

Monday Memo

Upcoming Dates

FEBRUARY

25-3 Freedom to Read Week

27 Aboriginal Education Committee Meeting

28 Pink Shirt Day
STARS Committee Meeting
Status of Women Committee Meeting

MARCH

1 BCTF Delegates Workshop
TIME Committee Meeting

5 Bargaining Committee Meeting
Pro-D Committee Meeting

6 Executive Committee Meeting

7 Surrey School Board Meeting
Workshop Presenter Workshop

8 International Women's Day
Peer Support Training

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](#).



Problems with our email server

On Friday, February 23, 2018, the STA implemented a new email server in our office. There have been a few hiccups in this implementation and some of the emails which were sent to pro-d@surreyteachers.org; hello@surreyteachers.org; services@surreyteachers.org; and pres@surreyteachers.org have been bounced back to their senders as undeliverable. If your email was returned undeliverable, please resend the email to the original intended recipient and cc sta@surreyteachers.org marking the email as a resend. That way we can answer your inquiries and troubleshoot the new server at the same time. We'd rather get it twice than not at all!

Pink Shirt Day: This Wednesday, February 28, 2018!



Wear PINK on Wednesday! In today's digital world, it can be impossible to escape online bullying, whether it takes the shape of harassment, spreading rumours, sharing embarrassing information, or threats. This year Pink Shirt Day is encouraging others to combat cyberbullying by thinking twice before posting something negative and instead using the internet to spread kindness - because we know that Nice Needs No Filter!

The Pink Shirt 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 antibullying 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 reinforces the message to celebrate diversity and fight against bullying, discrimination, homophobia, transphobia, and transmisogyny.

"Best Efforts" Conversations for Semester 2

Staff Reps! We still need your help!

As we continue to pressure the District to fully restore our stripped language, we rely on the information you're able to provide. We're asking for Staff Reps to gather the necessary data, and have conversations with Administration to determine if "best efforts" were made at your school to ensure classes are in compliance with the restored class size and composition language. Sometimes, it is not always possible despite "best efforts" and the remedy agreement would apply. But it is essential to have those important conversations to ensure that "best efforts" were made.

The STA Executive Committee passed the following motion: *THAT secondary staff representatives be released up to 1.5 days to gather necessary data to verify best efforts at school level to comply with restored class size and composition provisions with funds to come from PEAP.*

School data and instructions will be sent to secondary staff reps. If more time is required to complete this important work, or you have any questions, please contact Gioia directly:

pres@surreyteachers.org

Bootcamp FrancoFUN!



What: Core French Teaching Camp/Retreat
When: March 19-21, 2018
Where: Fraser River Lodge, Agassiz BC

In a relaxing environment, this Bootcamp FrancoFUN offers a wide range of curriculum-centered, interactive linguistic and cultural activities allowing Core French teachers to practice their French skills, network with colleagues and focus on resources (activities and strategies) for their classrooms.

Registration for the Bootcamp is open until February 28, 2018.

Don't miss out, [REGISTER NOW!](#)



Upcoming Professional Development Opportunities

Each month, the BCTF compiles upcoming professional development opportunities into an accessible document, [BCTF PRO-D NEWS](#). This edition, published on February 22, 2018 features information about the New Teachers' Conference (March 2-3, 2018), as well as Surrey's own Cross Border Conference (April 8, 2018). Check it out [ONLINE](#) and see if something strikes your fancy!



Extreme Weather Plan

Were you prepared for Friday's snowstorm?
 Did you dress appropriately for the weather or were you caught off guard?

As published earlier this year, the District plan is to work in consultation with school staff* to clarify the clearing routes and priority areas of each site.

***Joint Health & Safety Committees should have met in January to confirm which areas around the school need to be cleared by plows or shovels. If these priority areas have not already been identified, please do so ASAP.**

The STA recommends that staff at sites use only the designated pathways, wear appropriate attire (including footwear), and have a clear view of the path they intend to take when in transit.
Reminder: teachers are unlikely to be covered by WorkSafe if injured while shoveling snow.

Sick of Being Sick? Stay Home!

In light of the staffing challenges that we're facing, teachers are feeling immense pressure to show up in the classrooms. You don't want to take a sick day, even though you know you should be at home, resting in bed. You might even feel guilty for taking a sick day, especially if you see that a TTOC wasn't available and you know that one of your colleagues was pulled to cover your class. It's understandable, but it's not your fault.

If teachers continue to show up to work when they're ill, not only do they run the risk of making others sick, but it takes them longer to get well! When you're not at your best, you're not doing your best work.

