

Barrie Regional Office
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RMM: 10

MEMORANDUM TO: Directors of Education
Secretary-Treasurers and
Supervisory Officers of School Authorities
Principals of First Nations Schools
Deans of Faculties of Education

FROM: Sharon Bate
Regional Manager

DATE: September 15, 2006

SUBJECT: Curriculum Review
Regional Focus Group Sessions

Year 4 of the Curriculum Review process began this September. As you know, the review process for each discipline includes consultation through stakeholder information sessions and focus groups.

We are currently working in partnership with the Curriculum and Assessment Policy Branch of the Ministry of Education to organize one-day focus group sessions in November 2006 for representatives from school boards, school authorities and provincial schools. The purpose of these sessions is to gather input for the review of The Arts, Grades 1 to 8 and The Arts, Grades 9 to 12 curriculum policy documents from teachers, principals and board-level staff. Focus group sessions will be conducted for The Arts, Grades 1-8 and The Arts, Grades 9 to 12, the subject area designated for review in the 2006-2007 school year.

For the Arts, Grades 1 – 12 Focus Group Session, district school boards are invited to send twelve (12) representatives with experience in the subject area to the session. We are asking boards to ensure that participants be selected as follows:

- Four (4) elementary teachers – 1 primary, 1 junior, 2 Grades 7/8
- Five (5) secondary classroom teachers – e.g. representing 1 Dance, 1 Dramatic Arts, 1 Media Arts, 1 Music, 1 Visual Arts
- Three (3) board representatives – e.g., consultant/coordinator/principal with expertise in the Arts at the elementary and secondary level.

School authorities are invited to send **one representative**, with experience in the subject area, to the focus group session.

Please note that participants are to be prepared to discuss the strengths of the current curriculum policy documents, to identify potential areas for improvement and to comment on how a specific change may impact on the curriculum. Board representatives may wish to consult with their colleagues prior to coming to the session by asking the following questions:

- 1. What are the strengths of the curriculum? Why?**
- 2. Are there specific areas that need improvement? If so, what are they?**
- 3. What impact, if any, would a specific proposed change have on the curriculum?
For example, what needs to be considered within the grade? Within the discipline?
Across other disciplines?**

Participants are asked to bring copies of the appropriate curriculum policy documents to the session.

Dates and locations for the Focus Group Session are summarized below.

<p>The Arts Grades 1-8 and the Arts Grades 9-12 session for the following boards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Bruce-Grey CDSB- Durham DSB- Kawartha Pine Ridge DSB- Simcoe Muskoka CDSB- York Catholic DSB- Campbell's Children's Centre- Parry Sound RCSSB- Penetanguishene Protestant SSB- First Nations Schools- Faculties of Education	<p>Wednesday, November 15, 2006</p> <p>9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Lions Gate Banquet Centre 386 Blake Street Barrie ON L4M 1L3 (705) 735-2727 or (705) 726-8967</p>
<p>The Arts Grades 1-8 and the Arts Grades 9-12 session for the following boards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Bluewater DSB- Durham Catholic DSB- Peterborough, Victoria, Northumberland and Clarington CDSB- Simcoe County DSB- Trillium Lakelands DSB- York Region DSB	<p>Tuesday, November 21, 2006</p> <p>9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Lions Gate Banquet Centre 386 Blake Street Barrie ON L4M 1L3 (705) 735-2727 or (705) 726-8967</p>

Please list the names of participants in the registration chart attached and return it to Mary Ellen Smith, Barrie Regional Office, by e-mail to maryellen.smith@ontario.ca or fax it to (705) 725-7635 or 1-800-471-2584, by **Friday, October 27, 2006**.

The cost of supply coverage for classroom teachers (if applicable) will be reimbursed at the board rate. All travel expenses including accommodation (only where required) will be covered following ministry guidelines. The detailed expense template will be forwarded to the contact person identified on the registration form.

In order to obtain reimbursement, each board must submit an itemized invoice on board letterhead with photocopies of all individual receipts attached to the expense form by Friday, December 15, 2006 to:

Mary Ellen Smith, Education Officer
Barrie Regional Office
20 Rose Street, Second Floor
Barrie ON L4M 2T2

For questions or further information please contact Mary Ellen Smith at (705) 725-7634 or 1-866-896-3922.

A map to the Lions Gate Banquet Centre is also attached.

We value the input from school boards and school authorities and thank you for your continued support.

