



TODAY

Issue # 8

March 10, 2005

NEWSLETTER OF THE DELTA TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

President's Column

District Day 2005:

Congratulations to the District Day Committee for another great District Day! A lot of time and effort went into making this District Day one of the most successful ever. Keynote speaker, John Abbott, was a highlight of the day for many conference attendees. Once again, Delta teachers and other district staff shared their knowledge and expertise in the workshops they facilitated. *Professional Development is alive and well in Delta!*

Delta Presentations to Delta School Board:

On February 24, 2005, the DTA made its annual presentation to the school board providing advice on its upcoming budget deliberations. The following recommendations were made to the Board:

- Provide additional teacher staffing to:
 - ◊ Reduce class size
 - ◊ Meet the needs of students with special needs, and
 - ◊ Assist the schools that are part of the reconfiguration process
- Provide additional custodial staff to ensure the maintenance and cleanliness of schools
- Prepare two budgets
 - ◊ The usual budget that gets submitted to the Ministry and
 - ◊ A budget based on needs

The district stated it does not yet know what Delta will receive from the \$150,000,000 that the government announced last month.

Wright Report Presentation to Board:

The DTA shared teachers' concerns about the Wright Report with trustees at the meeting on March 1, 2005. We hope the Board now understands why teachers are opposed to the report and how trustees and school districts will be impacted if the Wright Report is legislated.

Today the Liberals are dissolving the legislature and election campaigning officially commences. There are only **68 days** until the provincial election when we hope an education friendly government will be elected, however, just hoping won't cause the government to change - **getting involved will.**



Have a relaxing refreshing Spring Break.

DTA Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, May 3, 2005
North Delta Secondary
4:00 p.m.
Daycare Upon Request

This is the first call for nominations.



TAD BOYES SCHOLARSHIP

Application forms are available from the DTA office for the above scholarship. Applicants must be the son or daughter (graduation from a public school in BC) of a Delta teacher. The scholarship is \$600.00 and the criteria is based on academic excellence. The deadline is June 30th.

PUBLIC EDUCATION ADVOCACY NEWS

First, a big Thank You to **Tara Fisher, Johanna Sowerby, Gerry Rietze and Angelika Hedley** for coming forward and talking to *The Vancouver Sun* ("Teachers Face a Daily Struggle," Feb. 26.) Their willingness to speak out about the reality in classrooms was very helpful in our campaign of getting the facts out. I believe the message was well received around the province.

Keep the letters coming in! When you see an education-related item that causes you concern, don't just rail at your spouse; send an e-mail to the news source. You'll feel better! Even if your letter is not published, it is read by an editor, and becomes part of the media's picture of public attitudes. Here are some e-mail addresses for letters, and remember to include your home phone number.

The Sun: sunletters@png.canwest.com
The Province: provletters@png.canwest.com
The Leader: newsroom@surreyleader.com
editor@southdeltaleader.com
The Now: canderson@thenownewspaper.com
The Optimist: editor@delta-optimist.com
Global TV: globalbc.newstips@globaltv.ca

The government is currently intensifying its campaign of denying cuts to education by citing declining enrollment. Just to keep the record straight, since 2000/01, **BC student enrollment has indeed declined, but only by 3.6%. Teaching positions have declined 8.4%**
(Source: www.bced.gov.bc.ca/reporting/enrol/results/enrol/prov.pdf)

The public trusts teachers as the most credible source on conditions in schools, but they need to hear from us!
Patrick Truelove, PEAC chair

"HELLO HEALTH"

During our Health and Safety workshops last week we discussed several concerns about violence in the workplace. Remember that there are NO instances in which violence, whether verbal or physical is acceptable. Should you experience ANY violent incident, the District yellow Accident/Incident form must be completed. This will initiate an investigation by the site safety committee with the direct goal of preventing it from happening again. Be proactive, too. For example, if you have safety concerns about the parent-teacher interview format at your school, take your concerns to the site committee beforehand, to create solutions for worrisome situations. You may contact me with any questions that you have about the health or safety of our members. I will be very pleased to assist you.

Here we are only days from the March break, looking forward to a wonderful and rejuvenating holiday. The break is a time to fill your mental health bank balance. Think safety first!

Jeanie Lucas, DTA 2nd Vice-president & OH & S chair
jazyjeanie@hotmail.com



SYLVAN LEARNING AWARDS

The DTA is opposed to the Teacher of the Year Award being offered by Sylvan Learning Centres, a for profit business. In response to the DTA's request, the Board has informed us that the School District will not be participating in these awards.

PAID ED LEAVE REMINDER

The deadline for letters of application to the Board is **Thursday, March 31st**.



THINKING OF RETIRING? PLANNING A LEAVE OF ABSENCE?

Once you have made your decision, please inform Human Resources at the Board and submit your paper work ASAP. This will be helpful for next years staffing needs.