

OUR SCHOOLS  
OUR FUTURE  
OUR STORY



VOLUME 19 • ISSUE 7 • NOV/DEC 2019

# CONNECTIONS

District 29 OSSTF Hastings-Prince Edward



# RALLY

FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION

NOVEMBER  
14<sup>TH</sup>, 2019

at Todd Smith's Office  
(MPP Bay of Quinte)



THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO JOINED US!



**NO CUTS  
to  
EDUCATION**



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In life, the only thing that is certain is change! We can help you prepare.

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# D29 Members During Information Pickets



# The Student Achievement Awards



**The Student Achievement Awards** is a writing and creative arts competition which is open to all public secondary school students in Ontario. The competition is meant to encourage the intellectual development of our students and an interest in society. The 1984 Provincial Assembly established the awards in honour of Marion Drysdale, a secretary at OSSTF/FEESO Provincial Office for twenty-two years, for her dedicated work over so many years.

Each year a new theme is determined by the Recognition and Promotion Sub-Committee of the Communications/Political Action Committee.

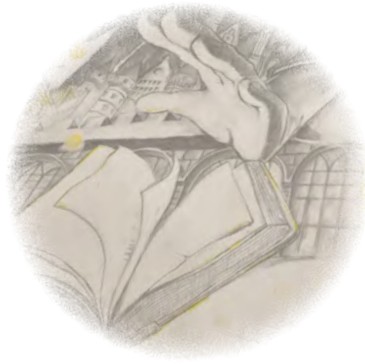
OSSTF/FEESO invites student writers and artists to submit creative work exploring this year's theme: One Strong Woman. Judging will be held at the school, District, Regional and Provincial levels. Nine provincial winners will be awarded \$1000 each in prizes and will be invited to our Annual General Meeting in March where a video showcasing their work will be screened.

B2: Visual, Senior 11-12

**LOCAL WINNER:**

**Lik Wai Cheng (Ray), CSS,  
"Gift"**

*(Teacher: Christine Christos)*



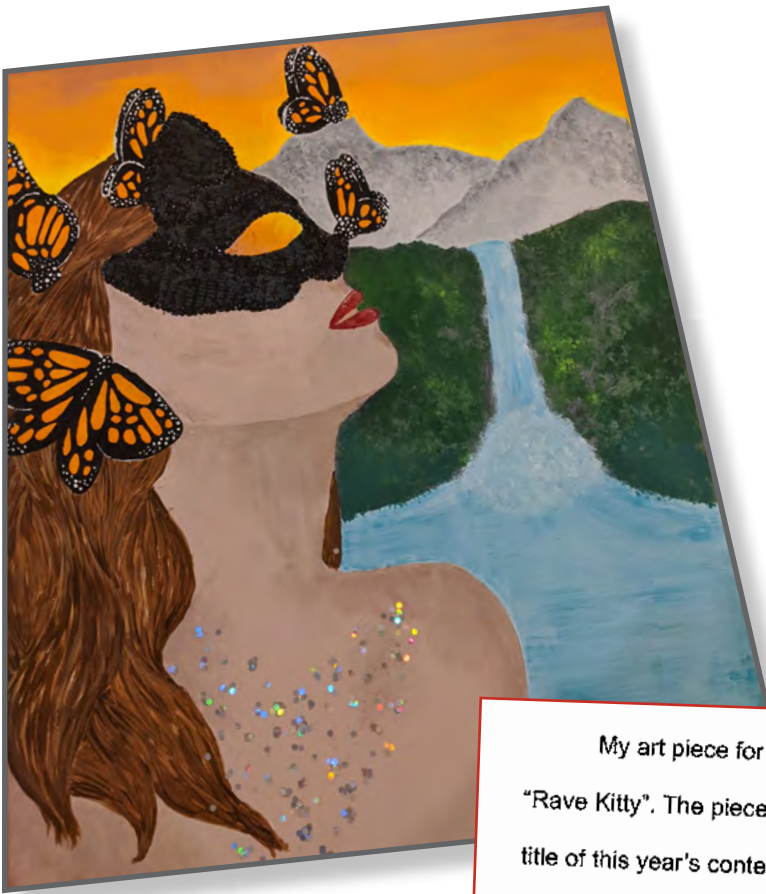
## "GIFT"

J.K. Rowling is a British author who has inspired my artwork. Her early life that started with struggle, developed into a story of inspiration and hope. She wrote the series of Harry Potter novels that started with the **Philosopher's Stone**. J.K. Rowling the strong woman in my life, has not only inspired my artwork, but has inspired me to read her books and set me on a pathway of creativity and imagination. She created for me a world of fantasy and wonder in my drawings, like the struggling octopus who seeks to find its place in life, and the soaring figure in my composition that reaches for the illuminated novel. The novel symbolizes literacy and creativity, a gift she gave to children all over the world.

