of math tricks!

*Audience: Primary/Junior teachers*

Session C9:  *Resolving Conflict*

Mary Lachapelle

Colleagues, students, parents and administrators regularly challenge teachers. Poorly managed conflict causes frustration. Well-managed conflict can be productive. This workshop will help teachers enhance their conflict resolution skills in order to better manage conflict in the school environment.

*Audience: All teachers*

Session C10:  *Technology Toolbox for Teachers: Infusing Technology into Everyday Practice*

Anthony Carabache

21st century learning starts with the right tools! Explore the creation of videos, animations, presentations, websites and blogs. Discover classroom management tools, reward systems and study tools. Teachers are encouraged to bring a laptop.

*Audience: All teachers*
Accommodation and Travel

All accommodation arrangements are made through the local OECTA unit office. Do not make your own hotel reservations with the Toronto Airport Hilton. Accommodation details will be provided in the confirmation letter you receive from your local unit.

Travel must be carried out by the most economical means possible (e.g., multiple delegates in a car). If you travel by air, flights will be reimbursed at the Air Canada Flex rate or equivalent.

Be sure to use the Air Canada code: FQK7T991
If you have questions regarding the conference, please email: events@oecta.on.ca