

TODAY

Issue # 6

January 17, 2008

NEWSLETTER OF THE DELTA TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

President's Column

Happy New Year and Welcome Back!

Delta School District Symposium

Once every few years, Delta Board of Education seeks input from members of the Delta education community and the community at large. This year's symposium will be held at North Delta Secondary School on Saturday, January 26 from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm. The symposium, "The Schools We Want" is intended to provide the Board with direction the school district should be considering over the next four years.

Over one hundred secondary students from all of Delta's secondary schools met last weekend to provide their views on this topic. Student voices will be heard at the symposium through their attendance and presentations they created during their conference. Seventy openings have been reserved for teachers. It is important that the voice of teachers be heard at this symposium. If you are interested in providing your input by attending the symposium, please notify the DTA office either by email (deltateachers@telus.net) or by phone (604 946-0391).

DTA General Meeting and BCTF AGM

The **DTA General Meeting** is scheduled for **Tuesday, February 12** at 4 pm in the cafeteria at **Seaquam Secondary School**. This is one of two yearly meetings in which all members of the DTA have voting privileges. The best way to ensure that your voice is heard is to attend the meeting!

An important function of the meeting is to elect delegates to the **BCTF Annual General Meeting**, which takes place at the **Hyatt Regency Hotel** in Vancouver during Spring Break. **The AGM begins on Saturday evening, March 15 and ends on Tuesday, March 18.** For an all expense paid vacation at the Hyatt Regency Hotel or the Hotel Vancouver, contact the DTA office to have your name included on the ballot.

DTA Executive Dines with Delta Board of Education

The DTA Executive Committee had a dinner meeting with the Board and senior management on January 14. Executive members had the opportunity to express concerns about a number of issues that are facing teachers today. Class size and class composition, the early diagnosis and support of primary students who have learning difficulties, the plan to have all four secondary schools in the North Delta area become semestered schools (excluding Seaquam), the poverty and hunger issues of students in some alternate programs, the importance of a relationship among everyone involved in public education, the value of the district mentorship program and the restoration of PD funding to schools were among some of the concerns that were expressed. Trustees asked questions and received passionate answers from Executive members. It was valuable for trustees to hear about issues from more than the full time table officers of the DTA. Not surprisingly, the responses were consistent with DTA positions in most cases.

DTA General Meeting
4:00 pm, Tuesday, February 12th
Seaquam Secondary Cafeteria

Agenda Items:

Election of BCTF AGM Delegates
DTA Audited Financial Statements

If you require daycare, please call the DTA office at 604 946-0391.

BCTF Annual General Meeting
Hyatt Regency Hotel
March 15 - 18

Contact the DTA if you are interested in letting your name stand for election as a delegate. Candidates are encouraged to forward a statement (max. 100 words) to the DTA by February 1, 2008.

The PD Perspective

Jacquie Schierer, PD Chairperson



Happy New Year!

Here are a few reminders and clarifications about Professional Development.

- ❑ All forms are available on-line (First Class and on DTA website).
- ❑ LSA information is on First Class (Local Specialists Associations).
- ❑ Credit course information is located with PD forms on First Class.
- ❑ We are **no longer accepting applications** for summer or fall 2007 credit courses. Please remind your colleagues that course work needs to be approved **BEFORE** taking the course and you can only apply **once** in the school year for funds. Courses going on this summer and NEXT FALL need to be applied for by June 24th and will be considered as your allotment for the year 2008/09.
- ❑ **Credit course funding is considered part of your regular PD funding – it is NOT A SEPARATE FUND.**
- ❑ PD funding is \$500.00 per school calendar year (July 1 – June 30) up to a maximum of \$1300.00 over three years.
- ❑ Applications for National/International conferences are **due February 10** (forms are on-line, 2 pages).

If you have any PD questions at all please feel free to email me or to call the DTA office on Tuesdays.



