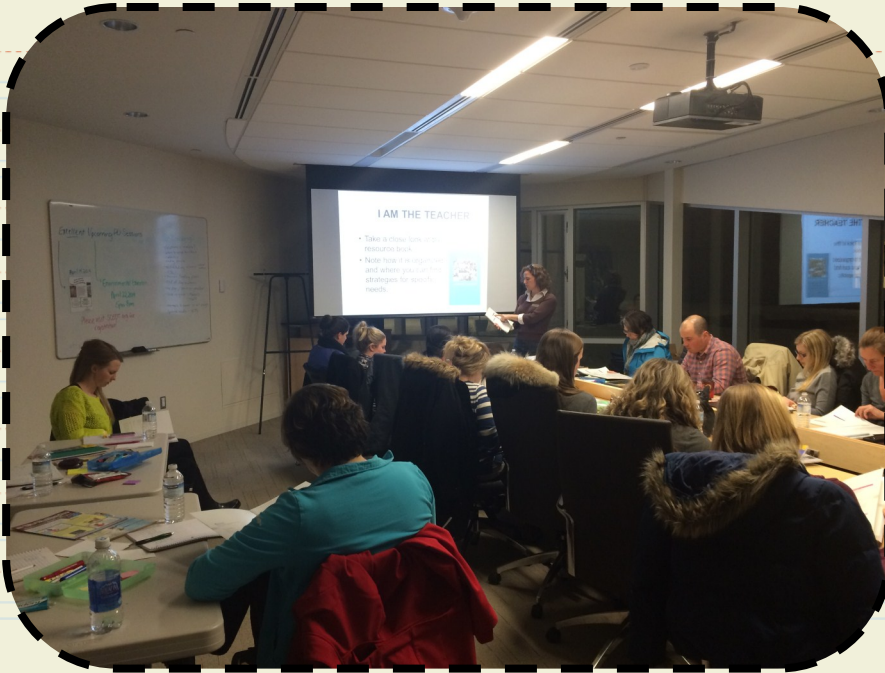


December  
2015  
Issue 04

# Learning Professionally

SCEOT's Professional Learning Newsletter



## PL Discussed in this Issue...

How to Register for Workshops

Earth Day 2016 Workshops

Introduction to Sign Language

Everyone is Able

Circle of Caring

Welcoming LGBTQ Families

## Happy December!

Please also note that we will be hosting another Introduction to Sign Language workshop on February 3, with registration opening January 8th. Please also note that we have a number of exciting workshops planned for the new year.

**Thank you in advance for your ongoing commitment to professional learning and I look forward to seeing you at upcoming PL experiences!**

**Wishing you a happy December!**  
**Elena Vandergeest**

### A Note about Registration...

**Please note that our workshops are met with a great deal of interest and fill up rather fast. We typically do have wait-lists for upcoming workshops. If you are unable to attend an event that you have registered for, please let me know at [sceotpd@hotmail.com](mailto:sceotpd@hotmail.com) as soon as possible, so that I can open the spot to a member on the wait-list.**

The Eventbrite logo is displayed within an orange, rounded rectangular box with a dashed black border. The word "Eventbrite" is written in a white, sans-serif font, with a small trademark symbol (TM) to its upper right.

## How to Register...

Registration is simple. Please go to our EventBrite page at:

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/org/4044767557?s=15025537>

## Solid Waste Management: Environmental Education

**Date: Tuesday, April 12, 2015**

**Time: 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm**

The Solid Waste Management: Environmental Education session presented by Simcoe County will delve into the importance of making waste reduction and diversion, both at school and at home, a priority among youth in Simcoe County. The workshop will discuss the importance of the 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle) as presented to Senior Kindergarten students. The presentation will also discuss how to teach young learners to sort waste at home and at

A white, rectangular sign with a green pushpin in the top right corner. The words "Space is Limited" are written in a green, handwritten-style font. A yellow horizontal line is drawn under the word "Limited".

**The Mobile Education Unit (MEU)**, a 30-foot trailer wrapped in wall-to-wall graphics both inside and out serving as a travelling classroom equipped with interactive games which teach the importance of waste reduction and diversion programs **will be on site** for occasional teachers to tour in order to see the games that the students play when it comes to the schools.



The workshop will break for about half an hour for a catered dinner.





## Earth Day 2016

This school year, SCEOT will be hosting not one, but **two** Earth Day Professional Learning Programs!



### Reptiles at Risk

**Date: Monday, April 18, 2016**

**Time: 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm**

This presentation will include an engaging PowerPoint presentation, touching on free materials available for teachers to use in their classrooms related to native reptile and amphibian species. These include lesson plans (linked with curriculum) and classroom activities, YouTube videos, and identification guides (all available in both official languages). A mock presentation will also take place and includes a scaled-down version of a classroom presentation. A mix of live turtles and snakes, covering topics like how to tell them apart, where they live, what they eat, why they are in trouble, and how we can help will be covered. This program will include some time at the end for questions, and opportunities for hands-on participation.

