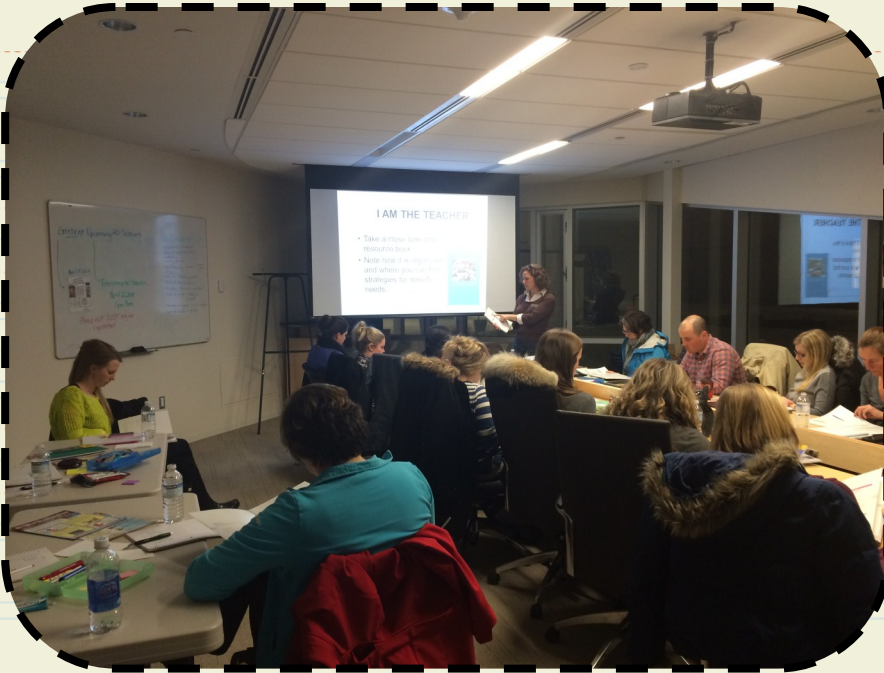


January
2016
Issue 05

Learning Professionally

SCEOT's Professional Learning Newsletter



PL Discussed in this Issue...

How to Register for Workshops

Introduction to Sign Language

Everyone is Able

Circle of Caring

Welcoming and Supporting
LGBTQ Families

Its January!

We hope you enjoyed your holidays! We are looking forward to all the professional learning set to occur in 2016!

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 January!
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 as soon as possible, so that I can open the spot to a member on the wait-list.



How to Register...

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

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



Introduction to Sign Language for the Occasional Teacher

Date: Wednesday, February 3, 2016
Time: 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Registration open as of 9:00 am on 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 and board book.

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 and ASL Alphabet poster
- 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 open as of 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 opens 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

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 opens 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 Equity 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 (Equity Workshop)

Reptiles at Risk: Monday, April 18, 2016 (Equity Workshop)

Welcoming and Supporting LGBTQQ Families: Wednesday, May 18, 2016 (Equity Workshop)



Please keep an eye out for future Professional Learning newsletters, as there are MANY more workshops in the process of being booked.



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**