



November 10, 2011

salvete, parentes!

The 44th annual Ontario Student Classics Conference is swiftly approaching! The students have already begun work to prepare our team for participation. They have begun sewing a variety of costumes, making jewellery, working on the archaeology competition, planning the Skit and Scrapbook, and learning new artistic techniques!

The OSCC is one of the largest and most elaborate student conferences in North America and brings together approximately 500 high school students from across Ontario to engage in almost 100 Academic, Creative, and Athletic competitions relating to the ancient Mediterranean world. This Conference is the Classical equivalent of OFSSA events – it is a provincial level of competition and involves both public and private schools from various parts of the province! It is an amazing and exciting opportunity for students and teachers alike to indulge their academic, creative and athletic interests outside of the regular curriculum! Participation in this conference provides students with an amazing experience, working as part of a highly-focussed team participating in a range of events not to be found anywhere else!

The OSCC comprises a series of activities designed for participants who have a high level of responsibility and are capable of working independently. (All events are monitored by teachers and chaperones, but not necessarily the teachers and chaperones of any one particular school. In addition, students must be able to move independently between competitions.) In order to attend the conference, a student must be able to act responsibly at the OSCC, comply with the conference rules and regulations, monitor her own health and safety, and attend the events to which she is assigned.

This year's conference is being held at Brock University in St. Catharines, Ontario; we will be away from **Tuesday, May 1, 2012 to Sunday, May 6, 2012**. Your daughter has indicated an interest in being part of Elmwood's Classics Conference Team, which means that she would be required to participate in the preparations to attend the conference between now and then, and that she would be away from May 1 to 6, 2012.

The total cost of participation in the conference is outlined below (to cover rooms, meals, ribbons, certificates, etc.). This cost has been calculated based on 6 students forming the team, but the total cost will likely be significantly less than estimated below. We are hoping to have more than 6 students on the team, which will reduce the cost, and we are also planning a number of fundraisers, which will also reduce the cost. It is important that parents are aware of the maximum possible cost as their daughters commit to participate.

The total cost of participation in the OSCC including transportation, accommodation, meals, conference fees, etc., is \$1250 (based on 6 students participating.) We are currently planning a number of fundraisers (which will occur outside of school) through which we are intending to raise at least \$2500 - \$2900. Raising this amount should allow us to refund the March payment and at least part of the February payment for each student. The final cost should be approximately \$825 (or less), after fundraising, and with 6 students participating.

In order to facilitate payment, please return the attached form indicating your permission for the school to bill your account in installments as outlined below. **The initial \$250 will be immediately non-refundable, because it is required to hold the rooms at Brock and to confirm other arrangements. The remaining payments will be non-refundable after each billing date (except for the final 2 payments, which we are hoping to be able to refund most/all of after fundraising).** The fundraising will continue until the end of April, and so we will not have a definite, final amount of the refund until this time. Completing this commitment form now lets me know that your daughter commits to attending, and allows us to cast her in various competitions.

Payment Schedule:

Payment 1: November 15, 2011 \$250

Payment 2: December 15, 2011 \$250

Payment 3: January 15, 2012 \$250

Payment 4: February 15, 2012 \$250* likely refundable, at least in part

Payment 5: March 15, 2012 \$250* likely refundable in total

Because of the nature of the competitions, the commitment to this team must be as great as that given to any sports team, or to the Drama production, for example. It takes considerable effort and focus to participate in these amazing conference competitions, and all members of the team are needed to contribute in order for the entire team to succeed. This means that students who commit to attending the Conference are also committing to attend as many meetings as possible according to the schedule established by the club in order to prepare for the various activities. We have regular meetings on Thursdays at lunch, Fridays after school (while the students are waiting to be picked up), and on specific Saturdays during the year. Students participate in these meetings as much as possible, given their schedules. In some cases, students may arrange to work on specific projects at other times if they cannot attend Saturday meetings (or can only attend some), for example. Students are responsible to ensure that they contribute reasonably to the group's preparations for the conference and to ensure that their schoolwork remains up-to-date.

In addition, it is important to me to ensure that the students who attend the conference are able to participate in as many activities as they would like during the year, while still being able to fulfill their academic requirements. Therefore, I am asking that students let me know if they are planning to commit to athletic teams or other time-consuming events over the coming months until the conference (both within and outside of school) before they commit to them, so that I can try to ensure they are not overburdened and so that I can schedule Classics practices accordingly.

Please indicate support of your daughter's participation in the OSCC as part of Elmwood's Classics Conference Team by signing the attached form and returning it by November 15. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at the school at your earliest convenience. Thank you very much!

