

Issue #2

September 25, 2008

### President's Column

#### Upcoming Municipal/Board Elections

Should the DTA endorse candidates running for election as trustees? While the DTA Constitution allows for the endorsement of candidates for school board, this has not been recent DTA practice. Now, Delta teachers are being asked if they wish to endorse school board candidates in the upcoming November 19 municipal elections. Staff Reps received a discussion paper on this topic at the September 15 meeting. DTA members are being asked to discuss the topic and to take a straw poll which will then be forwarded to the DTA office for consideration by the DTA Executive Committee. Irrespective of whether the DTA moves to endorse candidates or not, as in past elections, questionnaires will be sent out to all candidates. Responses received will then be forwarded to all teachers who live in Delta. Make sure you have your say in this important decision.

#### Make Mine Paper

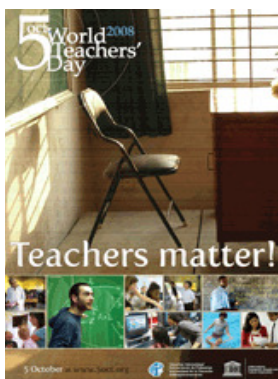
Some time in the near future, the DTA hopes that the 2006

– 2011 collective agreement will be approved by all parties and teachers will finally receive a copy of the document. Discussion around DTA executive and Staff Rep meetings have focussed on whether the document should be printed on a one per member basis or whether teachers should be able to access it on First Class in Exclusive Teacher Communications. When the document is ready for publication, teachers will be asked to make a choice – will that be a paper or an electronic version?

#### Pay Increase

All teachers will receive a 2.5% increase in pay effective September 30<sup>th</sup>. All teachers on the top end of their scale except those with Category 5+ (PB+15) will receive an extra 3%. Category 5+ holders will receive a 2.6% increase because when salaries were harmonized, Delta's PB+15 pay was higher than the provincial average. The complete pay scale can be found in the May 22, 2008 issue of the DTA Today on the DTA website at [www.deltateachers.org](http://www.deltateachers.org).

### World Teachers' Day 2008 - October 5 - Teachers Matter!



“Every day, in millions of classrooms around the world, the universal endeavour of teaching and learning takes place. The gift of literacy is passed from one generation to the next, along with love of learning and thirst for knowledge. When knowledge is shared, skills are gained and lives can be changed.” ~ *Education International*

UNESCO inaugurated October 5 as World Teachers' Day in 1994. World Teachers' Day was proclaimed to raise awareness and understanding of the challenges facing teachers every day and to recognize teachers' organizations worldwide. Its aim is to mobilize support for teachers and to ensure that the needs of future generations will continue to be met by teachers.

The shortage of qualified teachers is considered one of the biggest obstacles to achieving the 1994 UNESCO goal of achieving universal primary education by 2015. An estimated 18 million more teachers are needed to achieve that goal. Teachers' unions around the world are calling on public authorities to develop and provide adequate training programmes – **because teachers matter!**

October 5, 2008 is a day for teachers in more than 100 countries around the world to celebrate their accomplishments and the quality work done by teachers' in classrooms every day.

**Happy World Teachers' Day 2008!**



## PSA Day – October 24

Send your completed PD funding request forms to the DTA as soon as possible.

## “Factor 88”

### Withdrawal from Long Term Disability Plan

Teachers aged 64 or whose combined age plus years of service equal “factor 88” are entitled to withdraw from the Long Term Disability Plan provided they have enough sick leave. The combination of short-term disability and 100 sick days will be sufficient to carry them through until they are either 65 years old or have reached “factor 90”. At this point they will be ineligible for long-term disability. Contact the DTA or phone (604) 871-1921 for an application form.

### Have you changed your name, address or phone number over the summer?

Please contact the DTA office (604-946-0391) so we can update our records. You will also need to contact Human Resources at the Board (604-946-4101) and the BCTF (604-871-2192).

## Committee Vacancies

The following DTA committees have vacancies:

- Professional Development
- Social Justice
- Health & Safety
- Public Education Advocacy

## Category 5+ (PB + 15) Information

The new provincial language term for Delta’s PB+15 salary category is **Category 5+**. As a result of TQS issuing Category 5+ status three times a year, the Board will now upgrade teachers’ salary categories for this certification three times a year - August 31, December 31 and April 30. Once you receive your TQS card, forward a copy to the Board immediately. Your pay will be retroactive to the date the card was issued. For example, if your TQS card arrives at the end of May and is dated May 6, you will be paid retroactively to the beginning of May. Remember to have a copy of your transcript sent to the Board for their records.



*Education is as necessary as light. It should be as common as water and as free as air.*

~ Egerton Ryerson

## Discretionary Day and Personal Leave Day

Although the discretionary day and personal leave day has been part of the collective agreement for several years, questions do arise from time to time.

### Discretionary Day:

- Every continuing teacher (full-time or part-time) is entitled to one discretionary day per year.
- These days do not accumulate from one year to the next.
- The discretionary day can be taken for **any** purpose and can be taken at **any** time during the year.
- You do not need to apply for the discretionary day. Use the same process you would use if you were calling in sick, except key into the SEM System the reason for your absence is your discretionary day (reason #2). (It is helpful to the Board if you give as much advance notice as possible).
- You receive full salary and benefits when you take your discretionary day.

### Personal Leave Day:

- You must apply to the Personnel Office for this day. Application forms are in your school. Make your application as far in advance as possible.
- You receive your full salary less the cost of a teacher-on-call for the day.
- This day **cannot** be attached to Christmas Break or Spring break. Also, it **cannot** be attached to a discretionary day, which is attached to Christmas break or Spring break.
- SEM System Reason: #7 Leave at TOC cost.