



**Welcome back...from what we hope was an enriching and rejuvenating time with family and friends, and with renewed vigour to welcome eager students back into our classrooms.**

## BILL 33

With the start of the school year comes the start of school-based deliberations around class size and composition. The latest versions of the forms for consultation meetings have been sent out to last year's staff reps (this is a good time to remind everyone to address the issue of staff rep elections at your first staff meeting).

The provincial arbitration related to Bill 33 (class size and composition legislation) continues at its lumbering pace. There have been some successes around the province in remedies provided to teachers who were not afforded an appropriate, meaningful consultation process in the assignment of classes that were in violation of legislated class sizes and numbers of IEPs per class.

As a reminder, class numbers must not exceed:

- K = 22
- 1-3 = 24
- 4-7 = 30
- 8-12 = no upper limit, provided consultation has taken place
- IEPs = 3

(More details around these numbers have been provided in forms that have been emailed to your school's staff rep – that is, to whoever was your rep as of June 2010.)

Consultation meetings between principals and teachers must be completed by September 27<sup>th</sup>. Teachers are entitled to have individual meetings with their administration if they so choose, rather than in groups of teachers.

Safety concerns, reduced time for individual attention to students' individual learning needs, insufficient support for students with special needs, and any other concerns specific to the teacher's subject area and teaching environment should be noted as necessary on the consultation forms in those meetings. It's important to keep in mind that not only are the forms useful for us to support the on-going provincial challenge to the inappropriate legislated limits, but the consultation meetings allow us to formalize our efforts to see that a class that may not be

appropriate for learning is part of a focused discussion with administration to consider ways to improve the learning conditions for all students in our classes.

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

*\*\*\* please note the NEW VENUE for our training days\*\*\**

#### September 2010

- 6 Labour Day
- 7 Back to School
- 13 TOC Annual General Meeting 4:00 p.m.  
Spencer School Library
- 15 Exec Meeting 4:00 p.m. STA Office
- 20 Non-Instructional Day
- 23 **Staff Rep Training** and Rep Assembly  
(Exec attends) 8:30 a.m. **HIGHLAND  
PACIFIC GOLF CLUB**
- 30 **Staff Committee Training** (Exec invited)  
8:30 a.m. **HIGHLAND PACIFIC GOLF CLUB**

#### October 2010

- 6 Exec Meeting 4:00 p.m. STA Office
- 7 **Pro-D Rep Training** 8:30 a.m. **HIGHLAND  
PACIFIC GOLF CLUB**
- 11 Thanksgiving
- 15-16 BCTF Zone Meeting (designated members only)
- 20 Scholarship Social 7:00 p.m. **HIGHLAND  
PACIFIC GOLF CLUB** (Exec encouraged to attend)
- 22 Provincial Pro-D
- 29-30 BCTF Bargaining Conference

#### November 2010

- 3 Exec Meeting 4:00 p.m. STA Office
- 4 New Teacher Orientation (*tentative*)
- 5-6 BCTF Rep Assembly (LR's & President only)
- 11 Remembrance Day
- 17 General Meeting 4:00 p.m. Isabelle Reader Theatre
- 24-27 BCTF Provincial Bargaining Training (designated members only)
- 25 Early Dismissal
- 26 Non-Instructional Day – Pro-D

#### December 2010

- 1 Exec Meeting 4:00 p.m.
- 17 Schools close for Winter Break



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### ***"Make a Future"***

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The ***Make a Future*** web portal, is the business arm of BCPSEA (BC Public School Employers Association). The BCTF is currently engaged in an arbitration related to fees charged to teachers who make applications to teaching positions through this site.

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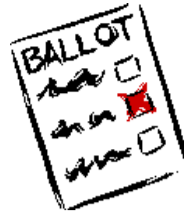
If you, or any local teacher you know, have used the ***Make a Future*** web pages to apply for a teaching position in this, or any other district, and were charged a fee, please let us know as soon as possible, in order for us to forward the information to the BCTF in furtherance of the provincial grievances process.

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### ***Collective Bargaining***

Our current local and provincial collective agreements are set to expire at the end of June, 2011. We will soon begin school visits in order to provide bargaining information to teachers in the schools and, more importantly, to solicit input from you all with respect to bargaining priorities. The collection of anecdotal 'input' will be supplemented by an electronic survey that we will conduct near the end of October. Between now and then, we will soon be calling staff reps to set up time for us to have a brief lunchtime meeting with teachers in each of the schools.



## **STAFF REP ELECTIONS**

*To last year's Staff Reps:*

*Once again, thank for having shown your willingness to stand in support of your colleagues, and for your assistance to us in spreading and collecting information in service to teachers and students in the district.*

As in the past, we are happy to see representation in the schools borne by more than one teacher on staff. In this way, attendance at meetings, rep assemblies and training sessions can be shared to relieve the occasional time demands of those duties.

In this coming year, which is a bargaining year, communication with teachers in our schools is more important than ever to insure that our efforts at the local and provincial bargaining tables will be fully representative of teachers across the district. To help us to achieve that end, we are very keen to see at least one staff rep in each school.

So, as you conduct the STA portion of your first staff meeting, please include staff rep elections on your agenda. We look forward to the results as soon as that meeting has taken place. At the same time, we would encourage teachers to have similar votes for Staff Committee and Pro-D Committee chairs in your schools. Please pass on the results of your elections to our Office Manager, Sue Bégin, as soon as possible. (250-474-3181, or ... [sooketeachers@shaw.ca](mailto:sooketeachers@shaw.ca))

The training days for Staff Reps, Staff Committee chairs, and Pro-D chairs will be on consecutive Thursdays, respectively, of September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> and October 7<sup>th</sup>. All of those generous and intrepid souls who attend will be released for the day to do so.



**International Literacy Day...September 8, 2010**