

For immediate release

Elementary teacher in Peel receives OTIP award for teaching excellence

TORONTO, October 20, 2020 — Deanna Gaughan is the recipient of the OTIP Teaching Award in the Beginning Teacher category. She teaches a Grades 6-8 ASD Contained class which includes all classroom curriculum and programming at James Grieve Public School in Caledon.

Deanna spearheaded the successful program, the RISE Room (Reaching Independence while Striving for Excellence). Her students' curiosity and interest are challenged in Deanna's interactive learning environment—they feel safe to inquire, explore and engage in hands on learning experiences.

In addition to the experience of the use of technology, a life skills program and personal care program, students participate in school wide events, a 'buddy' program with other classes, and an annual blacklight show for the school. Deanna encourages community involvement—her class wrote letters to the town council in support of a sidewalk in front of the school. They gain insight and an understanding of the diversity of their community through the study of art in different cultures and the celebration of cultural holidays such as Diwali and Holi, the festival of colours.

"There are many good teachers but seldom do you come across someone who evidently has committed their entire life's work to the education and wellbeing of students," states the parent who nominated Deanna Gaughan.

More information and a video honouring Deanna are posted on the Teaching Awards website: teachingawards.ca.

Because of the pandemic, the winners were not presented their awards. OTIP and OTF hope to honour her in the spring.

The Ontario Teachers Insurance Plan (OTIP) and the Ontario Teachers' Federation co-sponsor the OTIP Teaching Awards for excellence in teaching in the publicly funded school system. Three awards are presented: secondary school teacher, elementary school teacher and beginning teacher.

OTF is the advocate for the teaching profession in Ontario and for its 160,000 teachers. OTF members are full-time, part-time and occasional teachers in all publicly funded schools in the province – elementary, secondary, public, Catholic and francophone.

About OTIP: Creating Insured Members for Life. At OTIP (www.otip.com), we not only understand the education system, we believe in it. OTIP has been committed to providing quality insurance benefits and advice for the best value since 1977. Across all lines of insurance, OTIP provides coverage to over 160,000 education employees in the province. Owned by Ontario's four education affiliates (AEFO, ETFO, OECTA and OSSTF) and directed by a Board of Trustees, OTIP was built on the belief that educators would be better served by a not-for-profit insurance advocate that was part of the education community. This remains our philosophy today.

- 30 -

For more information, contact

Scott Perkin, Secretary-Treasurer, OTF
416.966.3424, 1.800.268.7061
scott.perkin@otffeo.on.ca

Patricia Wilkinson-Bizjak, Director, Corporate Affairs and Communications, OTIP
1.800.267-6847 ext. 2615 or 519-574-4997
pwilkinson-bizjak@otip.com