



Stronger Together

April 26, 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.

Social Justice & Aboriginal Meeting
May 1

Executive Committee Meeting
May 8

VESTA Annual General Meeting
May 15 at 4:00pm
VanDusen Gardens



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Day of Mourning for Workers Killed or Injured on the Job

April 28 is the National Day of Mourning, a day to commemorate those whose lives have been forever changed by a workplace accident or illness. Last year 158 workers in BC died from a workplace injury or disease. There will be a ceremony held at Jack Poole Plaza in Vancouver starting at 11:45 am this Saturday, the 28th. All are invited to attend. VESTA will be represented at the ceremony by Karin Bernauer, our Health and Safety Committee Chair, who will be laying a wreath in commemoration. If you would like more information go to <http://www.dayofmourning.bc.ca/>. The ceremony will be live streamed. Check the site above.

Teacher Candidate Information Sessions

VESTA will be holding a Teacher Candidate Welcome to the Union Information Session on June 12 at the VESTA office starting at 4pm. If you have a student teacher please make them aware of the sessions. Sponsor teachers are also welcome to attend this event at the VESTA office, although teacher candidates need not be accompanied to attend.

The VSB will also be holding information sessions for Teacher Candidates at the Education Center at Broadway and Fir on May 3 from 4 to 6pm and on May 15th from 4:30 to 6:30.

Calendar Setting of Pro-D Days for 2018/19

Schools need submit their calendar to the Board shortly so teachers should be meeting to discuss the setting of the flexible pro-d days. Changing one or both of your flexible dates can allow your staff to have the opportunity to visit another school that is in session and give teachers the chance to see other teachers in action. With the lack of release time we have had recently due to the teacher shortage, these opportunities have been limited. Watching others teach can help us to adjust our own practice and is a fantastic way to develop as professionals. Changing your flexible dates should also accommodate part-time teachers who have limited access to pro-d due to the fact that most dates are on Fridays or Mondays. For the 2018/2019 school year we will have 5 pro-d days and 2 curriculum implementation days. The flexible pro-days are September 21 and January 25.

Check your Pay Statement

Please check and ensure that your annual \$80 fee for TRB certification has been deducted from your April 30 paycheque. TRB Certification is required for you to teach in British Columbia. Payment is normally made on your behalf by the Board, as required by the *Teachers Act*. If the deduction has not been made, please contact the Board at payrollandbenefits@vsb.bc.ca. The payment needs to be made to the TRB by May 31, after which there is a \$30 late fee for the first month and a \$140 fee and certification suspension after June 30. It is especially important if you are on leave or do not receive a payment on April 30, to ensure that you pay the TRB directly through their website. Check <https://www.bcteacherregulation.ca/CertificateServices/FeelInformation.aspx>.

Fraser Institute Ranking of Schools

With the recent release by the Fraser Institute, now is a good time to remind parents that teachers have long been concerned about the FSA tests and the misuse of the data by the Fraser Institute to unfairly and inappropriately rank schools. These rankings serve no academic or social purpose. A single written test should never be used to rank the quality of a school, because it ignores the rich variety of learning and experiences students have there. Parents are always encouraged to talk to their child's teacher about their progress.