Sharon Bate
Regional Manager

Attachments

CURRICULUM REVIEW
The Arts Grades 1-8 and The Arts Grades 9-12
Focus Group Session

Date: _____

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Location: Lions Gate Banquet Centre, 386 Blake Street, Barrie ON

School Board: _____

Contact Person: _____

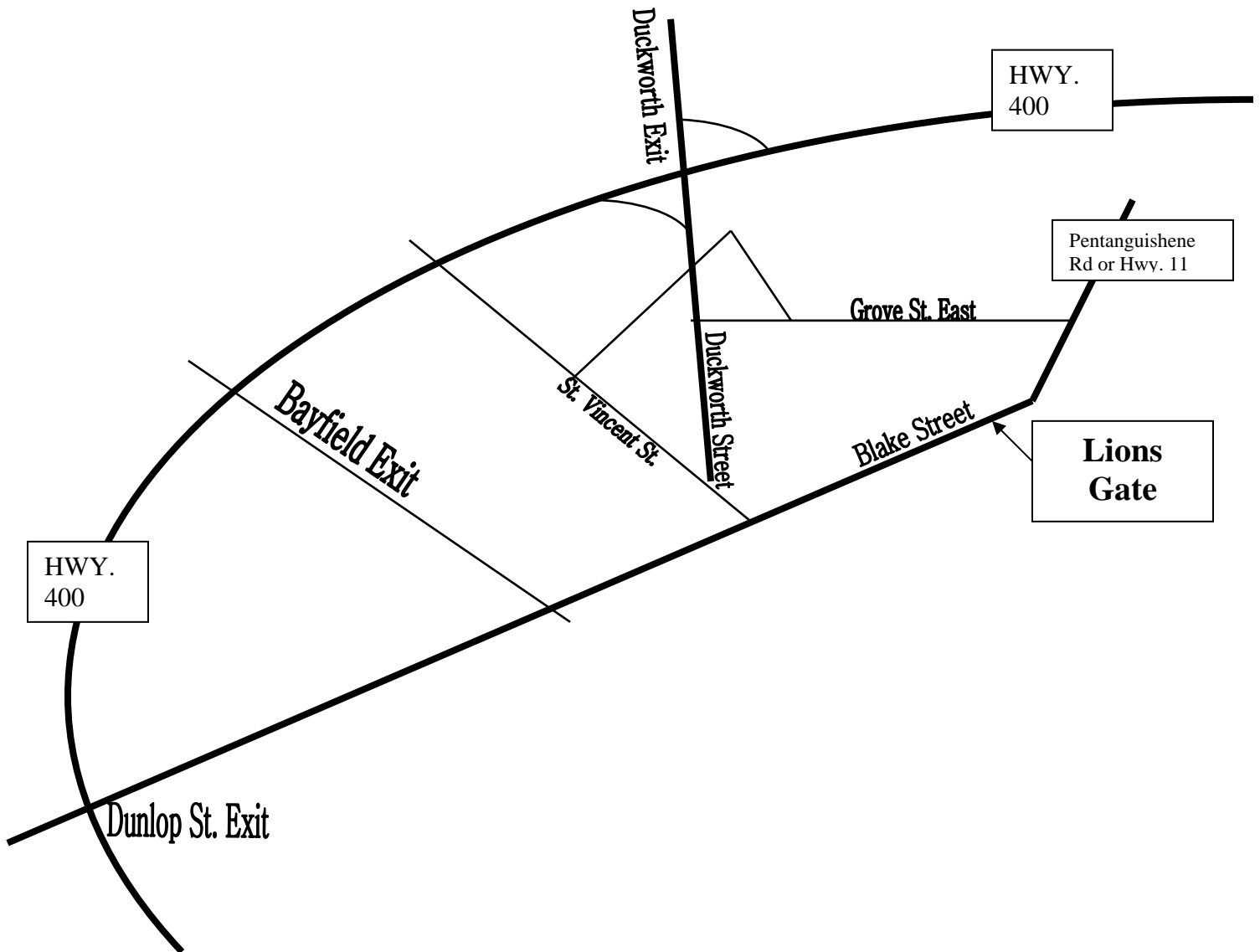
Contact Phone Number: _____

Contact E-mail: _____

Please list the names of participants in the chart below and return it to Mary Ellen Smith, Barrie Regional Office, by e-mail to maryellen.smith@ontario.ca or fax it to (705) 725-7635 or 1-800-471-2584, by **Friday, October 27, 2006.**

Division/Subject Area	Name of Representative
1 Primary teacher	
1 Junior teacher	
2 Grades 7/8 teachers	1. 2.
1 Secondary teacher teaching Dance	
1 Secondary teacher teaching Dramatic Arts	
1 Secondary teacher teaching Media Arts	
1 Secondary teacher teaching Music	
1 Secondary teacher teaching Visual Arts	
Three (3) Board Representatives e.g., consultant/coordinator/principal with expertise in the Arts at the elementary and secondary levels	1. 2. 3.

Lions Gate Banquet Centre
386 Blake Street
Barrie
(705) 726-8967



IF TRAVELLING –

HWY. 400 SOUTHBOUND:

Take Duckworth St. Exit
Turn left onto Duckworth St.

HWY. 400 NORTHBOUND:

Take Duckworth St. Exit
Turn right onto Duckworth St.

THEN

Follow Duckworth to Grove St.
Turn left onto Grove St.
Follow Grove to the “T” intersection at Hwy 11 or Penetanguishene Rd
Turn right onto Penetanguishene Rd that becomes Blake St.
The Lions Gate Banquet Centre is on your right, a short way down the street