

January 2016

STA in TOUCH

A newsletter of the Saanich Teachers' Association
BCTF members of Local #63 (Saanich)

Welcome back and Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a relaxing and healthy winter holiday. Due to our holiday, our January edition will be a short one.

Please remember that we are always looking for new article contributors. This is not a commitment or an obligation; it's an opportunity to share your experiences as a professional with your colleagues. If you are interested in writing an article, please don't hesitate to contact me. (dball@sd63.bc.ca)

Article submission deadline for our February edition of the STA-in-Touch: January 25, 2016. Send your articles to dball@sd63.bc.ca

Deryck Ball – Editor/Communications Chair

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President's Report

by Mark Skanks



January is an awkward time for the STA in Touch because we return from Christmas break don't have lead time before we publish. This has also been a busy start to 2016 with Curriculum planning, the Living with Balance course, a School Rep training Workshop, and more.

So, with apologies for its lateness, here is a point form list of updates from the STA:

Curriculum NIDs

There are three teams – one for each level – planning the NIDs dedicated to the new curriculum. They might have already communicated directly with you regarding the first of these days which will be Feb 12. Secondary is meeting at Claremont; Middle is meeting at ROMS; and Elementary is meeting at the Mary Winspear Centre in Sidney. At the moment, if Feb 12th is not a regular day of work for you, although you are invited to participate the NID would not be a paid day of work. I am still hopeful, though, that some agreement or arrangement can be brokered. Our Board has already written to the government to request funding for all teachers, but they have received no reply, so any cost would probably have to be borne by SD63 locally.

General Meeting

Our February General meeting will take place after school (4pm) at Bayside on Wednesday, February 3rd. We will be reviewing the Auditor's report for the 2014/15 school year, and electing our delegates to the BCTF AGM. Both of these things must be done at a general meeting with quorum, so as we did last May we would like to provide a light meal in addition to snacks and coffee, and we hope you have already replied to the Zimbra meeting request that went out this week to help us plan.

BCTF AGM

If you are interested in being a delegate to represent Saanich, please let us know. The AGM is Mar 12-15 in Vancouver and all your expenses are paid for (accommodations, food, travel, child care, etc.)

BCTF RA

Before motions hit the floor at the BCTF AGM (like the proposed change to the pension formula, or the fee for next year) they are debated at the Rep Assembly. Watch for messages late this month from Don Peterson and Colin Plant who represent you at these meetings. The Winter RA is Jan 29-30, and they may ask for your feedback on items.

Useful Tidbits

- Did you know that you have six discretionary days that you can use? Articles G.5 and G.24 in the contract grant you three each. Three of them are unpaid and you need your principal to sign off on them. Three of them are "semi-paid" with the average cost of a TTOC deducted from your pay. These three don't require the principal to sign off, but it's an important courtesy to let them know.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – CONTINUED

- Did you know that if you have reached Factor 88, you don't have to pay into the Salary Indemnity Fund anymore? Factor 88 is when your age plus contributory service reaches 88, which can be found using your last pension statement and counting forward by months of service, or by calling the TPP.
- Did you know that if you have 15FTE years of service in Saanich and are over 55 but younger than 65 when you retire that you receive a bonus? It is called ERIP, and you receive 5% of your annual salary for every year that you are younger than 65 on retirement to a maximum of 25%. The Article in the contract is B.37 but there is also a Letter of Understanding which is on the My Dashboard page of the ESS (where you book your TTOC).
- Did you know that active TTOCs should receive a cheque each year in return for the 2nd week of Spring Break? Each year since the Spring closure was introduced, the STA has secured a pot of \$30,000 for TTOCs and 5 days of experience credit in recognition of the lost opportunity for work. The \$30,000 is shared out pro rata based on how much TTOCs have worked prior to the start of Spring Break.

Local Representatives' Report

by Don Peterson & Colin Plant



Winter Representative Assembly

January 29th and 30th, we (Colin, Don and Mark) will be at the Winter Representative Assembly in Vancouver. The BCTF executive, later this week, will make a variety of recommendations that will be sent to the Winter RA. From there, those recommendations will be debated and

then sent to the BCTF AGM who will make the final decision. We are expecting to receive a recommendation on the 2016-2017 annual member fee.

We hope that you all are aware of the possible changes to the pension that we have been consulted on. Based on the survey results from the survey earlier this year, the RA may be asked to debate on what pension changes should be sent to the BCTF AGM. Once we know more information about exactly which pension changes will be sent to the RA, we may send out an update outside of the STA in Touch to solicit feedback from you, the STA members, before the RA on January 29th, to help guide us on how we should be voting on these topics.

Stay tuned later this month.

