



Stronger Together

2017 January 4

VESTA Weekly

Topics Worth Talking about! Please read and discuss with your colleagues

Dates to Remember

Meetings at VESTA office 4pm unless otherwise indicated

January 9
Elections Committee

January 10
Executive Committee

January 12
School Design &
Seismic Upgrade Ad
Hoc Committee



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Welcome Back!

Welcome to 2017! We hope everyone had a restful and wonderful break with family and friends.

BCTF AGM Delegates Reminder

A reminder to anyone interested in being a VESTA delegate to the BCTF AGM, nomination forms are due into the VESTA office by January 10. This year VESTA can send up to 30 delegates to the AGM to represent our local. The AGM will be held on March 18–21 this year at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Vancouver. If interested, the forms can be found on the VESTA website under *Documents—Other Forms* or click on the following [link](#). Delegates will be appointed at the next VESTA general meeting on January 17.

Booking Absences

A reminder to please book your TTOC through SFE as soon as you know that you will be absent from your position. This is particularly important when booking an absence on a day when many teachers may be away (workshops, union training, etc.) However, we recognize that this is not always possible as there are many reasons and circumstances beyond teachers' control.

FSA (Foundational Skills Assessment)

The FSA (Foundational Skills Assessment) is scheduled to be administered from January 9 to February 17 2017 for Grade 4 and 7 students. The VSB letter informing parents will be coming to schools next week. It is our understanding that this year's letter will not include the opt out portion for parents. If teachers would like more information please visit the BCTF website and information page [Parents Should Know: FSA Tests Are Not Useful](#) and [Request that your child be excused from the FSA letter](#) which can go home along with the VSB letter via students. If you are sending any union materials home please ensure that they are in a sealed envelope or stapled format, and clearly addressed to parents or guardians. You may alternatively distribute a personal letter from you or your staff about your professional concerns regarding the value of the FSA test and the way the information is used, in the same manner. Links to the BCTF materials in a variety of languages are also available on the BCTF website.