



Ontario Council For
Technology Education

OCTE Conference May 12-14, 2011

Elementary Conference Descriptions

OCTE Elementary Welcome Session (Elementary Committee) (Thursday – 7:00 to 8:00 pm)

This welcoming session will introduce the Elementary Committee, highlighting its function and available support, including the website and strategies you can use to advocate for your Science and Technology program.

Making STSE Connections in your Science and Technology Program (Terry Wilkinson – Toronto DSB) (Friday - 9:00 to 10:15 am)

In this workshop, participants will be involved in a cooperative learning activity featuring connections to Relating Science and Technology to Society and the Environment (STSE). *The Story of Stuff* video will be used to emphasize these connections.

Don't Get Caught! Safety in the Science and Technology Classroom (Ian Darling – DSB of Niagara, Bob Moulder, Sue Philip – Halton DSB)

Presenters will share practical tips and techniques for safely using various tools and materials in the technology component of the Science and Technology program.

(Friday – 10:45 am to 12:00 pm)

Biomimicry – Innovation Inspired by Nature (Elementary Committee) (Friday - 2:00 to 4:50 pm)

“Biomimicry is the science and art of emulating nature’s best (ideas) to solve human problems.” (Biomimicry Institute)

Explore this revolutionary approach to making connections between nature and technological innovation. Participants will use ideas inspired by nature to solve human problems through hands-on, design and construct activities, including strong and stable shelters (Primary), safety helmets (Junior), and cooling and irrigating systems (Intermediate). These activities will incorporate key aspects of *Growing Success: Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting in Ontario’s Schools*.

NOTE: Although the hands-on activities are designed for elementary teachers, the content of the overview at the beginning of the session will be of interest to all grades (K-12).

**Grab It and Get at It! (Educators from various school boards)
(Saturday - 8:45 to 10:00 am)**

Informally gather some practical classroom ideas (for all elementary grades, including some French Language resources) that are hands-on, engaging and easy to implement. Members of the OCTE Elementary committee, and educators from other school boards, will be available to answer questions and provide additional ideas.