B2: Visual, Senior 11-12

**Jenna LeBlanc,  
CHSS, "Rave Kitty"**

*(Teacher: Tisha Francis)*



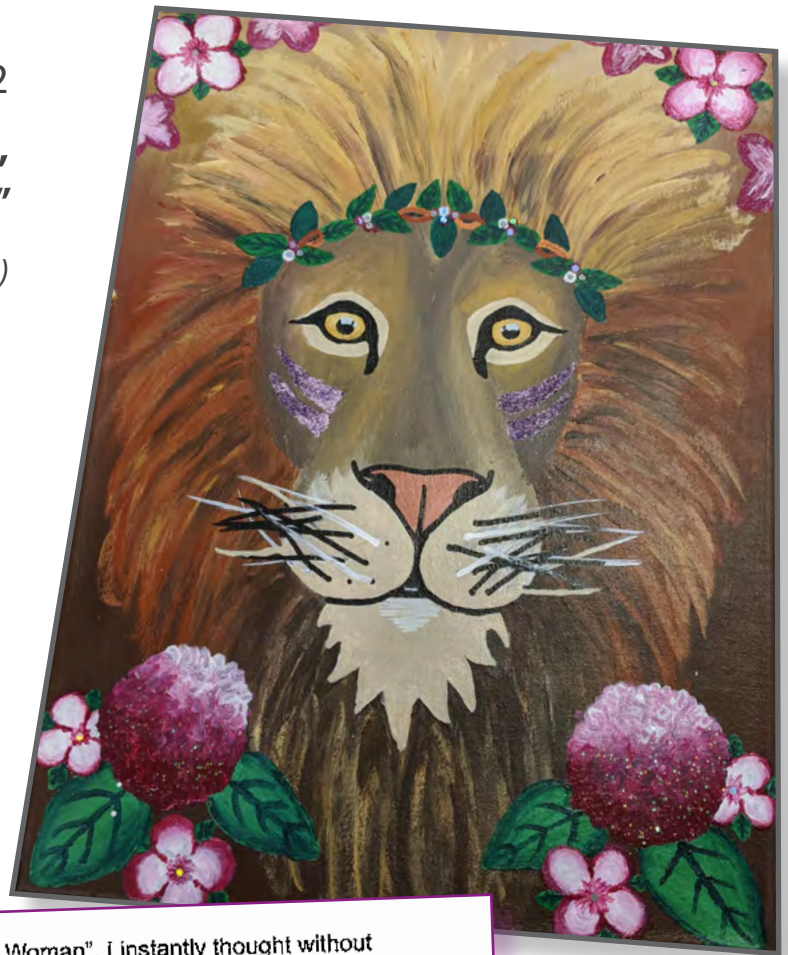
My art piece for this year's Student Achievement Awards Competition is titled "Rave Kitty". The piece I have created is inspired by my sister. When I first heard the title of this year's contest, I immediately thought of my sister because when I think of "One Strong Woman" I think of a person who doesn't stress what others say or think as long as they are happy with who they are and what they are doing. I also think of someone who is ambitious, adventurous and independent. My sister Ciara carries all of these traits and more. Despite having several mental illnesses such as bipolar disorder, depression and anxiety my sister still finds the energy to make the most of her life. She participates in concerts, festivals and raves; things that make her feel good as a person.

In my painting, I have portrayed my sister looking into the sky with monarch butterflies fluttering around her. In my family's spirituality, monarchs are a symbol of the losses we have suffered in my family including my great grandmother and specifically my aunt Val who my sister was extremely close with. My sister believes strongly that she and my aunt are connected. The landscape in my painting represents my aunt Val and her inner and outer beauty and how she affects all of our lives. The mask she's wearing and the sparkles I've put on her chest are put there based on how she portrays herself at her concerts, festivals and raves. My sister is the strongest, most outgoing and caring person I know and her opinion matters with many decisions I make in my life. She is the type of woman I aspire to be as well.

