



Stronger Together

November 5, 2020

VESTA Weekly

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

Process for reporting of confirmed COVID cases

Thank you to all Staff Reps who shared and discussed the [“What to expect if there is a confirmed case in your school community”](#) document with their staff. Through meetings with the Provincial Health Office and Coastal Health, we have been making some headway on changing the notification process. We have been assured that the time lag for community notification will be reduced, and that teachers will play a greater role in the assessment of close contacts when a positive case is identified.

Advocacy and systemic change takes time, but the persistence of your VESTA and BCTF reps is beginning to be heard and we expect those changes to improve the ability of teachers to contribute our knowledge and input to the process.

November 27 Non-instructional Day

We have received communication from the board that principals have been notified that teachers may work from home on November 27th as the board will be conducting a virtual program for the day. Unfortunately, in the communication to principals, the day was referred to as a pro-d day, which it is not. It is the Ministry of Education mandated non-instructional day with “the purpose of providing teachers with an opportunity to participate in discussions and activities that focus on both of the following: (a) enhancing Indigenous student achievement; (b) integrating Indigenous world views and perspectives into learning environments.” as stated in the School Calendar Regulations. On our pro-d days we enjoy the professional autonomy to choose our topics for professional learning and while there may be overlap with these topics on our professional days, on November 27th we cannot choose to focus on other areas. Pro-d chairs and committees have no need to collect information from teachers regarding their whereabouts for that day, but all members need to inform their admin the location from which they will be participating in the day’s activities.

Health and Safety Rep Release Time

School based health and safety representatives have access to ½ day of release time through VESTA per school in the months of November and December. If you wish to access these, please book them using SFE Code 141 and email olgac@vesta.ca when you have done so.

VESTA TTOC form

Part of how we’re caring for ourselves and each other is staying home when we’re sick. Remember that your on-call colleagues are professionals and can bring your lesson plans to life – they may do something interesting you won’t have thought of doing! [The VESTA TTOC committee has developed a standard form](#) teachers can leave with their dayplan that provides information TTOCs need and saves you the trouble of leaving the same information multiple times.

VESTA Bursary

Each year, VESTA provides a \$1000 bursary for the child of a VESTA member who is registered to attend a post-secondary institution. The [application form](#) must be completed and submitted to VESTA by December 4th and the bursary will be awarded by random draw at the December 8 Staff Rep Assembly.

School Interviews

In the most recent round of bargaining, the VTF removed the requirement for teachers to sit on school interview committees due to the challenging nature of the role vis-à-vis the Code of Ethics. However, the Staff Committee Meeting language continues to provide rights for teachers around post and fill and school organization. VESTA members have the right through SCM to provide advice to administrators about what positions should be posted, the language in the postings, and to request information about the shortlisting and interviewing process. This matter will be discussed at the upcoming Staff Rep Assembly on November 17.

Provincial Election

Thank you to teachers and to VESTA's Political Action Committee who worked so hard during the previous weeks to engage themselves, their communities and their classes in the Provincial election. Participation in the democratic process is an important part of how we approach our work and how we model civic participation for our students. We now know we will be negotiating with a stable government during the next round of bargaining in 2022 and it's now time for us to hold our elected representatives to account.

Dates to Remember:

NOTE

Please sign into the meeting using the link below. Please sign in early if the platform is new to you as the meeting will begin promptly at 4:00 pm.

Use of video is optional, but please rename your profile to show your first and last name and school name.

Communications Committee Meeting

November 5

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/97562833424?pwd=T3ZTeDNDUnU1bXFyMGtrQ1VRYmdEdz09>

Meeting ID: 975 6283 3424

Passcode: 056823

Dial by your location

+1 778 907 2071 Canada

Executive Committee Meeting

November 10

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/99037028137?pwd=VmVqb0ZoY2xkc3JycmRVdDh4WnVaUT09>

Meeting ID: 990 3702 8137

Passcode: 117115

Dial by your location

+1 778 907 2071 Canada

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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.