This week’s Inside OISE @ Home Edition features an image from the first virtual meeting of OISE Council. Be sure to stay connected - check out the OISE site to see how we are supporting teachers, students, parents and our whole community during this pandemic.

Tomorrow at 11am join the OISE Stay@Home Club with a great musical session with OISE Alumnist Matt Stodalak and math activities with Professor Mary Reid on Monday - don’t miss these great sessions!

Please continue to share your updates with us! We want to know what’s happening with you and the OISE community. Be well and stay well.

“We need to do everything we can to support each other”

Dean Glen Jones recognizes the challenges and uncertainties of our current context and is proud to see the large number of students, faculty and staff that have stepped-up in order to offer support for others and build or sustain relationships. “Every day I hear stories of students who have taken the initiative to provide a space for sharing and conversation, of faculty who have checked-in with their students to make sure that they are doing as well as possible under difficult circumstances, of managers checking in to be sure staff are doing OK, and of staff who are reaching out to assist students. We also know that there are those among us who are suffering because they have lost a loved one, or because they are worried about the health of family members and friends.

OISE is a community, and we need to do everything we can to continue to support each other.”

“Even though we are not in the building together, we feel a sense of connection”

Helen Huang, Chief Administrative Officer has been grappling with a broad range of operational issues during this pandemic. Helen realizes that the physical separation of the community has its challenges but also presents all of us with certain opportunities. “I have seen how our faculty and staff are using this time for learning and development, for having some fun with their teams, and in finding new and creative ways of engaging. Even though we are not in the building together, we feel a connection virtually that comes from knowing the past connections will help us now and into the future. It is at a time like this that we fully appreciate the value of the relationships in our lives – we cannot survive without each other. Take care of each other, your loved ones and yourselves.”

First Virtual Meeting of OISE Council was the Last of the Academic Year

When the Executive Committee made the decision to proceed with holding a first-ever OISE Council meeting to take place online, Council Chair Ann Lopez and Secretary of Council Biljana Cuckovic did not leave anything to chance. Relying on the expertise of the Education Commons, and with participation of members of the Executive, they pulled together a test run on the Zoom system to ensure that the motions and voting procedures would proceed without a hitch.

As a result, the last Council meeting of the academic year held on April 15, 2020 was the first meeting in history to take place online. With well over 60 faculty, staff, students and alumni in attendance, the meeting was a huge success. Many commented on how much it meant to come together at this time.
Teaching and Learning Online
Support for Instructors and Students

The Teaching and Learning Online site developed under the leadership of a team from CTL contains a variety of resources for supporting both teaching and learning in online settings, including one-on-one assistance for Faculty with online course development using U of T tools.

Students can also review suggestions for preparing and handling online courses from the learner’s perspective. This site is a work in progress and has been developed quickly in response to the current COVID-19 situation: check out the website and let’s continue to support OISE in learning and teaching about online learning and teaching.

Virtual Education Commons by the Numbers

Working remotely during the COVID-19 pandemic, things have been a little different for all of us, sometimes in surprising ways.

Could you imagine that workshops or events held in ZOOM for the first time might attract more participants than their long-running conventional counterparts? Or that you would have occasion to add new information to your website more than 100 times in a month? Here’s the story of Education Commons working remotely as told by some of the numbers they’ve been tracking.

OISE Library offers some resources for parents with children at home

The OISE Library remains open online, and has many online resources to support teachers, teacher candidates, and parents with children at home. On-Core is a streaming video service tailored to the Ontario curriculum with videos searchable by subject, grade level, and strand. On-Core has videos covering all aspects of the Ontario curriculum, and is continually updating their collection of videos about COVID-19 for kids and teens. TumbleBooks is a collection of online interactive picture books for younger readers, and includes some favourites from the OISE Library’s children’s literature collection. For multilingual readers, the International Children’s Digital Library contains children’s e-books in 60-plus languages. We have access to many websites and databases for Teaching K-12 History with Online Primary Documents, and last year we compiled a list of 50 free resources for teaching Truth and Reconciliation and Indigenous Education.

Be Well and Stay Well

International Student Wellbeing

Are you an OISE international student looking for connection and support during this unpredictable time? Contact Andy Xia from the ORSS to find out how you can access various supports within OISE and at U of T. Also check out the OISE Wellness resources that are available to everyone – see below!

OISE Wellness Springs into Summer

Keep following the OISE Wellness activities with programming that will run through the summer. U of T has also posted a series of resources on their website that encourages faculty, staff, librarians and their families who may need additional support to reach out for help. There are a variety of services available, both internally and externally.

If you have suggestions for OISE or ideas for programming that could be good to include on our site, please let us know by writing to OISE Wellness.

Have a story you would like featured Inside OISE @ Home? Share it with us!

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