B2: Visual, Senior 11-12

**Amy Rinaldi,  
CHSS, "Warrior"**

(Teacher: Tisha Francis)



When I first heard about the topic "One Strong Woman", I instantly thought without hesitation, I am going to produce a piece based on my mom. My mom Colleen reflects this topic perfectly because she literally is 'a power of one'. She is fierce, brave, intelligent, wise, hardworking, and perseveres. Growing up, her parenting model showed me what it was like to take good care of your own large family and that if you want to achieve something you have to work hard for it. Over the past two years, she has proven to herself and others that she is capable of going on in life after the long illness and loss of her husband. My mom has shown me what it is like to be strong and brave, no matter what happens. She has also learned to take on both roles as a parent - yes it has been difficult at times - but she has managed to do it, with grace that other people marvel at.

My creation is titled "Warrior" because this is such an accurate description of my mother. The lion head is the perfect symbol as it reflects the qualities and characteristics mentioned. The warrior stripes on the lion represents the meaning of the word warrior (brave, ambitious, strong, etc...). My mom has a warrior tattoo on her arm, the tattoo represents her competitive spirit. The flowers shown are my mom's favourite, including begonias and hydrangeas. Overall I'm happy with the partially cartoon yet realistic style because the piece represents my mom's character accurately.

## LOCAL WINNER:

### Emerson Bonter, CHSS, "She's My Rock"

On March 6, 2019, my Dad was diagnosed with glioblastoma: a tumour the size of a lemon on the left side of his brain. Over the last seven months, he has had two procedures, a biopsy and a major surgery which removed most of the tumour. Before I get too far, this may sound like an essay titled "One Strong Man," which I could write quite easily. However, this traumatizing experience has made me come to realizations about life and death, but most importantly, it has shown me a strong woman- my mom. Who has at times, cared for a man who could not walk or speak for days. My mother raised, nurtured, and cared for two children during the most horrifying experience my sister and I had ever faced when Dad was physically unable. My mother helped heal our entire family from the worst experience we have ever encountered.

At the beginning of what felt like the end, my mother cried for literally days without end. After the mental disruption of shock passed, we came to peace with the reality we were trying ever so desperately to escape. Mom kept us patient, hopeful and filled with love to be strong and confident for my Dad. My mom inspired us to have faith in ourselves, never give up, and push forward.

The sleepless nights in Kingston became more and more tiring. Eating was the last thing we wanted, but we still got up and Mom would smuggle food from the continental breakfast at the hotel into the hospital, so Dad did not have to eat the cold, grey oatmeal from the hospital cafeteria. We sat restlessly in room 706b of Kingston General Hospital from dusk to dawn. Every few hours, I would go outside and face cold grey March wind to feed the meter of the overflow hospital parking lot.

Then the first surgery happened, a biopsy. Surrounded by family, friends and neighbours, the weight of the whole ordeal was shifted off Mom's shoulders. For the first time, there was a



second of relief. But six hours later, we started our journey on the road to recovery. Always thinking of her kids, husband and family. With no time to think for herself, she was dedicated and driven by love.

The first surgery was a blessing, "Close but no cigar," my Dad said. The second surgery took us to Montreal, to the best Neurosurgeon in Canada, perhaps the world. The silver lining is my Dad's sister moved to Montreal in 1999, so no more nights in stale hotel rooms, just Aunt Kathy's. My mom taught me a lot on our journey. She showed me the positive outcomes of adverse situations. For instance, a bright sunny day in March. Dad was doing fine, and he was moved to a waiting room turned patient room. When the doctors came in and told us that it was a cancerous glioblastoma, the same as Gord Downie, Dad went limp, he was hit by the realization of what was hurting him. Thanks to that so-called "seizure," the surgeons decided to operate the next day. Later we found out that if it were not for his "episode," he would have been sent home that day. The following day, he could not speak, like a stutter of silence.

