



Stronger Together

February 15, 2018

VESTA Weekly

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

Dates to Remember

Meetings at the VESTA office start at 4pm unless otherwise indicated.

Professional Issues

CMTE Pro-D Opportunity

Blanket Exercise 9-12
February 19 VESTA office

Social Justice & Solidarity CMTE Pro-D Opportunity

February 19, 9am-3pm
Van Horne Elementary

Staff Rep Assembly/ General Meeting

February 20

TTOC Committee Meeting

February 21



Chloë McKnight
President
chloe@vesta.ca

Jill Barclay
1st Vice President
jill@vesta.ca

Joanne Sutherland
2nd Vice President
joanne@vesta.ca

Allison Jambor
3rd Vice President
allison@vesta.ca

Jody Polukoshko
4th Vice President
jody@vesta.ca

Hollie Williams
AE Sublocal President
hollie@vesta.ca

Office: 604-873-8378
Fax: 604-873-2652
www.vesta.ca

Curriculum Day Added for 2018/19!

The Ministry of Education has announced that a seventh non-instructional day has been added to the calendar for the coming school year to provide teachers with more time to deepen their understanding of the new curriculum. Also, like this year, the day that used to be the School Planning Day will be dedicated to curriculum implementation. Thus, we will have our five regular pro-d days, plus two curriculum implementation days. A draft calendar is available for the coming school year on the VSB site at https://www.vsb.bc.ca/sites/default/files/item%201_1.pdf. The draft does not have the seventh non-instructional day on it, but the committee had discussed the possibility and set aside May 17, 2018 for just such an announcement. There may be some other slight changes to the calendar due to the adjustment of Family Day. As in the past, 3 of the pro-d days are set and 2 are flexible. Please remember that we have flexible days so that schools can adjust the days and ensure that part-time teachers will have access to pro-d.

BCTF Survey of Kindergarten Teachers

The BCTF, in collaboration with the BC Primary Teachers' Association (BCPTA), invites Kindergarten and K/1 split teachers to complete a survey on working and learning conditions. If you are **currently** teaching Kindergarten in the 2017-18 school year, or have taught K or K/1 within the **past 24 months** (i.e. since 2016-17), you are encouraged to complete the survey by clicking this link to begin: <http://form.simplesurvey.com/f/FullDayKSurvey2018>. Participation is voluntary and individual information will be kept confidential. Your input is valuable so please take 15 minutes to complete the survey. Findings will be used to help the BCTF and BCPTA understand and advocate for K/K-1 teachers' working and learning provisions. A preliminary report is scheduled for release in Spring 2018. Any questions regarding the survey can be directed to Anne Hales, BCTF Senior Researcher (ahales@bctf.ca; 604-871-2243). The survey will be available until March 2.

Curriculum Change and Implementation Survey

Teachers from 57 districts across the province including many from Vancouver participated in the BCTF Curriculum Change and Implementation Survey last fall and the results have been collated and released. You can find the full report at <https://bctf.ca/uploadedFiles/Public/Issues/Curriculum/Survey/2017Survey.pdf>. The survey validates what we have heard as concerns in that many teachers report that their workload has increased due to the scale of the changes, the lack of resources, uncertainty with the implementation process and concurrent changes to assessment and reporting. More than 3/4 of teachers also reported that class size and composition and the diversity of student needs has a moderate to large impact on their ability to implement the redesigned curriculum. The report has facts and figures as well as anecdotal comments from teachers across the province. Thank you to those teachers who took the time to participate in the survey. These tools can help shape the landscape as we head into bargaining.

Timelines for Notifications to the Board

As a reminder, the deadlines for spring transfer and return from leave are fast approaching. March 15 at 4:30 is the deadline to submit your transfer card, aka vacate card, if you plan to give up your position at your school and participate as a B in the spring transfer process. Also, those part-time teachers who would like to increase their FTE at their current school for September must complete the form and have it received by HR no later than 4:30 on March 31. As the deadline for increase in time falls on the March Break, we recommend completing required paperwork and submitting it well before the break to ensure it gets to HR on time. March 31 is also the deadline to apply for leaves of one year or longer. The Spring Transfer Period postings will be out from June 5 to June 11. Check the Spring 2018 Timeline available through your principal for more information.