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Ellison
Classics Club Advisor
ellison@elmwood.ca



I hereby support the participation of my daughter, _____, in this year's Ontario Student Classics Conference. I understand the information attached and that her participation requires my support, and a sizeable time commitment from my daughter. I also understand that if my daughter does not fulfill the terms of this commitment (see below), she may not be able to attend the 2011 OSCC. I authorize the school to bill the cost in installments as outlined below to my Elmwood account, and I understand that \$250 of this fee is immediately non-refundable (the other amounts are non-refundable after each payment date, *except for the final 2 payments, which we are hoping to be able to refund most /all of after fundraising – this will depend on the amount raised and will not be known until soon before the conference).

Payment 1: November 15, 2011 \$250

Payment 2: December 15, 2011 \$250

Payment 3: January 15, 2012 \$250

Payment 4: February 15, 2012 \$250* likely refundable, at least in part

Payment 5: March 15, 2012 \$250* likely refundable in total

Parent Name – please print: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____

I, _____ (please print), hereby commit to participation in the Ontario Student Classics Conference as part of Elmwood's Conference team. I agree:

- that I will contribute significantly and purposefully to the team's preparations for Conference (arranging with Ms. Ellison how I will contribute if I am not able to attend certain meetings);
- that I will let Ms. Ellison know in advance if I am not able to attend a meeting;
- that I will let Ms. Ellison know in advance what other activities I am planning to undertake within and outside of school which may impact on my contribution to the Classics Conference team's preparations. I recognize that attendance at the OSCC requires a sizeable time commitment from me. I will ensure that I do not join so many other activities that I am unable to fulfill my commitment to the Classics Conference team;
- that I will organize my time so that I meet my academic requirements (not handing things in late, for example) throughout the coming months until the Conference;
- that if I do not fulfill the terms of this commitment, I may not be able to attend the 2012 OSCC.

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

OSCC Information re: Students with Allergies

The Ontario Student Classics Conference (OSCC) is held at Brock University and makes use of university venues throughout the event. Each year, approximately 600 people (students, teachers, university professors) attend the OSCC. Because of the large number of people who will be present on site during the event, the varied nature of allergies, and the preparation of food being done on site for such a large group, it is impossible to guarantee that participants will not be exposed to allergens during their time at the OSCC. (The OSCC does not purport to be an allergen-free environment.)

Students with food allergies, and their parents, must understand the following before committing to participate in the OSCC:

- ✧ The school and its staff will act with due diligence in order to ensure the safety of all trip participants, but can take no responsibility for the accidental (or purposeful) ingestion of allergens.
- ✧ Parents and students are responsible to ensure supervising teachers are aware of significant/life-threatening allergies.
- ✧ Participants share space (such as a bathroom, a common room, space on the bus, etc.) with others, people from Elmwood as well as others, and there is unavoidable unsupervised snacking/eating which occurs in these areas. Students will also be eating at restaurants on the way to and from the OSCC. It cannot be guaranteed that students with allergies will not encounter foods containing allergens, or that other students will always wash their hands after eating/snacking.
- ✧ Students with life-threatening allergies are responsible to carry with them, at ALL TIMES, one or more Epipens, the location of which must be known to their team members and teachers/chaperones.
- ✧ Students with life-threatening allergies must also wear, at ALL TIMES, a medic-alert or other type of bracelet identifying the allergy and the need for an Epipen in case of emergency. There are significant amounts of time when students are moving independently between and within competitions where their teacher / chaperones may not be present—this identification would assist those not familiar with the student in seeking medical attention.
- ✧ Students with life-threatening allergies are responsible to avoid intentionally ingesting foods which do, or which may possibly, contain allergens. While the dining hall at Brock makes the effort to label foods which may contain allergens, when in doubt, students with allergies must not eat a questionable food.
- ✧ Students with very severe and varied food allergies should arrange to bring with them all foods they will wish to eat during the OSCC, as well as dishes / cutlery, etc. They may bring a cooler if they wish, as this is not available on site. Due to chaperoning requirements, students with allergies need to be able to eat with the team in the dining facilities.
- ✧ Students with allergies are responsible to inform their teachers (or any adult supervisor) immediately if they feel they are reacting and may need medical attention.

I, _____ (student name) have read and I understand the conditions above and agree to act according to them at all times during, and on the way to / from, the Ontario Student Classics Conference.

(Student signature)

(Date)

I, _____ (parent name) the parent / guardian of _____ (student name) have read and I understand the conditions above and agree to her participation in the OSCC under these conditions.

<input type="checkbox"/> My daughter has allergies, but can eat the foods prepared by the university's caterers at their dining hall and carefully chosen by her.	<input type="checkbox"/> My daughter has allergies and will be bringing her own food.
<input type="checkbox"/> My daughter does not have any significant or life-threatening allergies which may impact on her participation in this trip.	<input type="checkbox"/> My daughter has allergies and will eat a combination of the foods from the dining hall (carefully chosen by her) and foods which she brings herself.

(Parent signature)

(Date)