After a twelve-hour surgery. A good looking man, clearly a doctor, appeared in the broad doorway of the waiting room at the Montreal Neurological Institute and Hospital. He asked which person was here for Jim. Six people stood up. I remember my mom, melting with joy when the words "complete success" breezed from Doctor Petrecca's mouth. To me, the weight of a thousand empty skies was lifted away to reveal a warm distant sun. So I can't imagine what my mother felt.

My mother has been the rock in the treacherous seas of the past seven months of our lives and will continue to be on our journey forward. My mom said, "If death is where we are all headed, then suffering is part of the journey there. Once you have suffered, you truly know you have lived." My mom has taught me to see the light in dark situations, that everything is temporary, to expect the unexpected, and to live with love, ambition, and patience. Love you, Mom.

A3: Prose and Poetry, Senior 11-12 University (Teacher: Lynne Weinert)  
**Gabrielle Burnett, NHHS, "Even the Strongest Women Can Break"**

Strength. What does it mean? Strength is physical, mental and personal power, courage and tenacity. The strongest woman I know has embodied these qualities throughout her life. My grandmama, Pauline, has every symptom of dementia; a set of symptoms that are caused by disorders affecting the brain. This includes memory loss and causes difficulties thinking, problem-solving and with language. It started a few years ago. She would forget the little things, such as her grocery list, or to turn the oven off. She would ask questions like "why are we together?" at my birthday dinner. It affects the life of the person with the disorder along with the lives of her loved ones, including me. To show the sheer strength, courage and grit my grandmama embodies I am going to explain who she is, how the disorder affects her and her loved ones and how she shows strength throughout her journey.

Taking the time to listen to someone else's story can change your entire perspective on not only who they are but who you are as well. As any old soul my grandmama has had a unique and emotional journey. When I go to visit her she lights up, runs over and gives me the biggest hug, everytime. My grandmama is the middle child of 18 brothers and sisters, meaning she did not grow up with many opportunities; yet I have never seen her complain. She is selfless. Growing up with so many siblings caused her to think about others before herself. She has always taken care of everyone else: when company is over she always strives to make everyone feel comfortable. She is the type of person who can be the centre of attention but instead, chooses to talk to the person standing alone. She is also very hardworking. For such a little woman she can do big things. My grandmama grew up in a French community, worked hard and taught herself English. She never finished high school due to family reasons, but at the age of 50 went back to finish. When I asked her why she bothered going back she told me "I don't remember". She is an amazing mother to 3 beautiful daughters, one being my mom. She went through a tragic loss when her eldest daughter, my aunt Rita, died from a seizure. This event shook my entire family. Losing a child is every mother's worst fear. My grandmama is an exceptional woman in her ability to keep on living and laughing and to stay strong for her other two girls.

Dementia is a scary disorder to have. You know that you have it, but you cannot prevent it or slow it down. My grandmama has lost the ability to drive, to cook (which she loves), she has lost an appetite for food which has made her physically weak, and she has lost the ability to be alone. When you were little did you ever get lost in a store? Remember that feeling of frantically looking around for your mom, that pit that welled up in your stomach? That feeling is what she feels multiple times a day. It can be exhausting for not only her but also for the people responsible for her. My grandpapa takes amazing care of her. He is the sweetest, most loving husband. He is a very quiet man, with a kind heart. He does not say much unless he has something important to say. They are perfect for each other. They balance each other in the best ways possible. He never leaves her alone. He hides the keys if he goes out, he checks on her frequently, reminds her of things she must do, and loves her with all of his heart. She is so lucky to have him in her life to make going through it a little less scary. Dementia creates fear. Fear is the hardest thing to overcome, especially when the root of your fear is caused by your mind. Our minds are where we feel safe, where we can think, process and dream without fear of judgement or reality. Without the safety of our minds, what do we have to feel safe? My grandmama has family. So throughout this scary time with dementia taking over her brain, we do all we can to help her to feel safe.

Strength is more than a physical attribute. It is determined by our ability to face our challenges with courage and dignity. Pauline does just that. She knows that she forgets things but accepts it as a part of her. She will ask those obvious questions without hesitation or fear of being judged. She has such a strong personality and takes on her disorder with dignity. For example, as I mentioned earlier, my grandmama is bilingual; she is able to speak both French and English fluently. Unfortunately, she sometimes struggles with her loss of language. She will forget simple words in English, words that she has said millions of times. Throughout this she remains calm, takes a step back and allows others to help her. It takes immense courage and dignity to stay calm and let others help. She'll always remain the funny, adorable Pauline that everyone knows. Making jokes about her disorder shows acceptance, which can be difficult. She is so strong and I hope to someday enjoy life and love others as my grandmama does so passionately everyday.

