



Stronger Together

2014 January 15

Staff Rep Weekly

Please share this important information with all VESTA members

Dates to Remember

*Meetings at VESTA office
4pm unless otherwise
indicated.*

January 16

Adult Ed Exec 2pm

January 16

Professional Issues

January 20

Tech Advisory
Status of Women

January 21

Aboriginal Education

January 23

Sustainability
Health and Safety

E-mail!

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FSA Testing– Reinforcing our opposition

Like a bad nightmare, our members are yet again faced with the spectre of the FSA test. It is well known that the FSA test is poorly conceived and not a valid or reliable measurement of student achievement. The misuse of this test's results by the Fraser Institute (FI) to rank schools in their Report Card misleads parents instead of helps them to choose a school for their children. "The Fraser Institute's relentless pursuit of school choice is a Trojan horse for its assault on taxpayer-supported public institutions. The FI appears determined to turn a public benefit into a private privilege by undermining confidence in public schooling." - Dr. Charles Ungerleider, Professor of Sociology of Education, University of BC.

Parents need to be informed about the truth; this standardized testing is a weapon used against public education and their children. This is the role of each member- to educate the parents about the FSA and to provide them with information about how to withdraw their child from this ludicrous test. Staff reps were emailed a package of materials about the FSA, and all members are strongly encouraged to send home a letter of individual expression of their professional judgement concerning the FSA. Members have a right to communicate their concerns about the FSA with parents, but this essential work also must be conducted as an act of individual expression, meaning that the majority of the content in these letters sent home must be written by members.

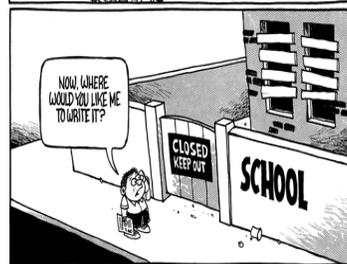
If any member needs help with drafting a letter to parents about the FSA, please assist them and also advise members that they can contact the VESTA office for assistance.

Keep this fight going! Print ads to support our efforts are to appear this Thursday and Friday in the 24 Hours, Metro News and Vancouver Courier.

How the Wealthy got even richer: Globalization

An examination of top wage earners illustrates that their annual incomes have more than doubled in the last 30 years while the median taxpayer's income has increased hardly at all, clear evidence that in Canada – like in the USA – the wealthy have reaped the greatest benefit from the economy's growth and productivity improvements, concurrent with increasing globalization.

Incomes in the top 1 per cent have jumped 80 per cent since 1986, according to inflation-adjusted calculations by McMaster University: 138 % for the top 0.1 % of earners and 169 % among the top 0.01 % – contrasted with increases of 19 % for the bottom 90 % of earners. Unequivocally, "the most affluent are gaining a greater share of the income pie." (Source- "How globalization has left the 1 per cent even further ahead." Tavia Grant, Janet McFarland, Globe & Mail, 2013.11.14)



Coming Events

VTF and VESTA General Meeting – On Tuesday, January 21 at 4pm, Tupper Secondary Auditorium. Election of our BCTF AGM delegates, discussion of VESTA building issues and school calendar changes are on the agenda.

School Visits– Staff reps will be contacted to arrange VESTA meetings before January 29. Members of the VESTA Executive will be visiting each school.