

# Monday Memo

## Upcoming Dates

MAY

7-13 Mental Health Week

15 Executive Committee Meeting

17 **Pride Prom - L.A. Matheson Secondary**

21 Victoria Day

23 **STA Annual General Meeting**

28 **Grade 7 Girls' Conference**  
Pension Outreach in Langley

JUNE

1 STA Retirement Dinner & Dance  
**\*Venue has changed to Delta Town & Country Inn**

11 Pension Outreach in Burnaby

30 TTOC Experience Conversion Deadline

## 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!

## Annual General Meeting - May 23, 2018

The most important event of the year is scheduled to begin at 4:00 PM on **Wednesday, May 23, 2018**. The STA AGM will take place, as usual, at the Bombay Banquet Hall located at 7475 135 St. (across from Costco) in Surrey. Please do not park at Costco!

During this meeting, many important decisions are made for the upcoming school year. In addition to adopting the budget and setting the STA membership fee, elections for the Table Officer positions and other members of the Executive Committee take place.

Hard-copy information packages (please see attached) will be sent to every school site in limited numbers. It will contain the agenda, minutes of previous meetings, some proposed amendments to our By-Laws, a proposed budget for 2018-19, and candidates' statements for our Executive Committee elections. **We ask that you place the hard copies in your staff room or other locations in your school (e.g. by the sign-in book) where they can be seen by your staff. More hard copies will be available at the meeting.**

The evening will close with the always popular International Pro-D draw, where **four grants of \$2,500** are awarded. Remember, you must physically be present at 6:00 PM in order to win if your name is drawn!

Dinner is provided in the form of an Indian buffet including vegetarian options, coffee/tea and dessert. If you require child care for the AGM, please contact **ESTHER** on or before May 11, 2018.

## Special AGM to Vote on Bargaining Objectives prior to June STARA

Thank you to everyone who completed our provincial bargaining survey. The Bargaining Committee is now analyzing the results and reading through the comments for additional themes. We will present a preliminary report of trends at our STA Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, May 23rd. Information gathered from the survey, as well as through information gathered from meetings with various groups of members, will be used to generate our provincial bargaining recommendations to the membership.

We will hold a Special General Meeting before our STARA meeting on Wednesday, June 20th to present our provincial bargaining recommendations for the membership to debate and vote on. Recommendations can be amended. This is your opportunity to take ownership and participate in the role we as a local play in the process of setting provincial bargaining objectives. We hope to see many of you there.

As this meeting is open to the ENTIRE membership and is not limited to Staff Reps, we need to decide whether a larger venue than EagleQuest is needed. **If you are planning to attend the SGM on June 20th to participate in setting provincial bargaining objectives, please [CLICK ON THIS LINK](#) to help us get a sense of numbers, and book an appropriate venue.**

## Highlights from STA Convention

by Kelly MacLean



Thank you to all the teacher volunteers, organizers, presenters, committee members, and coordinators who helped to make [#STACONVENTION2018](#) such a success! This event would literally not be possible without you and we, your colleagues, are so grateful for the many hours of hard work you put in on our behalf.

This year, Convention's 150+ workshops were spread out across four sites, each one with its own focus. The Aboriginal strand of convention kicked off with a traditional Grand Entry, drumming the entire group of 300+ teachers into the gym at Earl Marriott. There's a video on our Facebook group if you weren't able to be there, but want to check it out. Attendees were treated to a few traditional songs, with a brief explanation as to their purpose and significance before Semiahmoo First Nation Chief Harley Chappell welcomed us to the territory.

When speaking with a couple of teachers afterward, they said that the Grand Entry experience was very powerful. They loved the drums and the singing. "Being part of something like this helps us to feel connected. It brings us together, and makes us feel like we're part of something bigger", one said.

Charlie Demers was the keynote at the other three sites (Primary, Intermediate, Secondary). The presentation focused on childhood trauma, a heavy topic, but addressed issues and shared information through personal anecdotes interspersed with jokes and humour. To say that teachers LOVED it would be an understatement! Some takeaways from the keynote include:

- Know that childhood trauma can have an impact many years after the fact.
- Just because the child didn't experience the trauma while in your classroom (or while being your student) doesn't mean that they won't process it, or be affected by it while in your classroom.
- We don't know when the trauma is going to manifest.
- When a child is acting out or misbehaving, it is so rarely about us.
- Teachers need to help advocate for the kids, and it's important to try to be aware of what's going on (outside of the class).
- Front line people (teachers + others) are being impacted by vicarious trauma.
- Mental health is important! Take care of your mental health so you can help support others!

After the keynote, many teachers lined up to speak with Charlie. Some simply wanted to say thanks, others to make connections and share their personal anecdotes. The presentation was very well received, with teachers saying things like, "This was the best keynote I've ever attended!! (And I've been to a lot!)" "It was good to laugh a little, we needed that! Especially at this point in the year." "Amazing + funny! Loved the joke about being from Newton!" "It was full range! An excellent balance of serious and funny. The joke about the Union made everyone laugh." "It was a really powerful presentation. I was touched and saddened, and even cried! But then the reality was balanced out with some comedy, and I laughed. Really good job of lightening a very serious topic with comic relief."