Even though she may be the strongest woman I know and has fought through and overcome the greatest of challenges, she still needs and will need my support along with that of her family, friends, and her amazing husband because even the strongest of women can break, and we need to be there to pick them up.

### Katherine Saunders, BSS, "The Mighty Boggett"

Ms Sarah Boggett, Super Boggett, is a Strong Woman who I have had the pleasure of knowing and who has become one of my heroes. As a science teacher at Bayside Secondary School (part of the 'Staph'), she demonstrates fluency in the language of Puns, dedicates a shrine to her favourite molecules, and underwent rigorous training so she can 'Science the Day away' while inspiring a better world. She has been determined to help and do good since her own highschool years, choosing to embark on the long voyage to teacherdom. Despite the financial, emotional and mental strains such as high tuition, and vast amounts of stress due to academic assignments, nothing went unsurmounted by Super Boggett. She sailed forth into the realms of the classroom where she now resides in her natural habitat, quite content. No career comes without challenges, she is vulnerable to criticism, harsh comments and unruly pupils on the daily. It is true that ALL teachers are strong individuals, martyrs even, for it takes copious amounts of courage to sacrifice one's feelings for the cause you believe in.

Currently, Super Boggett has been expanding her horizons by enrolling in a supplementary university course about Gender and Sexuality for the betterment of herself. She is now both pupil and teacher. I cannot imagine the amount of exhaustion she must feel at the end of each day after having got up early, taught and then learned all for the development of her positive impact. It can also be said about Super Boggett that she is a veritable expert in supplementary enlargement of one's horizons, for she obtained her Master's Degree and conducted research pertaining to said degree while continuing educating the youths (this research was published: "*The Body Design of Hagfishes (Eptatretus stoutii and Myxine glutinosa) Protects from Biting Predators*", and "*Flaccid skin protects hagfishes from shark bites*")!

Super Boggett is dedicated to helping others feel safe and succeed in their futures. As a teacher, she demonstrates thorough use of science related puns and enthusiasm for the subject, helping foster a love of all things science in her students. However, there is more to her impact than just the class time. Every Tuesday period four lunch, she supervises and participates in the Bayside Secondary School Senior GSA (Gender/Sexuality Alliance or Gay/Straight Alliance). This is one of the reasons she is learning about Gender and Sexuality in her university course, to further understand how best to help LGBTQ+ youths. Every week she comes in full of happiness and smiles for everyone, she asks us how our days and weeks have been, and then we talk about anything and everything under the sun. GSA is one of my favourite times of the week, I get to talk to new friends, learn about different identities and orientations from experts, and I get to engage in frivolous conversation about cookies, movies I'd like to see, or the intricacies of pickling various goods using lemon juice. Such a time is important to me and has made a wonderful impact on my highschool experience. Super Boggett invests her free time in providing a safe space for the LGBTQ+ Community and those who support them in our school. Even at such a wonderful school as Bayside, there are people who are uneducated with regards to the LGBTQ+ Community, and therefore feel justified in hurting them; there have been some incidents over the years that have required intervention. At each trial, Super Boggett conducts herself with composure and authority, she advocates for the GSA's place in our school. One way she has done this is she helped us enable the hanging of the Pride Flag in our lobby for Pride Month. The joy that I felt every time I walked past it was overwhelming. There was an incident involving said flag that was very hurtful and made many GSA-goers feel uncomfortable and unsafe. Super Boggett stood up for us and inspired us to stand up for ourselves. Super Boggett has always inspired us to expand our reach and educate the students of Bayside about the LGBTQ+ Community. Her strength and optimism have rubbed off on many and has left me no choice but to document my appreciation for her glorious self. I aspire to grow up to be a compassionate, welcoming, Strong Woman, like Ms Sarah Boggett.

## LOCAL WINNER:

### Emma Sagriff, ESS, "The Person Who Helped Me Find My Way"



Strong people help other people. A strong woman isn't about what's on the outside it's about what's on the inside. It's about what you do for other people and how you make them feel. It's about how you make others feel.