Maternity Leave Workshop

Thursday, February 7 – 4:00 pm
Delta Secondary Staff Dining Room

Guest: Carolyn Prellwitz, BCTF Income Security

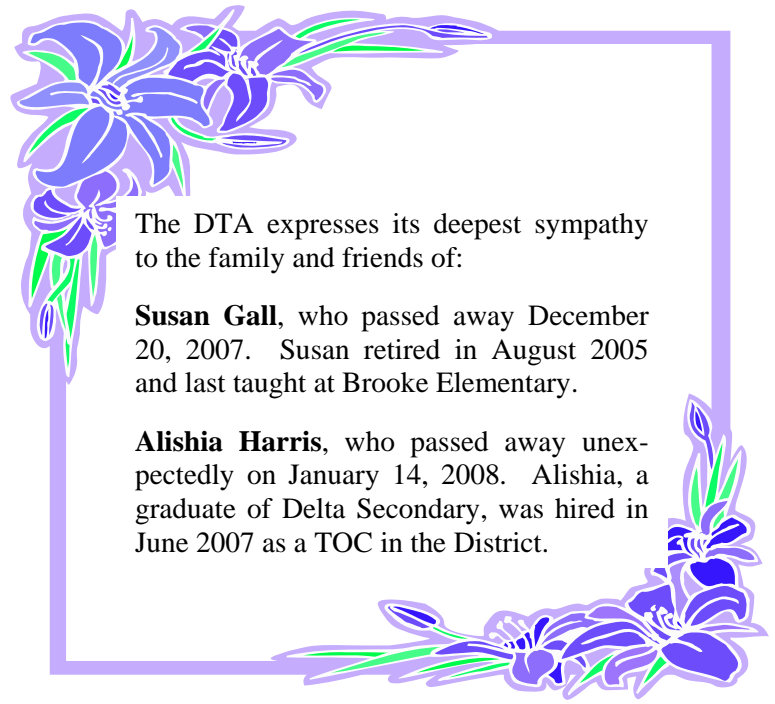
Topics Include:

- ◆ What are your contractual rights?
- ◆ What are the pension implications?
- ◆ Other

For catering purposes and printed material availability, please RSVP to the DTA Office (604 946-0391 or email deltateachers@telus.net)

Salary Grids

Salary grids on the BCTF web site have moved from the "Advice to Locals" page to the "For Teachers" page. Teachers can now view the grids themselves under Salary and Benefits in both PDF and Excel formats.



The DTA expresses its deepest sympathy to the family and friends of:

Susan Gall, who passed away December 20, 2007. Susan retired in August 2005 and last taught at Brooke Elementary.

Alishia Harris, who passed away unexpectedly on January 14, 2008. Alishia, a graduate of Delta Secondary, was hired in June 2007 as a TOC in the District.

New Teacher Induction

Monday, January 28, 2008 – 4:00 pm
Delta Secondary School Cafeteria
4615 – 51st Street, Ladner



Guest Speaker: Irene Lanzinger, BCTF President
RSVP by January 21st by phone at (604) 946-0391 or email at deltateachers@telus.net

All teachers are welcome to attend.



Coming to Delta
Wednesday, January 30th
7:00 – 9:00 pm

Join us for a fun and informative open house to see all the benefits of the new BCTF Advantage program.

The evening is being hosted by the local office of BCAA, 7343 120th Street, Delta – in the "Scott 72 Centre" at 120th Street and 72nd Avenue.

This free evening event will include refreshments, and give aways with a host of special offers and great information.

Come out and meet the suppliers of the BCTF Advantage program and find out how you and your household can take "advantage" of all the benefits available. Ask about the hottest travel deals, insurance programs for BCTF members and special BCAA membership offers and other great surprises. Special BCTF discount for luggage and travel accessories... ideal for summer travel plans.

To help make sure we have room for everybody, we would greatly appreciate your indicating if you intend to come. RSVP by email at bctfadvantage@bcaa.com or by phone at 604-268-5930.