



President's Column

Paying the College Fee

The majority of members who participated in the province-wide vote supported the recommendations of the BCTF Representative Assembly and voted in favor of paying the fee on an interim basis. This year's fee of \$75 is due by December 31, 2004. Members also supported the RA recommendation that the 2003-04 college fees paid to the BCTF Democratic College Fund be returned to those individuals who contributed to the fund.

The DTA and the BCTF are advising all members to pay the 2004 – 05 BCCT fee prior to the deadline date of December 31, 2004. The DTA is doing all it can to inform every member who sent a signed letter last year to the Board requesting that the college fee not be deducted by payroll about the need to pay the college fee this year. Detailed information about categories, fees and required paperwork can be found on the college web site: http://www.bcct.ca/documents/faqs_fees/pdf

Minister of Education Visits Delta

Tom Christensen, Minister of Education, was in Delta on Tuesday, November 16, 2004 for another whirlwind visit. I attended the Ready, Set, Learn kick-off at Port Guichon School. This is the new provincial initiative designed to help 3 year olds get ready for school. In return for hosting two open houses at their schools, each participating school will receive \$2500 to help cover the cost of the open houses with any surplus funds staying in the host school. While the concept of getting preschool children into public schools before Kindergarten is good, the timing of the announcement raises a question: Is this a one

time, election year goodie - or is it the beginning of an ongoing program?

Jan Eastman and I attended a round table meeting prior to the Chamber of Commerce lunch where the minister was the guest speaker. We had the opportunity to speak about teacher concerns around class size and composition, non-enrolling teachers and funding for libraries, support for students with special needs and the root cause of the ongoing problems: lack of adequate and stable funding. Those members of the business community who attended the round table seemed empathetic toward the issues the DTA raised. At the luncheon, the minister stayed the course with the Liberal party line – the economy is flourishing and it's time to spread some of the money throughout the province; but this will only happen with input from the public, who endured the pain of the last three years and should now share in how the money should be spent.

8 – 12 Reconfiguration

While DTA members in north end secondary schools are working hard to make the process of reconfiguration work for their schools, many concerns are surfacing. The DTA and the Board convened a joint meeting that included principals and teachers from the affected schools – Burnsville, North Delta, Delview, Sands and Seaquam - on November 16, 2004 with the purpose of sharing information, finding out each school's concerns and attempting to problem solve some of the pressing issues. Participants left the meeting with a greater understanding of each other's position. A second meeting is scheduled for December 9, 2004.





Welcome to fall, but don't. So here we are in the slippery season once again. Frost causes invisible danger in our parking lots. Hallways become wet and treacherous, and many of our members find themselves with twisted ankles, wrenched backs, or worse. Here are some suggestions to prevent these accidents:

- Wear sensible shoes.
- Don't walk past problem areas, wipe up the water/leaves or get help (the safety of our colleagues is our responsibility too, under the Workers Compensation Act)
- Keep a pair of dry shoes at your desk for inside use

We also have an exciting new district resource... the Musculoskeletal Injury Prevention Team (MSI Team) has now been trained, and members are available to solve your ergonomics problems. Do you have a workspace that is causing you pain? Are repetitive motions part of your daily job? We can help to correct these problems and will work with you to design a healthier environment. For help, contact Laurie Stowe at the SBO, or email me for further information. Happy autumn... 37 shopping days until Christmas – shop now to avoid the stress!

Jeanie Lucas

2nd VP, and OH&S Committee Chair
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NEW TEACHER INDUCTION & SOCIAL

MONDAY,
NOVEMBER 22, 2004

DISTRICT RESOURCE
CENTRE

4:00 – 6:00 P.M.

**An invitation is extended
to all friends and
colleagues of new teachers
to attend.**

The University of
British Columbia
Faculty of Education
Announces:

Diploma Program in
SPECIAL EDUCATION

Offered in the
Surrey School District
Starting January 19, 2005

Final application deadline
January 10, 2005
(enrollment is limited)

For registration support
Contact 604.822-8553 or
eplt.educ@ubc.ca

Date to Remember:

- Nov 29th – Staff



Congratulations to Darrel Scodellaro

Grade 11-12 Chemistry teacher at Seaquam for his newly published chemistry lab text, "*Essential Experiments for Chemistry*". This publication is a follow up to his first chemistry text and lab book published by Heath in 1987. Copies of this new textbook have been sold and distributed to various senior secondary schools throughout B.C.



HAPPY VALLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The DTA would like to extend its thanks to the many teachers and schools who have sent books and teaching materials to the DTA office for the Happy Valley Elementary School in Sooke. The DTA Social Justice Committee will sort the materials and see that they get delivered to Sooke. Your generosity is overwhelming and we know that the materials will be put to good use in their new home.

DTA NEWSLETTERS

Are we sending your school the correct number of newsletters for your staff? Please call the DTA office if you have a discrepancy.

