

Monday Memo

Upcoming Dates

FEBRUARY

- 19-25 BC Heritage Week

- 20 Executive Committee Meeting
SPTA Pro-D Math Dailies
World Day of Social Justice

- 21 STA New Teachers' Conference and Welcome (Full)
STARA Meeting

- 22 AGM Delegates Meeting
New Teacher Social

- 27 Executive and Committee Chairs Liaison Meeting

- 28 Pink Shirt Day

Monday Memo: How To

Did you know that any [BLUE TEXT](#) is an active hyper-link?

Simply click on the blue writing to get more information and details!

Do you have something to share?

Is there an upcoming event or professional learning opportunity that your colleagues might be interested in? Let us know!

Did you read a really powerful article or book? Tell us about it!

Do you have feedback, comments or questions? We're all ears!

Please send your contributions to [KELLY](#).

STA Experiment

We know that there are nearly 6000 STA members teaching in Surrey. Each week, the Memo is distributed to Staff Reps at each school site, who then forward it on to teachers on at their school. It is also accessible online, via our Facebook groups and our website. If you are reading this message, please take 2-seconds to [CLICK HERE](#), so we can see the extent of the diffusion. You don't have to do anything except [CLICK HERE!](#)

This Wednesday! Surrey Teachers' Association Representative Assembly

The next STARA meeting will take place at **Eaglequest on Wednesday, February 21, 2018** from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm. All teachers are welcome to attend! Come find out more information about what's going on in Surrey schools. Nice snacks are served!

School Visit Progress Report

As one of their yearly goals, your STA table officers are working hard to visit every single one of the 126 schools in Surrey. So far, visits have either taken place or been scheduled at a whopping **eighty-six schools!** If your school hasn't been visited, or picked a date, please consider a convenient time and let **ESTHER** know!



Regular union meetings allow staff to come to together to raise awareness and discuss common issues. Having a lunch-time visit from a table officer (your rep can order snacks!) provides the opportunity to share those specific issues, and get information and updates about what issues we're seeing across the district.

Website Feedback Survey Participants



Have you ever tried to find information on the STA Website? Were you successful or left feeling frustrated? If technology is NOT your thing, and you're willing to give occasional feedback about our website overhaul, please [SEND US AN EMAIL!](#)

The ad hoc website steering committee would require very few, if any, in-person meetings. The majority of your participation would be limited to responding to short surveys via email. It will not be an onerous task whatsoever, but your participation is vitally important to help us create the most user-friendly website with the most logical layout for our members.

Yearly Cap for Secondary Teachers

In our restored language, Article 22.32 says:

22.32 At any time during the school year the guidelines may be exceeded by up to three (3) students in a secondary class but in such event the total teaching load of any secondary teacher thus affected shall not exceed the sum of the guidelines for the classes taught by that teacher during the year.

Please note that that if a class includes one or more students with designations in categories A-H, this flex factor does not apply, and the class size limit is reduced by at least one student. We are discussing with the District what measures they are taking to comply with the yearly cap, and to track where it has been violated. Please check all your classes this year to see whether you have exceeded the cap, based on the size limits for each subject, and stay tuned for more information.

Anti-Bullying Day



This year **BC'S PINK SHIRT** day falls on Wednesday, February 28, 2018. The movement originated in Nova Scotia in 2007 when a Grade 9 student was the target of homophobic bullying because of their choice to wear a pink t-shirt. Two Grade 12 students took action by encouraging friends and classmates to wear pink to school the next day. The original article can be read, in full, [ONLINE](#).

Since then, the Pink Shirt movement has spread internationally. While many initiatives focus on anti-bullying in general, it is important to remember that the roots of this movement stem from anti-homophobia. The **INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PINK**, on April 11, 2018 reinforces the message to celebrate diversity and fight against bullying, discrimination, homophobia, transphobia, and transmisogyny.

Does your school plan activities surrounding this event? We'd love to hear about it. Please consider writing a short paragraph, and including a photo to be featured in a future edition!

This Thursday!



New Teacher Social

MENTOR36, alongside the Surrey Teachers' Association and Surrey Schools, is co-hosting an event for new teachers on Thursday, February 22, 2018 at REC. If you're in your first **THREE** years of teaching or new to your role, please join us for dinner! The event will begin at 4:00 PM and provide an opportunity to connect with fellow teachers as well as District supports. Please [REGISTER ONLINE](#).



