

Issue # 1

September 9, 2004

NEWSLETTER OF THE DELTA TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

President's Column

Welcome back! I hope you took advantage of the incredible weather that prevailed this summer and returned to your classrooms energized to take on the many challenges of being a teacher. "Teachers are the Ones who Motivate and Inspire," was the title of an editorial in the Vancouver Sun on Tuesday, September 7, 2004. Given the trend of the media to focus negatively on education issues, this article was refreshing, worth reading, and certainly true!

More good news: NOW Communications, the firm that the BCTF hired to help plan a media campaign for the upcoming provincial election on May 17, 2005, did extensive polling on public perception of the state of public education in this province. It appears that the public understands the issues important to quality public education such as class size; almost 85 % of those polled believe that classroom teachers are the most credible source of information about public schools! You will each receive a copy of this information in a brochure later this month. Be sure to share the brochure with your friends and relatives.

And now for news about the BC College of Teachers (BCCT): Elections for BCCT councillors in five zones are underway; councillors were acclaimed in seven zones, including ours. At this time, the BCTF continues to encourage members to refrain from paying their dues to the College. The BCTF Representative Assembly, which meets at the beginning of November (or sooner), will be making a recommendation to members about dues. Although members received a letter in July from the BCCT reminding members of the penalties of not paying dues on time, your membership is still current until the end of November. Teachers who sent letters last fall asking the Board to not deduct BCCT fees, will not have their fees deducted by the Board until the Board is notified in writing of a change to this request. More information will be forthcoming at the DTA Staff Rep meeting on September 27.

As we head into a year that will culminate with the provincial election, I encourage each of you to become involved in a campaign in some way. The last time teachers became involved in a provincial election, the government of the day was defeated. **We can make a difference!**

Val

Computer Equipment Theft in Coquitlam

In August, the school board office in Coquitlam was broken into. Computer equipment containing confidential employee and student registration information was stolen. The school board has notified those present and former employees whose addresses were up to date of the theft. If you once worked in Coquitlam as a teacher or teacher on call and did not receive a letter notifying you of the theft, you should contact the Coquitlam School Board office immediately.

The DTA asked the Delta Human Resources department about the security of Delta employee information. While the Board has made the issue of security of personal employee and student information a high district priority, it has done a further assessment and refinement of the security system. Individual office lock downs are routine, no sensitive data resides on individual computers, the security of the main server has been confirmed and ID is required to log into the system. The Board believes the system is secure.



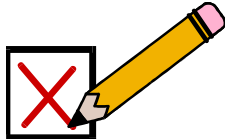
Alice McQuade, NDSS teacher, was acclaimed the BCCT Councillor for Zone 9 – Delta/Surrey.

Later this month, Alice will begin her duties as our representative at the College. With a wealth of experience in teaching and also as past president of the BCTF and the DTA, Alice is very well qualified to represent the interests of members at BCCT meetings. **Congratulations, Alice!**

ELECTION COUNTDOWN

Provincial Election: May 17, 2005

Are you registered to vote?



Not sure?

Call Elections BC at 1.800.661-8683

www.elections.bc.ca

U.S. Presidential Election:

If you are (or someone you know is) a U.S. citizen living in Canada, or a holder of dual citizenship (American/Canadian), you can vote in the American Presidential Elections, no matter how long you've been away, even if you have never voted before in an American election. However, if you would like to exercise your right to vote in this crucial election year, you must register soon, in most states by Sept. 15th. For more information, go to this website.

www.overseasvote2004.com

PB+15 Information: Article G3 of the Collective Agreement states that salary category changes as a result of the completion of PB+15 will be effective at the beginning of the term following notification from you to the Board that you have completed PB+15. This means that if you have completed PB+15 during the summer, you must notify the Board ASAP in order to be placed in your new category for September. The same applies if you finish your PB+15 in the fall; you must notify the Board before the end of December.



To drink lots of water to keep those tired vocal cords lubricated in the first weeks back to school. Saves vocal stress. *Jeanie Lucas, DTA 2nd VP and OH & S chair.*

FACTOR 88

Withdrawal from Long Term Disability

Teachers aged 64 or whose combined age plus years of service make "factor 88" are entitled to stop contributing to the Long Term Disability Plan provided they have enough sick leave. Phone 604.871-1921 for an application form.

New Name, Phone number, Address?

If you have changed your name, address or phone number over the summer, please contact the DTA office at 604.946-0391 so we can update our records. Also, please inform the BCTF Member Records Dept. at 604.871-2192.



DATES TO REMEMBER

- September 27th - Staff Rep Assembly
- October 6th - PD Contacts Training
- October 14th - Rookie Staff Rep Training
- October 20th - New Teacher Orientation workshop
- October 26th & 28th - Staff Rep Training



Ways to help the DTA support you

1. Take on a leadership role in the DTA – consider becoming a School Staff Rep – training is provided, meetings are held 8 times a year and the food is great! Join a committee – start small but start somewhere.
2. Come to DTA meetings – General Meeting (1), Staff Rep Assemblies (8 per year), Annual General Meeting (1)
3. Take on a leadership role in the DTA – consider becoming a School Staff Rep – training is provided, meetings are held 8 times a year and the food is great! Join a committee – start small but start somewhere.
4. Give your input – through surveys, meetings, etc.
5. Keep the DTA in the know about issues that are impacting you/your staff – the sooner the better.