On **February 3rd**, the STA will be holding our Winter General Meeting to elect delegates to attend the BCTF AGM. This AGM will be the 100th annual AGM of the BCTF. If you have not attended an AGM yet and have been considering it, you may wish to put your name forward. This AGM will have several special events to

LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT – CONTINUED

commemorate the 100 years of the Federation. If you would like more information on the details of attending the AGM please feel free to send one of us an email.

Colin Plant and Don Peterson

Professional Development Report

by Holly Mair



Tri-District Pro-D Conference



Written by Jennifer Bonkowsky, Tapestry Coordinator and Holly Mair, STA PD Chairperson

The Tapestry Conference is a cross-curricular professional development day that offers over 30 workshops for educators K-12 on a range of topics including First Nations education and the new curriculum, mindfulness in the classroom, nature centered learning and more. Join over 400 educators on **February 19th** at **Esquimalt High School** for a day of learning and sharing with engaging workshops, community tables, and vendors.



The keynote address “Rewriting Your story” will be given by Eddy Robinson an indigenous artist, activist, and educator.

Check out the website for a variety of K-12 workshops to enhance your knowledge and learn about ways to implement the new curriculum! tapestryconference.weebly.com.

Also note that for the first time ever, we will have a separate section to the Tapestry conference that will address the professional learning needs of French and French Immersion teachers. Follow the same web link above and you will be able to select the French offerings. The French teachers will be meeting at a separate location at Claremont Secondary. Details are on the website.

Register by January 22nd and be entered to win an iPad!



TTOC Report

by Mark Morrison

Hello Saanich TTOCs and new teachers! I hope everyone had a restful Christmas break, and are getting back into the grind of things.

First, a big thank you to everyone who showed up to our TTOC Christmas Party this December! I'm really happy with the results and we had a lot of fun exchanging gifts and having some holiday cheer.

Christa and I are looking forward to hosting our next event, which will be sending an email out for further details soon. Please be sure to check your inboxes for future information.

Lastly, if you haven't already, please look into registering for the Tri-District Tapestry Conference on **February 19th**! Register before **January 22th** and get yourself entered to win an iPad. Check out more information for the Tapestry conference here: <http://tapestryconference.weebly.com/>

Contest

*Congratulations to **Stephanie Lord** for correctly answering last month's contest question.*

This month's prize is a **\$25 Starbucks gift card**.

Question: *What is the date of early registration for the Tapestry Conference?*

Find the answer in this month's issue of the STA in Touch. Please email your answer to Deryck Ball dball@sd63.bc.ca by **Monday, January 25, 2016**.

Good Luck!

Let's Get Social!

The STA is getting more and more connected to the world of Social Media. Join us!

Our website is:

www.saanichteachers.com

Follow us on Facebook at:

[Saanich Teachers' Association](#)

Follow us on Twitter at:

@BCTF63

Phone us:

778-426-1426

Our mailing address is:

6843 Central Saanich Road Victoria BC V8Z 5V4



If you have any feedback on this newsletter, or would like to submit an article, please contact: [Deryck Ball](#)

IMPORTANT DATES FOR STA TEACHERS

1 HR TO FACILITATE PARENT/TEACHER INTERVIEWS RE. STUDENT PROGRESS

DATES

Brentwood Elementary	Oct 7	Oct 28	Feb 24	Feb 25
Cordova Bay Elementary	Oct 20	Oct 21	Oct 22	Feb 10
Deep Cove Elementary	Oct 21	Oct 22	Nov 2	Mar 3
Keating Elementary	Nov 25	Nov 26	Feb 24	Feb 25
KELSET Elementary	Sept 23	Sept 24	Nov 25	Nov 26
Lochside Elementary	Nov 3	Nov 4	Nov 5	Mar 3
Prospect Lake Elementary	Oct 7	Oct 8	Feb 17	Feb 18
Sidney Elementary	Oct 7	Oct 8	Nov 19	Mar 10
Bayside Middle	Sept 23	Oct 14	Oct 15	May 19
North Saanich Middle	Sept 16	Sept 17	Oct 22	Mar 11
Royal Oak Middle	Oct 20	Oct 21	Feb 9	May 26
Claremont Secondary	Oct 1	Nov 26	Feb 4	Apr 28
Parkland Secondary	Sept 17	Nov 26	Feb 26	May 5
Stelly's Secondary	Oct 1	Nov 26	Feb 11	Apr 28

ALL SCHOOLS (TWO WEEK SPRING BREAK IMPLEMENTED)

Friday, October 23, 2015	Province Wide
Thursday, November 12, 2015	School Based
Friday, November 13, 2015	School Based
Friday, February 19, 2016	Individual (Tri-District)
Friday, April 22, 2016	School Based
Monday, May 9, 2016	Ministry Priorities

LAST DAY OF CLASSES: THURSDAY, JUNE 30TH (Not that we are counting)