



Issue # 3

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NEWSLETTER OF THE DELTA TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

President's Column

Signing Bonus

Barring any technological glitches, Delta teachers should have signing bonus money deposited in their bank accounts on Friday, October 6th. The Board will transfer funds from other accounts into the salary account to pay for the incentive. Hopefully, the government will release the funds to all school boards in the province this week as indicated in the media last week.

Bill 33 – Class Size/Composition

The Board is carrying on with the requirements of Bill 33, meeting with the District Parent Advisory Committee and school trustees this week prior to making a report at a public Board meeting on October 10th. On Wednesday, October 4th, the DTA met with senior administrative staff and were shown the Board's report. The report is very basic in content. Next week, the Board will provide the DTA with copies of all of the Consent/Consultation sheets which document the process. The DTA will study the forms for class compositions and sizes that are anomalous. As new students move into Delta during the school year and classes exceed the limits, the consent/consultation process will continue.

Graduation Portfolios

On July 25, 2006, Education Minister, Shirley Bond, announced that graduation portfolios would not be mandatory for Grade 12 students graduating in the 2006-07 school year. Students who do not complete the portfolio will be given a Standing Granted (SG) instead of a letter grade and will receive four credits. An SG does not carry a percentage or a letter grade and does not affect the student's grade point average. Grade 12

students who opt to complete their portfolios can choose whether to have the percent and letter grade on their final transcripts, or an SG. There has been no change to the Planning 10 course and the ministry expects Grade 11 students to continue to work on their portfolios.

At one of the Ministry ordered reviews of the Grad Portfolio program in September, Ministry staff indicated that Shirley Bond's end of July decision was the result of many concerns expressed by parents, students and teachers. The review provides time for reflection about the program. Shirley Bond is expected to make an announcement about the future of grad portfolios some time in January or February. Will Grad Portfolios survive in their current form, be revised or disappear entirely? The outcome of the government review will be known in the new year.

Lower Mainland Pension Seminars 2006 – 2007

October 12/06	Richmond
October 14/06	Richmond
October 26/06	Delta
October 28/06	Delta
November 25/06	Abbotsford

Check the BCTF web site for locations
www.bctf.ca/pensions
No registration required.



“Tad” Boyes Scholarship Winner

Congratulations to Annamarie Kruithof, daughter of Leslie Gray (South Delta Secondary), DTA recipient of the \$600.00 “Tad” Boyes scholarship. She plans a career in the medical field.

The DTA Becomes a Member of the New Westminster and District Labour Council

Consistent with the vote of the Staff Representative Assembly, the DTA has been granted membership in the New Westminster and District Labour Council.

DTA President Val Windsor and 1st Vice President Paul Steer were initiated as DTA delegates to the NWDLC at its regular monthly meeting held Wednesday evening, September 27, in Burnaby. The DTA is entitled to send up to eight delegates to the council. Any DTA member wishing to serve as a delegate is encouraged to contact the DTA for more information.



Evaluating Students: How Teachers Justify and Defend Their Marks to Parents, Students and Principals

Written by Alex Shirran, Sands Secondary

This book is currently widely sold in Canada, the US, and Australia and it is being used for teacher-training programs and professional development.

For more information, visit
www.pembrokepublishers.com.

Twelve Month Pay Option

The Board will make the first of seventeen deductions (16% of net pay) on October 31st.

Support Oaxaca Teachers



World Teachers’ Day on October 5 serves to remind us that many of our colleagues around the world teach through turbulent times, dangerous situations, and dire need. In some countries teachers have become targets and are threatened, injured, or killed because of their dedication to educating young minds, and their commitment to social justice.

The teachers in the state of Oaxaca in Mexico have been on strike since May. In addition to seeking a living wage for teachers, their demands are for meals, textbooks, and better conditions for their students, many of whom are poor and indigenous.

The governor of Oaxaca sent in 3,000 police to break up a peaceful occupation of a public square on June 13. Several people have been killed in this and other protests. Large segments of the public have joined the teachers and brought much of the state to a halt. Teachers are now on a two-week march to Mexico City to demand a resolution to the problems.

Message calling for the Mexican government to reach an agreement with the teachers can be sent by e-mail to the President of Mexico, President Vicente Fox Quesada, Mexico City, Mexico at vicente.fox.quesada@presidencia.gob.mx.

For extensive information about the situation in Oaxaca, check <http://globalsoil.wordpress.com/>.

Unsafe to Teach

The documentary *Unsafe to Teach* explores the issue of violence against teachers in the Canadian School system.

It will premiere on the full CTV Television network on Saturday, October 14th at 7 pm. It will then be repeated on Sunday at 1 pm.