



Staff Rep Weekly

Please share this important information with all VESTA members

Dates to Remember

Meetings at VESTA Office, 4 PM unless otherwise noted

December 4
Teachers Teaching On Call Committee

December 5
Aboriginal Education Committee, 3:45 PM

December 6
Status of Women Committee, Special Event at Thornton Park

December 11
General Meeting / Staff Rep Assembly, Tupper Secondary Cafeteria

December 13
Sustainability Committee

December 19
Health and Safety Committee

December 6 Day of Remembrance Event

December 6 is the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women in Canada. Established in 1991 by the Parliament of Canada, this day marks the anniversary of the murders in 1989 of 14 young women at l'École Polytechnique de Montréal.

Women in Vancouver gather at the Women's Monument called Marker of Change in Thornton Park, at Terminal Avenue and Main Street. VESTA's Status of Women Committee will be participating in this memorial and invite others to join them.

Teachers who choose to may to recognize this day with a moment of silence at their schools in memory of these women.

Communications/Election Messages

There was a short brainstorm session at the November Staff Rep Assembly to try and provide positive messages we can share with the public to promote our public school system and focus on both its strengths and its ongoing needs.

Teachers at every school are encouraged to provide examples of positive messages. They will be used to highlight the importance of education issues in the 2013 provincial election campaign.

The suggested format is to write about what we do well and what we wish for the future. An example might be: "We are good at meeting many of the diverse needs at our school. We wish that more specialist teacher staffing was available for students that need it."



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Gifts that Give to Children in Need

At the Dec. 11th General Meeting and Staff Rep Assembly there will be a table of tote bags made by members of the GoGo grandmother-groups to support the Stephen Lewis Foundation. The foundation works to "turn the tide against HIV/AIDS" in Africa. The bags are beautiful and perfect for carrying teacher stuff (notebooks, books, piles of work to be marked etc.) or whatever else you choose. They cost \$35-40. Greeting cards will also be available.

\$19 will pay a year's tuition for an African child to attend nursery school. \$44 covers the cost of tuition, school uniform, shoes, books and pens and pencils for a year for a primary school child.