A Message to Teachers from STARS (Surrey Teachers Advocating for Refugee Students Ad Hoc Committee)

We're building a picture of how our district is meeting the needs of refugee students and we need your help.

To support our work with refugee students across the Surrey School District, we are looking for stories of teachers' experiences working with refugee students. This will help us understand what resources are currently in place in schools that support both teachers and students, and what we can do to suggest improvements to the district's work this area.

An example story is provided below:

Harkaran is a grade 10 student in a large family, originally from the horn of Africa. His home country experienced civil war, which permanently destabilized infrastructures and services causing him to lose access to many basic needs including education, food security, and personal security during a crucial developmental period. He and his family arrived in Canada seven years ago and received placement and support through the Welcome Centre. When he arrived, he had no English and was not literate in his native language, a circumstance shared by all members of his family.

Since arriving in Canada, Harkaran can now read at a Grade Two level, has fluent oral expressive English and is progressing through the Math A&W stream. However, Harkaran formally aged out of ELL support 2 years ago and teachers have made the decision to continue to provide him with three blocks of direct service (LST and ELL) per semester, after repeated attempts at inclusion were unsuccessful and resulted in Harkaran not attending. In previous years, teachers in inclusion environments were able to provide an NM and allow Harkaran to "audit" the course – changes to reporting standards in the new curriculum now make this impossible.

Your insights are invaluable to helping us succeed!

What we need:

- 1) A story of one of your students who is a refugee. This could be 1-2 paragraphs or even point form! How were they helped by the resources currently available at your school? What gaps in supports, if any, were there in helping your student succeed?
- 2) With a view of how our district meets the needs of refugee students, do you believe your student was properly supported?
- 3) In a short paragraph, describe the supports from which both teachers and students would benefit.

Don't hesitate to connect should you have any questions. Your help is very much appreciated! Please email Marc Andres or Irene Tang.

Many thanks,
Marc Andres,
Chair of Surrey Teachers Advocating for Refugee Students (STARS) Ad Hoc Committee

World Day of Social Justice

February 20, 2018 is the United Nations' World Day of Social Justice. This annual event promotes poverty eradication, fully employment and social integration. The United Nations sees social justice as the underlying principle for peaceful and prosperous co-existence with and among nations. This year's theme is **GREENING THE BLUE**. The UN upholds the principles of social justice by promoting gender equality and the rights of indigenous peoples and migrants.



Reclaiming Common Ground

A CROSS BORDER SOCIAL JUSTICE CONFERENCE FOR BC, WA AND OR TEACHERS

APRIL 7 • 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM • SULLIVAN HEIGHTS SECONDARY



crossborderconference.weebly.com

We are pleased to bring a unique opportunity to your attention. Our STA International Solidarity Committee is hosting a Regional Social Justice conference here on **Saturday April 7th, at Sullivan Heights.**

The idea sprang up right after the American election in 2016 when a few of us were attending the North West Teachers for Social Justice Conference in Portland. Teachers there need to feel the solidarity of the larger community of educators as they face a rise in hateful rhetoric and threats to the human rights of themselves and their marginalized students. We are thrilled also to offer an event that is an international solidarity event for regular classroom teachers! You can expect to meet teachers from around BC, and from Washington and Oregon. When do we ever get a good chance to mingle with colleagues from across the border?

Perhaps the most thrilling part for us, though, is our line-up of keynote speakers and workshops. Many of you may know Seth Klein, BC director of the Canadian Center for Policy Alternatives, who has given workshops about “Economics for Teachers” and about poverty and inequality in our community but did you know his sister is Naomi Klein? She speaks around the world as a public intellectual and having her here with Seth is a rare opportunity! They will speak about education and the current local and global reality in a moderated conversation.

The one day conference is only \$35 to attend, and registration is open now. We hope many Surrey teachers will take advantage of this unusual chance right in our own district.

Arrival coffee and snacks! Lunch! Workshops! Keynote! Social Justice materials and books on display! Renew your spirit as a person who seeks to improve the world!

We teachers are on the front lines of societal change; we seek a more just world for all.

Take a look at our website www.crossborderconference.weebly.com for more details.

