

NEWSLETTER OF THE DELTA TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION


President's Column

The new College Council met for first time on October 1. I had the opportunity to attend this first public meeting of the democratically elected BC College of Teachers. I noticed an incredible contrast between this meeting and those of the former council. The public meetings of the government appointed council rarely went past noon, due mainly to the fact that there was rarely any substantial discussion by the appointees of proposed motions, some of which had huge impact on members – such as the standards document. This meeting was filled with debate and discussion from beginning to end, and didn't conclude until 4:15 pm. When one of the current appointees stated opposition to new items being added to the agenda of the meeting (an agenda that was created by the registrar without any input from the councillors), Delta teacher and new councillor, Alice McQuade, pointed out that the meeting was the first opportunity for new councillors to add items for discussion and that they were exercising their democratic rights on behalf of the members who had elected them.

New BCCT By-laws approved by the Liberal government ties teacher certification to the payment of BCCT dues. For the first time, retired teachers and teachers on long-term medical leave were to be required to pay dues. The former council budgeted for the receipt of \$290,000 in dues from non-practicing teachers. This council set the fee for these teachers at \$0.00 and directed the BCCT staff to find efficiencies to pay for the loss of projected income. It appears that the College will learn to do more with less, like everyone else in the education community! A BCCT conference, scheduled for mid October that had only 20 paid up participants was cancelled and a proposal was made to host another conference at a later date, this time with all of the College member groups being represented in the organization of the conference program. Democracy was alive and well in this first meeting!

The BCTF Representative Assembly meets October 29 – 30 and will be making recommendations to pay or not pay the BCCT fee, and also on the disposition of the funds in the BCTF Democratic College fund. The DTA Executive Committee and the Staff Rep Assembly have recommended that members pay the fee, and that the money be returned to members. Local Reps will take this information to the BCTF RA. A province-wide vote on the recommendations will take place between November 1 and 10. More details about the vote in Delta will be available after October 26, the next Staff Rep meeting. Once the results are announced on November 12, the DTA will inform members through our electronic mailing lists. Should the membership vote to pay the fee, there is more than enough time for members to mail cheques to the College before the end of November. As a result of teachers staying united, the Liberals restored the College to a majority of elected members. It's time to move on to supporting the new College Council to undo or redo some of the changes made by the appointed council. It is also time for us to move on to the next two issues that will impact teachers – provincial bargaining and the provincial election in May.

Val




**“TAD” BOYES
SCHOLARSHIP
WINNER**

Congratulations to Kristen Sawatsky, daughter of Frank (DSS) and Colleen (Ladner Elem.), DTA recipient of the \$600. “Tad” Boyes scholarship. Kristen’s future plans are to follow in her parent’s footsteps to become a teacher.

"HELLO HEALTH"



As flu season approaches Laurie Stowe our SBO "Health and Safety Angel" has arranged the annual flu vaccinations. Nurses will be doing a traveling jab show on November 2 and 3 according to the schedule available at your school. Consent forms will be available in the school mail on October 21. If you require a Hep B shot this year you must be pre-approved, so email Laurie at lstowe@deltasd.bc.ca before October 29th. Makeup flu shots are available at the Resource Centre on November 10 between 2:30 - 5:00 p.m. Are you afraid of needles?

Washing  your hands frequently and thoroughly will also help keep the flu away. *Jeanie*

Lucas DTA 2nd VP & OH&S Chair
jazzyjeanie@hotmail.com

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- **October 26 & 28** – Staff Rep Training - Resource Centre. Call the DTA for your release code.
- **November 17** – Mentorship workshop 4-6 at Resource Centre
- **November 22** – DTA Induction/Social ceremony 4-6 at

Department of National Defence

For teaching opportunities in schools overseas in the Netherlands and in Belgium visit the DND web site www.forces.gc.ca/dgcb/educat for criteria information.



REMINDER

FSA FIELD TEST

Each fall, the ministry field-tests FSA tests. They use grade fives to field test the grade 4 test (that will be administered next spring), and grade eights to field-test the grade 7 test intended for next spring. The 2004 BCTF AGM advises teachers to do no more than to administer FSA tests – that is, not to field test, write items, or mark the tests.

Joint School District/DTA Orientation Session for teachers new to Delta November 4th

The meeting will be held at Delta Secondary School Staff Dining Room
4:00 p.m.

An interactive
informative session
with refreshments.

Executive vacancy for
Teacher on Call Rep.
Send nominations to the
DTA

Public Education Advocacy Committee News

208 days

until May 17, 2005

Our Provincial campaign for public education has begun! You may have noticed the BCTF ads on CSI and other popular T.V. shows. We have two billboards near the Tsawwassen ferry terminal. Next door in Surrey-Panorama Ridge, the by-election for October 28th is in full swing. Call the DTA office if you would like to help in this critical campaign. *Pat Truelove, PEAC Chair*

2004 Christmas Vacation in Mexico

"The Manzanillo Dirt Bike Bicycle Tour". All abilities. Options for non-riders. For further information call Barb at 604.536-4089 or email at thelommels@shaw.ca

DTA OFFICE CLOSURE

The DTA Executive Committee passed a motion at the September 21, 2004 meeting to close the DTA office on the following dates with the President and 1st Vice-president available for emergency calls as necessary: November 12 and 15, 2004; March 30, 31; April 1, 2005.