You can be the strongest person in the world but you can also be the weakest. You can be able to carry heavy things or be able to punch a hole in the wall, but if you can do all of that but you hurt people in the process, then you are not the strongest person. The strongest person I know is Bev Haight. She's the strongest person I know because she took me in, taught me how to take care of myself and taught me what love is.

Bev took me in and gave me a warm place to live even though she didn't know me. She opened her home and made me feel like I belong even when I had nowhere else to go. I have my own room and she gave me signs to decorate it. She also helped me to decorate my room. Bev gave me things I need like school supplies, a new desk, and new clothes.

Bev taught me to take care of myself. She taught me to eat healthier and about healthy portions. Bev also taught me about healthy relationships and how to cope with my emotions and my mom. She taught me how to trust other people around me. Bev gave me the encouragement to look after my body and my health.

Bev has taught me what real love is, and she showed me how you should treat the people you love. Bev taught me that I can accept love, she always makes me laugh when I'm upset at my mom and makes me happy. Bev treats me like I'm her own daughter. I love her with all my heart.

So in conclusion, I believe strong people help other people. Bev did this by taking me in, teaching me to take care of myself and showing me what real love is. I wouldn't be where I am today if it wasn't for Bev and I love her always and forever. I think that we all need someone like Bev Haight.



Centennial Secondary School



Bayside Secondary School



North Hastings High School



Eastside Secondary School



PECI



Centre Hastings Secondary School



Trenton High School

# SAVE THE DATE WellnessDay 2020

Swimming

Open Gym

Aquatics

Gym

Arena

Swimming

Basketball

Skating



# 04 25

# 2020

SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2020



More Details to follow



**Just a reminder...Quotations from your CA!**

Part of the Central Agreement reached between the government and OSSTF includes the use of a functional abilities form for ongoing absences longer than 5 consecutive days (Appendix B – p. A-15). Members needing a form can download and print one from the Board website by opening the About HPEDSB dropdown menu, selecting Policies and Procedures, going to 400 Personnel and Staff Relations and selecting Form 423-6 OSSTF Functional Abilities Form. Member experiencing difficulties accessing the form can contact the District Office.

In addition to 11 Sick Days at 100% salary; 120 Short Term Disability Leave Plan days (STDLP) days at 90% salary and Top-up of the 90% days to 100% from the unused 11 Sick Days of the previous year, D29 members are also entitled to the following paid leave days

- L14.02.03** for a funeral in the immediate family, up to a maximum of three (3) working days for each bereavement; an extension may be granted by permission of the Superintendent of Human Resources - Teaching Staff.
- L14.02.04** for funerals other than immediate family up to one working (1) day for each bereavement.
- L14.02.08** illness in the immediate family, four (4) working days/school year
- L14.02.10** non-attendance because of inclement weather subject to timely notification of the Principal or designate.
- L14.02.11** up to three days to attend the birth of, or responsibilities related to the birth of, a child, a surrogate child, or to receive an adopted child.
- L14.02.12** to attend the birth of a grandchild (1 working day)



**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**NOVEMBER**  
 4 — Political Action  
 5 — Quinte Labour Council  
 6 — Council  
 13 — Collective Bargaining  
 18 — Status of Women/ Human Rights  
 19 — Communications Excellence in Education  
 20 — Health & Safety  
 25 — Political Action  
 27 — Executive

**DECEMBER**  
 2 — Educational Services  
 3 — QLC  
 4 — Council  
 4 — Strike Day  
 11 — Strike Day  
 18 — Health & Safety  
 18 — Executive

## How to protect your family from deadly, invisible gases



Radon and carbon monoxide are poisonous gases that are odourless, colourless and tasteless, making them threats to the safety of your home.

Exposure to high levels of radon is the leading cause of lung cancer in non-smokers, causing over 3,200 Canadian deaths each year<sup>1</sup>. Carbon monoxide is the leading cause of fatal poisonings in North America.

By following the steps below and taking the proper precautions, you can help protect your home and family from these deadly gases.



To learn more, click here: [www.otipinsurance.com/article51](http://www.otipinsurance.com/article51)

# December 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Strike Days



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OSSTF D29 Hastings-Prince Edward Education

Timeline About Photos Likes More

OSSTF D29 Hastings-Prince Edward

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