



**Stronger Together**

# VESTA Weekly

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

November 30, 2018

## National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women

VESTA policy is that teachers be encouraged to observe with their students, on **December 6**, a minute of silence in memory of the fourteen women murdered at Montreal Polytechnique and for all women and girls who are victims of violence. The BCTF Status of Women Committee has many resources to help with teaching about violence against women available through <https://bctf.ca/SocialJustice.aspx?id=47496>.

In addition, VESTA invites teachers to come to Thornton Park on Dec 6 at 4:30 to commemorate the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women.

## Finance Committees

The school budget books were sent to schools in the past week. Now is a good time for the school-based Finance Committees to meet and review the information. The Finance Committee, like the Professional Development Committee, is named in our Collective Agreement (CA) and is a subset of the Staff Committee. Recommendations, made in the form of motions, from the Finance Committee go to the Staff Committee for teachers to vote on. The CA states, "the school administrator is an ex-officio member of the committee and may attend any meeting" (CA, p. 17). The principal, like all members of the committee, has one vote regarding recommendations being forwarded to the Staff Committee. As with other motions brought to the Staff Committee, "If the school administrator(s) does not follow the advice of the Staff Committee, reasons, which shall be recorded in the minutes, shall be provided verbally to the Committee." (CA, Art. A.5.c.iii.d, p. 17)

## Teachers Do Not Write Letters of Reference for Private Schools or Mini-School

This time of year, many teachers get requests from parents to write letters of reference for their children who will be going to private school or mini-school the following year. VESTA policy, available in the VESTA Policy Handbook on page 71, states

7. That teachers do not write letters of reference for students to be included with mini-school applications. 2018 Feb 20 SRA
8. That teachers do not write letters of reference for students applying to private school. 2018 Feb 20 SRA

The Board is clear that letters of reference from teachers are not a requirement for students applying to mini-school. The stance on letters of reference for private school reflects our position that public education is the best means of creating an egalitarian society and that private schools undermine public education by diverting funding. Also, we oppose the additional workload these requests can generate for members.

## \$1000 Bursary for the Child of a VESTA Member

The annual draw for a \$1000 bursary for a child of a VESTA member will be held at the December 11<sup>th</sup> General Meeting. Get your forms in as soon as possible. The bursary application form is available through your staff rep and on the [VESTA website](#). In order to qualify for the bursary the child must have graduated from a public secondary school and must be attending a post secondary institution during the 2018/2019 school year. Send your completed application along with proof of registration to Olga, [olgac@vesta.ca](mailto:olgac@vesta.ca), or fax 604-873-2652.

## Dates to Remember

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

**Executive Committee Meeting**  
December 4

**Staff Rep Assembly/General Meeting**  
December 11

**TTOC Committee Meeting**  
December 12

**Communications Committee Meeting**  
December 13



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VESTA

*The Vancouver Elementary School Teachers' Association is the union representing elementary teachers and adult educators working in public schools in Vancouver.*