If you had the opportunity to attend an excellent workshop, I would love to hear about it! I managed to connect with a few teachers during the day on Friday, but would really love to speak with more people, and share some of the wonderful highlights from [#STACONVENTION2018](#). Please reach out, send me an [EMAIL](#), and I'll come bring you a coffee (or tea!) during your lunch break on Thursday or Friday.

## Pride Prom: Celebrate the Majesty of You!

This year's Pride Prom will be hosted by L.A. Matheson Secondary on Thursday, **May 17, 2018** from 4:30 PM - 8:00 PM. It is open to all secondary students in Surrey from Grade 8 through Grade 12. Tickets are \$2 at the door but students should sign up for the event in advance by talking to the GSA/SOGI/Safe Harbour teacher at their school. Teachers, please email your list of student names to [ANNIE OHANA](#) ahead of the event.

If you are able to volunteer, donate door prizes, or help with the event in any way, please let [ANNIE](#) know!

[#SurreyPrideProm2018](#)



## Retirement Dinner & Dance Change of Venue

The annual STA Retirement Dinner will be held on **June 1, 2018** at the Delta Town & Country Inn. Paper invites have already been mailed to the home addresses of members who we've been informed are retiring after this year. If you haven't received an invitation, and believe you should have, please accept our apologies and give us a call to ensure you are on our list! If you're planning on retiring after this year, please get in touch with [DONNA](#) at the STA office.

**Please note:** due to the strike at the Sheraton Guildford, the STA Retirement Dinner will take place at the Delta Town & Country Inn.

## Scholarship Opportunity for Surrey Students

Teachers, please share the following opportunity with your Surrey students! The deadline to apply for the Jennifer Wadge Memorial Social Justice Award is May 25, 2018. The application form is accessible [ONLINE](#).

Jennifer Wadge was the President of the Surrey Teachers' Association from 2012 until her untimely death in 2015. She was a graduate of Surrey public schools and taught at a number of elementary schools in Surrey. She was a dedicated and passionate supporter of teachers and students, championed social activism, and believed wholeheartedly in the importance of an adequately funded public education system. She was known for her clear thinking, her articulate incisive views, her composed demeanour, and her passion for the issues. Jennifer was deeply committed to the principles of social justice, seeing them as a cornerstone of our work an equitable society.

The STA annually bestows four social justice awards of \$2,000 to successful applicants attending schools in the Surrey School District. It is not necessary to have taken Social Justice 12 to qualify for the award.

The following are the criteria to be used in selecting successful candidates for the social justice award:

- Grade 12 student who will be graduating in 2017 from a school in the Surrey School District, with submission of an official transcript
- Proof of acceptance to a post-secondary institution OR registration in a national/international conference on social justice issues OR an internship in a social justice organization
- School and community involvement in a variety of social justice areas
- Evidence of leadership and/or personal initiative in activities or in an organization relating to social justice
- Statement of commitment to social justice
- Minimum of three sealed confidential references, preferably from a variety of sources. References by family members or friends will not be accepted
- Geographical representation from different areas of the school district.

## Ramadan: Ideas to Consider

by Sobia Sheikh

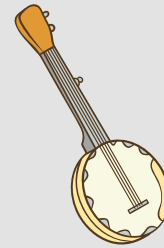
The start of Ramadan is approaching soon (May 15, 2018) and you may have students who will be fasting. Ramadan is a time for spiritual purification achieved through fasting, self-sacrifice and prayers. Remember that students will be fasting long hours before sunrise till sunset (no food or water) and they probably will be on little sleep, so please be mindful of that. Ramadan ends around June 15.

Here are some ways to help students (some of these were suggested by Muslim students):

- Consider opening up your room for students during lunch
- Allow students to walk during PE instead of running
- Students staying after school may need a place to pray – provide them that space
- Female students don't fast when they are on their menstrual cycle – some female students will not be okay sharing that information
- There will be some students who will be tempted to break their fast or they will break their fast – just encourage them and don't call them out for it.
- They may fall asleep in your class – don't send them to time out or detention.
- Think about a possible take-home exam they can do
- We are supposed to refrain from listening to music – play instrumental music in class if necessary
- Don't pass out candy/food in class
- Provide an alternative place (time out room) for students if they can't focus.
- Some girls will start with their hijabs – be a support for them
- Keep in mind of students' comfort level when asking questions related to Ramadan/Islam in front of the entire class.

To learn more about Ramadan, [CLICK HERE](#) for a short video. If you have any questions, feel free to email me, [SOBIA SHEIKH](#).

## Joke of the Week



**What does a banjo have in common with a homicide?**

**Everyone is relieved when the case is finally closed!**

**Thanks to James J. 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.