Keynote Speakers



Naomi Klein

Naomi Klein is an award-winning journalist, syndicated columnist and international bestselling author, known for her books, *No Logo*, *The Shock Doctrine*, and *This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs the Climate*. Her most recent book, *No is Not Enough: Resisting Trump's Shock Politics and Winning the World We Need* was a New York Times and international bestseller. She is the Senior Correspondent at The Intercept.



Seth Klein

Seth Klein is the British Columbia Director of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, a public policy research institute committed to social, economic and environmental justice (www.policyalternatives.ca). He has been a social activist for over 30 years.

Did You Hear? Curriculum Implementation Update

Teachers to receive an additional non-instructional day in 2018–19 for curriculum implementation. The BCTF's ongoing efforts to gain additional time and resources to help teachers with the revised curriculum has resulted in securing an additional non-instructional day (NID) for the 2018-19 school year. This seventh NID will be used for the purposes of curriculum implementation and represents the fourth year in a row where an additional day, or more, was added. **There is no change to the year bookends and members do not need to work additional days or additional minutes.** This time will help all members collaborate, plan, prepare, and conduct in-service related to the revised curriculum.



Looking for information about Job Sharing?

[CLICK HERE](#)

Advocate Contributors



A message from Kelly MacLean, STA Communications and Campaigns

Did you know that “The Advocate” is the larger, more robust/in-depth counterpart to the weekly memo?

I'd love to be able to feature more content from you, the members! Do you love to write? Maybe you have a story to share? Is there an issue or topic you'd like your colleagues to hear about? Please consider submitting something to the Advocate!

We have a very diverse group of teachers here in Surrey and I would really like to highlight the awesome work you do! For example, a day in the life of a kindergarten teacher is drastically different than that of an adult educator. Wouldn't it be interesting to learn about what our colleagues experience in their day-to-day?

I'm looking to connect with any teachers interested in sharing their world with me! Ideally, I would like to hear from a kindergarten teacher, an elementary teacher, an elementary music teacher, a variety of secondary teachers, an adult education teacher, and a teacher teaching on call. I promise not to take up more than 10-15 minutes of your time and if you connect with me next week, there's a Pink T-Shirt in it for you! (Bribes work, right?)

Please reach out to me via whichever method is most convenient to you. I'm accessible via [EMAIL](#), phone (604) 594-5353 Local 217, and Facebook! Don't be shy. I'd really love to hear from you!



Calling all Kindergarten Teachers!

BCTF Provincial Kindergarten Survey Now Open

If you are **currently** teaching Kindergarten or a K/1 split in the 2017-18 school year, or have done so within the **past 24 months** (i.e. since 2016-17), you are encouraged to complete the **CONFIDENTIAL 15-MINUTE SURVEY** before Friday, March 2, 2018.

February 19-25, 2018: BC Heritage Week

This week celebrates BC's heritage. This year's theme is "**HERITAGE STANDS THE TEST OF TIME.**" You're encouraged to visit local sites in your community and learn about the history of your neighbourhood. If you tweet, the suggested hashtags are #myBCis and #myCanadais



Powerful Pedagogical Readings

As shared this week, in the Surrey Teachers Facebook group:
[BORED OUT OF THEIR MINDS](#)

"An enlightening look at why students get increasingly bored as they get older — and why it matters. From Harvard University. I highly recommend that everyone teaching high school read this!!"

Thanks to Nicole J.

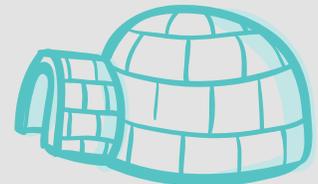


Looking for information about Remedy and Compliance?

[CLICK HERE](#)

Joke of the Week

What's an ig? A house with a loo!



Thanks to Laura B. for this week's joke!

If you have a short, clean, (but not necessarily education-related) joke, please email it to [KELLY](#).

If your joke is drawn for publication, you will be entered into the monthly prize draw for a **\$25 Indigo gift certificate**.

CONTACT US!

Reach us by phone at **604-594-5353** or via [EMAIL](#).

Please do not hesitate to call the STA office whenever you have a question or concern. We cannot emphasize enough the importance of getting advice from your Union on any employment related issue, even if it's only to confirm information you've received from another source.