The learning goal of the presentation is to talk about how easy it is for elementary teachers to be including discussions of native animals within their daily lessons (whether it be through a lesson plan or a YouTube video). It is hoped that after this Professional Learning, teachers can become more confident in incorporating native species into their







## Introduction to Sign Language for the Occasional Teacher

**Date:** Wednesday, February 3, 2016

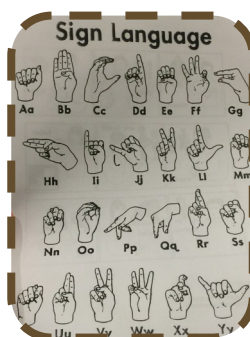
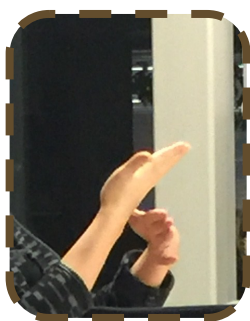
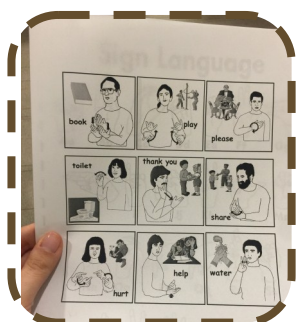
**Time:** 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm

**Registration to open January 8, 2016**

This introductory course is a fun and interactive way to learn sign language basics. Discover how to easily incorporate signing into daily routines and transitions. Help decrease frustration and improve social and communication skills in the classroom. Other benefits for your students include developing imagination and creative expression and improved language awareness and vocabulary, all while learning a hands-on language. Registration includes a Signing Time DVD.

### Attendees will:

- Be introduced to a variety of American Sign Language signs suitable for the classroom
  - Be introduced to over 100 ASL signs
  - Receive award winning *Signing Time* DVD
- Receive a variety of printables to support them when using ASL



## **Everyone Is Able**

**Date:** Thursday, March 3, 2016

**Time:** 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Registration to open January 8, 2016



This workshop introduces members to an ETFO resource called *Everyone Is Able*, which consists of a DVD and guidebook. The 30-minute DVD has been designed to use as an educational tool with both members and students. The workshop explores various ways to use this DVD as a professional development opportunity for staff to uncover their own assumptions/myth/stereotypes and increase sensitivity and awareness of issues around abilities/disabilities.

The guidebook is a curriculum resource to use with students to help them develop an understanding and appreciation for the diversity in our schools. The workshop will spark conversation and ongoing dialogue amongst workshop participants.



## Circle of Caring

**Date:** Tuesday, February 23, 2016

**Time:** 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm

**Registration to open January 8**

COPA is proud to share ***A Circle of Caring: a Multimedia Resource for First Nations, Métis and Inuit Families, and Schools with Simcoe County Occasional ETFO Local.***

With grace, wisdom and guidance from, community partners, the insight of parents, families and caregivers from around the province and with funding from the Ministry of Education, COPA has created a new innovative project.

Designed with and for Aboriginal families and communities in communities across Ontario, ***A Circle of Caring*** is the result of three years of dialogue, discussion and development to help nurture caring and supportive environments for all children.

### **Each attendee will receive the new Circle of Caring resource. The new resource offers:**

- Introductory Pamphlet
- 21 colourful Short Films (available in 7 Indigenous languages, French, English and closed-captioned format)
- Information Guide (parent engagement, equity and bullying prevention)
- Discussion Guides
- Problem-Solving Booklets
- Buttons and Bookmarks
- Colouring Book

### **Topics include:**

- Cultural pride
- Supporting children's success
- Understanding bullying and discrimination
- Getting involved in school life
- Nurturing safe and healthy schools and communities

***Come to this workshop to learn more about this resource, how you can use it to support First Nations, Métis and Inuit families AND give feedback on an adapted resource for teachers!***





## **Supporting LGBTQQ Families**

**Date:** Wednesday, May 18, 2016

**Time:** 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm

*Registration to open January 8*

## **Welcoming and Supporting Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer or Questioning Families**

Research shows students perform better academically and socially when they see themselves reflected in the school environment and curriculum. How do we do this specifically for LGBTQ families, the fastest growing type of family structure in Canada?

This workshop is built from a practical, “use-it-now”, perspective. Participants will discuss ways to foster positive communication and trust with LGBTQ families, use of inclusive language, curriculum connections and how to honour LGBTQ families around celebrations and traditions (e.g. Family Day, Mothers’ and Fathers’ Day).

Plenty of hands-on resources will be made available to participants.





## Upcoming Events



**Introduction to Sign Language for the OT:** Wednesday, February 3, 2016

**Circle of Caring:** Tuesday, February 23, 2016

**Everyone Is Able:** Thursday, March 3, 2016

**Solid Waste Management Environmental Education:** Tuesday, April 12, 2016

**Reptiles at Risk:** Monday, April 18, 2016

**Welcoming and Supporting LGBTQQ Families:** Wednesday, May 18, 2016



**Draws...** This year, every PL workshop will have two draws at the end of the session for a chance to win \$25. **The names of the SCEOT members registered and in attendance of each workshop will be put in a draw every session. We look forward to seeing at our next PL experience!**