On a flight, the safety announcements always instruct you to secure your own oxygen mask before assisting others. The same applies to you at work. You must take care of yourself before you can take care of others.

Many teachers show up when sick because, they argue, it's easier to teach while sick than it is to prepare a detailed lesson plan for a TTOC. Prepare while you're still healthy! Take an hour to compile three to five standalone activities that could be used as emergency lesson plans when you're too ill to come into work or to plan ahead. Leave everything that a TTOC would require in an obvious, clearly labelled binder or duo-tang, so it's easy to find.

Teachers, if you are pulled to cover a colleague's class, while it can be inconvenient, please remember that we're all in this together, and that we're all doing our best. Sometimes that requires staying home and taking care of ourselves while sick, so we get better and can return to work sooner. TTOCs are required to leave a lesson plan for the following day, but as a covering teacher, you are not. The expectation is that you would, of course, be leaving a lesson plan for your classes. You should not be required to perform additional duties by planning for a class which is not yours.



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Naomi Klein



Seth Klein

Reclaiming Common Ground

A CROSS BORDER SOCIAL JUSTICE CONFERENCE FOR BC, WA, AND OR TEACHERS
 APRIL 7, 2018 • 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM • SULLIVAN HEIGHTS SECONDARY

Only \$35 -
 Lunch included

Excellent Selection
 of Social Justice
 Workshops

Amazing Keynote
 Speakers

We invite teachers and activists to examine and re-imagine the public school as common ground for the nurturing of the progressive democratic ideals of equity, inclusion and justice. We encourage participants to reflect on their students' development as citizens capable of understanding the issues of poverty, racism, homophobia, disabilities and culture. Teachers are in a position to respond to these themes in the classroom in a way that upholds basic democratic ideals and principles.

Registration
 open now

crossborderconference.weebly.com

A Workshop for Workshop Presenters

Have you been thinking about sharing that great work with your colleagues at the STA Convention on May 4, 2018? Are you unsure about sharing because you would like some pointers about how to give an effective presentation to your peers?

We can help! Our "Workshop for Workshop Presenters" is just what you need! Join us at the STA office on **March 7, 2018** from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM. Bring along your workshop ideas and we will help you plan a great workshop. Tips, tricks, pointers, suggestions and (most importantly) snacks will be provided. **REGISTER NOW!**



Attention K/K-1 Teachers: BCTF Provincial Kindergarten Survey Now Open!



The BC Teachers' Federation, in collaboration with the BC Primary Teachers' Association (BCPTA), invites Kindergarten and K/1 teachers to complete a survey on working and learning conditions.

If you are **currently** teaching Kindergarten or a K/1 class in the 2017-18 school year, or have done so within the **past 24 months** (since 2016-17), you are encouraged to complete the survey by clicking this link: <http://form.simplesurvey.com/f/1/FullDayKSurvey2018> to begin.

Participation is entirely voluntary and all information you provide will remain confidential. The survey should take about 15 minutes to complete.

If you are not a K/K-1 teacher, you can help by informing your K/K-1 colleagues that the survey will be open until **Friday March 2, 2018**.

Survey findings will be used to help the BCTF and BCPTA understand and advocate for K/K-1 teachers' working and learning provisions. A preliminary report is scheduled for release in Spring 2018.

Any questions about this survey can be directed to Anne Hales, BCTF Senior Researcher (ahales@bctf.ca; 604-871-2243).

Seeking Information for Potential Grievance: Department Head Release Days

We have received reports that the District has been denying Department Head release days as a result of the TTOC shortage. The collective agreement says:

*B.29.7 LEADERSHIP AND ORGANIZATIONAL TIME

*a. Each school year, leadership and organizational time shall be provided to each department or program according to the following formula:

10-20 Teaching Blocks = 7 days

21-34 Teaching Blocks = 11 days

35 or more Teaching Blocks = 15 days

*b. The use of this time shall be jointly determined by the Principal / Vice Principal and the Department Head.

*c. This time may be assigned, for specific purposes, to other members of the department.

If you are a Department head, and have been unable to use some or all of the DH release days, please email [MATT WESTPHAL](mailto:MATT.WESTPHAL).

Looking for information about Job Sharing?

CLICK HERE

Looking for information about Remedy and Compliance?

CLICK HERE

Joke of the Week



Why was six scared of seven?

Because seven "ate" nine.

Thanks to **Monica G.** 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](mailto:KELLY).

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.