

OSSTF Rainbow District 3
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December
2018



The LINK



OSSTF D3 office is ready for the kids to arrive – thanks to Laurie Lamothe for championing this annual event this year!

Dates of Interest:

Dec 4th: Health & Safety
Training 4:00 pm

Dec 5th: Finance Committee
Meeting 4:30 pm

Dec 11th: Health & Safety
Meeting 4:00 pm

Dec 12th: TBU Executive
Meeting at La Fromagerie
80 Elgin Street 4:30pm

Dec 21st: Last day of school

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President's Message:

OCT Advisory

On November 8th, 2018 the Ontario College of Teachers (OCT) released the Professional Advisory ***“Supporting Students’ Mental Health”***, teachers are required to know this advisory and its contents. It is available online at <https://www.oct.ca/resources/advisories/mental-health>.

While this Professional Advisory attempts to promote the mental health of students, members should be cautious about directions contained in this advisory, which could be perceived as boundary issues. OSSTF/FEESO members who are OCT members should not be diagnosing or proposing treatments to students.

It is their responsibility to maintain a safe, supportive and inclusive learning environment, which includes working to avoid stigmatizing mental health and working towards promoting wellness. Members should familiarize themselves with employer protocols around mental health and reporting. Any concerns should be directed towards administration, and other authorities where appropriate

Enjoy Your Winter Break!



Happy Holidays!

Dec 25th Santa arrives!!
Happy Christmas!!!



Dec 26th Leftover Turkey Day

Dec 31st: Another year over...
Jan 1st: a new one just begun



Jan 7th: Party's over!
Back to class.

Jan 11th: 8 weeks until March Break!! Just saying...



Jan 16th: District Meeting
4:00 pm

Jan 23rd: TBU Meeting 4:00 pm

OMERS

On November 15, the OMERS Board met to vote on proposed Plan changes. The Board voted in favour of the following changes:

- Eliminate the current 35-year cap for credited service
- Allow paramedics to negotiate NRA 60 participation

The Board defeated the following changes:

- replace inflation protection with conditional indexation
- integrate the pension formula with the year's additional maximum pensionable earnings (YAMPE)
- change normal and early retirement
- require mandatory participation for non-full-time employees (optional for low-salary employees)

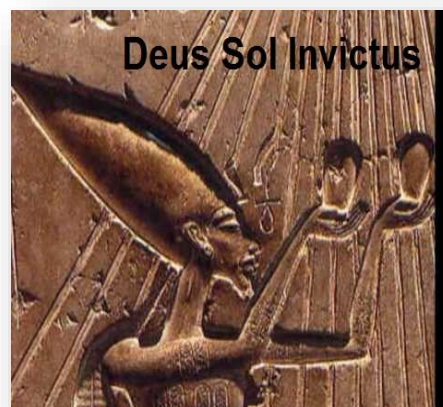
The OMERS Board is mandated with the responsibility for ensuring the long-term sustainability for the pensions of retirees today, and for members in the future. OSSTF commends the Board's efforts to conduct this extensive review over the past year. We appreciate the Board's efforts to consult with all stakeholders and to consider the input in the decisions they made. Additional information can be found on the OMERS Board website at <https://www.omerssc.com>.

From the District Officer:

Grow with OSSTF - This item will be of interest to members of all bargaining units who have less than 10 years' experience with OSSTF and who have not yet taken on local leadership roles. The New Member Workgroup has organized regional meetings with the theme of "Grow with OSSTF." Regional meetings have already taken place in Kingston and Waterloo. The great news is that a regional meeting is also planned for Sudbury in April 2019. Stay tuned for information about how to sign up to attend this event.

A World of Christmas Traditions

The origins of Christmas can be traced back to ancient pagan celebrations such as Deus Sol Invictus (Unconquered Sun, observed Dec 25), and Saturnalia (The Festival of Saturn Dec 17-23). The Christian Church disapproved of these festivals and co-opted the holidays by declaring Dec 25th as Jesus' birthday.





The Norse, the Celtic Druids, and Native American Indians held mistletoe sacred because it remains green and bears fruit during the winter when other plants seem to die. Druids thought the plant had the power to cure infertility and nervous diseases, and to ward off evil.

