



Issue # 9

April 3, 2008

NEWSLETTER OF THE DELTA TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

President's Column

BCTF AGM

Nineteen Delta teachers spent four days during spring break attending the Annual General Meeting of the BCTF. Almost half of the delegates were first time attendees. After the end of four days of meetings, most of the delegates indicated that they would consider attending another AGM!

The AGM sets the membership fee each year. This year, there will be no fee increase. However, as BCTF dues are based on a percentage of salary, the BCTF will see increased revenues because of the raise that teachers will receive effective July 1, 2008.

The AGM passed the following Recommendation: *"That \$3,000,000 be transferred from the Collective Bargaining Defense Fund to the Public Education Defense Fund for the 2008 – 2009 fiscal year to support the BCTF campaign leading up to the provincial election."* The purpose of the upcoming campaign will be to make education a vote determining issue in the upcoming spring election.

The campaign against FSA tests featured prominently at the AGM. Since the meeting moved "in-committee" to deal with this item of business, the only way the decisions on this issue can be shared with members is during "in-committee" meetings. Staff Reps will receive a full account of the FSA debate at the upcoming Staff Rep meeting on April 28. Members are welcome to attend the meeting – 4 pm at Delta Secondary School.

District Wide School Calendar

At the April 29 Board meeting, Delta trustees will adopt a school calendar that extends into the next three years. Education "partners" have been asked to provide feedback by April 7. The DTA executive committee studied the calendar and has offered the following feedback: a) Two non-instructional days (NIDS) should be on Monday to allow for professional development at the beginning of the week; b) The DTA is concerned that the Board is scheduling five out of the six NIDS for the same day, district wide. Schools and teachers are losing the autonomy to schedule these days to meet the needs of their own schools. DTA advice is to wait until the calendar has been approved before confirming your

travel plans for next year's spring break.

Sports Academies and Traditional School

The District is moving ahead with plans to offer an elite soccer program at North Delta (like the Giants hockey team at SDSS), soccer academies at Delview and South Delta for boys and girls, a baseball academy at Sands and an equestrian academy at Burnsvew. Student enrollment will determine whether the programs will proceed.

The district is accepting registrations for Pebble Hill Elementary School which is slated to become a traditional school this September. There is concern that other Delta public schools will lose students to the traditional school which could cause them to lose classes and teachers.

These ventures are all designed with two objects in mind: to offer Delta students more choice and to generate income for a cash-strapped Board by attracting other students to Delta schools. Since the Ministry has abrogated its responsibility to fully fund the public education system, Boards are finding that the only "flexibility" they have is in deciding which programs to cut and which schools to close. As Delta trustees wrestle with budget issues, the most pressing questions are: "How much of a shortfall will Delta have this year?" and "How will students be impacted by the decisions trustees will be forced to make in order to submit a balanced budget to the Minister of Education?" April 29 is when the final budget decisions will be made. The DTA will be in attendance at that meeting.

DTA Annual General Meeting

**Tuesday, May 13, 2008
4:00 pm**

Seaquam Secondary Cafeteria

Daycare upon Request

This is the first call for nominations.

The PD Perspective

Jacquie Schierer, PD Chairperson



PD Reminders:

1. DTA forms can be found on-line in three places - the DTA website and on First Class in 2 sections.
2. Apply **BEFORE** going to a conference, workshop or starting a course.
3. All receipts must be submitted to the DTA office **no later than June 27** for conferences, workshops and courses taken this year.
4. NO LATE applications will be accepted.

*** To ensure you get the right information please call the DTA office or email deltateachers@telus.net or jschierer@deltasd.bc.ca



"TAD" Boyes Scholarship

Application forms for the "Tad" Boyes Scholarship are available from the DTA office or can be downloaded from the DTA website www.deltateachers.org). Applicants must be the son or daughter of a Delta teacher and graduating from a public school in BC. The scholarship is \$750.00 and the criteria is based on academic excellence. **Deadline is June 20th.**

What are you doing next Pro-D day?

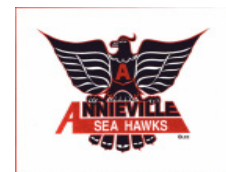
On **April 25**, at Seaquam Secondary, the DTA is holding a "Talk to Your Union" Teacher Forum. The main topics are:

- ◆ What do I want from my Union?
- ◆ How do I get it?

9:00 Remarks by BCTF and DTA Representatives
9:30 Break-out discussion groups on sub-topics
11:00 Feedback/Questions
11:30 Wrap up
12:00 Delicious Lunch Provided by your DTA!

Interested? For more information or to sign up, please call the DTA office at (604) 946-0391

Annieville is Celebrating its 100th year as a School in Delta



**Open House – May 1, 2008
5:00 pm – 9:00 pm**

For more information please contact Kerry Belanger, Annieville Century Committee @ 604 589-3221.

2008 – 2009 BCTF EXECUTIVE

President: Irene Lanzinger
1st VP: Susan Lambert
2nd VP: Jim Iker

Members at Large:

- Rebecca Blair
- Gail Chaddock-Costello
- Michelle Davies
- Carole Gillis
- Patricia Gudlaugson
- Jill McCaffery
- Fred Robertson
- Robert Tarswell



North Delta Secondary 50th Anniversary Reunion

WINE & CHEESE – ALUMNI ONLY
Friday, May 2, 2008 – 6:00 pm
North Delta Secondary School
11447 82 Avenue, Delta, BC V4C 5J6
Phone: 604 596-7471 Fax: 604 596-6192
\$30.00

DINNER WITH GUESTS NIGHT
Saturday, May 3, 2008 – 6:00 pm
Sungod Arena
7825 – 112th, Delta, BC V4C 4V9
\$50.00

For up-to-date information and registration visit www.deltasd.bc.ca/nd2 and go to **50th Anniversary** link.



TOC Meeting & Workshop
Wednesday, April 9th – 4:00 pm
Resource Centre
Snacks and Prizes