Find the Christmas Pickle - or Weihnachtsgurke is a beloved German holiday tradition. On Christmas Eve, the first child to find the pickle ornament hidden amongst the branches on the tree is said to get good luck for the year to come, as well as an extra present. I hid the pickles.

In **Iceland**, as part of a season called Jolabokaflod, or "The Christmas Book Flood", people exchange books on Christmas Eve - then spend the rest of the night reading them and eating chocolate. As a result, Iceland publishes more books per capita than any other country, selling most of them between September and November.

South Africa is home to some of the world's most unusual holiday food fare. Every December locals feast on a seasonal delicacy...the deep-fried caterpillars of Emperor Moths!



In Japan, family Christmas traditions include eating their big holiday meal at fast food giant KFC. In 1974, Kurisumasu ni wa Kentakkii - "Kentucky for Christmas" - went national with the KFC Party Barrel. An estimated 3.6 million Japanese families enjoy dirty bird as their Christmas meal – prior to this, Japan did not have any Christmas traditions, as only 1.5% of the population is Christian.



Roast turkey did not appear consistently on Christmas Day menus until 1851, when it replaced roast swan as the favorite dish of Royal courts. Thank a turkey today!

Fruitcake originated in ancient Egypt, where it was considered essential for the afterlife. Fun send-off party!! No dips, no hors d'oeuvres, no cheese trays – just fruitcake... Sorry, can't make it, I'm busy that night!

Jólabókaflóð (n)
(Icelandic)
a. Literally, "Christmas Book Flood"



Chocolate eaters gonna eat!





The first indoor Christmas trees date back to Germany over 500 years ago. It wasn't until the mid 19th century that the tradition really took off when reports of Queen Victoria's tree at Windsor Castle caused the practice to spread to British upper class. By the early 20th century, a Christmas Tree could be found in most Christian homes in North America.

Germans made the very first artificial Christmas trees, using dyed goose feathers to look like needles of a pine or fir tree. This was in response to ongoing deforestation during the late 1880's. Perhaps the green toilet brush was not yet invented?

In the late 1800s, homemade white Christmas trees were made by wrapping strips of cotton batting around leafless branches creating the appearance of a snow-laden tree. In the 1940s and 1950s, popularized by Hollywood films in the late 1930s, flocking was very popular on the West Coast of the United States.

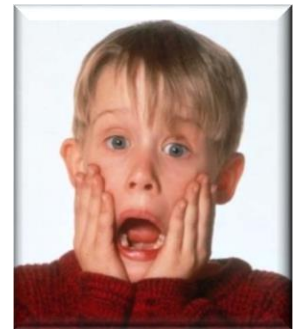
Do you like reading the LINK each month? Email the office ossf@d03.ossf.ca and tell us what you think, send us ideas or topics you would like to see covered in future issues of The LINK, or just let us know that you found all pickles! We will send some cool stuff to the first six members to respond.

How to Safeguard Your Home Against Break-Ins

As the holiday season approaches so does an increased risk for home burglary. While holiday shoppers hide presents in their homes, and homeowners leave town to celebrate the season with family and friends, home burglars are left with prime opportunities for break-ins and theft.

While there's no way to guarantee your home won't be the target of an attempted break-in, there are some actions that you can take to help defend your home against burglars.

To learn more, visit www.otipinsurance.com/article27



Your path to a stress-free holiday season!

The Holidays are a time to spend with family, friends and loved ones but it can also be very stressful. Between finding the perfect gifts, cooking the traditional turkey with fixings and accommodating everyone's get togethers, it's no wonder the holidays can be overwhelming. Here are our top 5 ways to beat the holiday stress this season.

To learn more, visit

www.otipinsurance.com/article29



Looking for a New Year's Resolution?

Get involved with OSSTF!
Join a committee!



From the D3 office, we would like to extend our best wishes to you and your families for a safe and happy holiday season. Cheers to good health and happiness to all!

James Sue Donna



Members... Check out the link to OTIP OSSTF members page:

<https://www.otipinsurance.com/OSSTF3>