

Monday Memo

Recognition of Aboriginal Territory

The STA acknowledges that we work on the traditional and unceded territories of the Kwantlen, Katzie, Semiahmoo, and Qayqayt First Nations. We thank them for allowing us to work on this territory.

Upcoming Dates

OCTOBER

- 1 Rookie Staff Rep Training
- 2-4 [Staff Rep Training](#)
- 5 World Teachers' Day
- 8 Thanksgiving Day
- 9-11 [Staff Rep Training](#)
- 12-13 BCTF Fall Zone Meetings
- 17 STA Special General Meeting + STARA
- 19 PSA Professional Development Day
- 20 Municipal Elections
- 26-27 BCTF Bargaining Conference
- 30 STA New Teachers' Conference

2018 School Trustee Elections

www.surreyteachers.org/electingourbosses

Early voting dates vary by city

Surrey: October 6, 10, 11, 13

Election Day is October 20

**I TEACH.
I VOTE.**

Endorsements for School Trustees

At our Special General Meeting last week, more than 100 Surrey teachers came out to participate, and voted (without dissent!) to endorse six candidates running for School Trustee in our upcoming Municipal Election. The six are: Charlene Dobie, Cindy Dalglish, Sonia Andhi, Mary-Em Waddington, Niovi Patsicakis, and Laurae McNally. Our PAPR committee recommended a short list to the executive committee, who then discussed and debated and voted to endorse these six women. Coming to your mailroom next week– our Special Advocate on the Election, with much more information!

Student Vote - You could WIN!

Have you registered your class for [Student Vote](#) yet? Not only does Student Vote makes it EASY to teach about government with their detailed lesson plans, but they also make it FUN, and the students get really into it! For those who don't know, Student Vote coincides with government elections, students learn about government and the electoral process, research the parties and platforms, discuss relevant issues and cast ballots for the official election candidates. With the upcoming municipal elections coming October 20, now is the time to register. Oh, and it's FREE!

Upload a photo or video of you using Student Vote in action either to our Facebook group or via email communications@surreyteachers.org and you will be entered into our draw for a \$100 gift card to a bookstore!

Foundation Skills Assessment Tests (FSAs)

The FSA withdrawal letters and information for parents should be in your schools now. Please let us know if you are a Grade 4 or Grade 7 teacher and did NOT receive these letters, or if you are in need of more, or in need of alternate language pamphlets, by emailing reception@surreyteachers.org. The BCTF's stance on this test is that it does not help students learn or teachers teach. It takes valuable time and much needed resources away from the classroom learning and undermines the ability to provide meaningful learning experiences for all students. The FSA results are misused by a private organization to rank schools based on a very narrow measure. The tests do not result in any additional funding or support for students. The FSA withdrawal letters and information for parents can also be viewed on the [BCTF](#) website.

You Deserve This! World Teachers' Day Celebration!

We will be celebrating World Teachers' Day on Friday, October 5 this year! That's right, it's on a FriYAY this year!

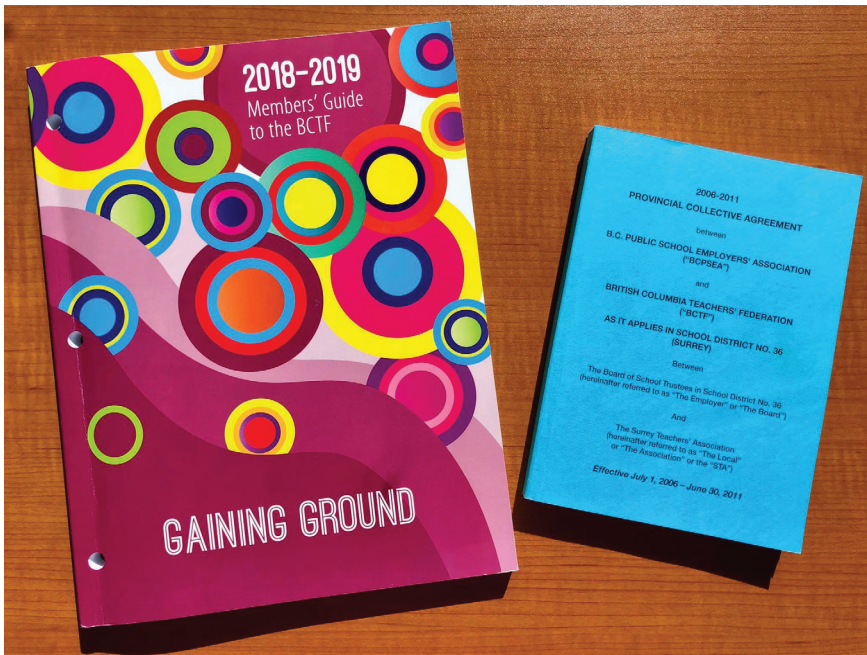
Just like previous years, we will be hosting the celebration at pubs throughout Surrey, where we will be providing yummy appetizers and treating you to your first drink. There will also be prizes and giveaways throughout the event!

The pubs' locations this year are: Central City Brew Pub by Surrey Central Skytrain, Dublin Crossing Irish Pub in Clayton area, and Townhall Public House in South Surrey. The event begins after school, but feel free to drop by at any time and stay as long as you like. We encourage everyone to take transit when possible.

You have survived the month of September and deserve to be treated, so grab some of your colleagues and stop by so we can cheers to the long weekend!

Please [RSVP](#) ASAP so that we can confirm numbers with the pubs and make sure we bring enough prizes. We look forward to seeing you there!

Call For Resolutions



This is your opportunity to submit ideas for local resolutions to the BCTF AGM! Many items in the BCTF Members' Guide, from professional issues to health and safety standards, started off as someone's idea to improve something. If you have spent time ruminating about an issue (e.g. professional development, social justice, privatization and commercialization, pensions, teachers teaching on call, or the health, welfare, and safety of teachers), please submit your idea ASAP to the STA Resolutions Committee via courier #000, fax at 604-594-5176, or email at 2vp@surreyteachers.org. **Deadline: October 15.**

When submitting, please include:

- your name
- school
- motion (e.g. THAT the BCTF lobby the provincial government to...)
- the intent or goal (what do you hope to accomplish with this motion?)
- rational (reasons people would support your motion, including some background, statistics, as well as arguments).

The wording of resolution and rationales is very important. Sometimes great ideas fail because of faulty resolution wording or weak supporting statements so it is okay to contact us for help! The STA Resolutions Committee will assist you with this. For examples of wording, browse through the BCTF Members' Guide or our Collective Agreement. If you have any questions, please give any one of us a call at (604) 594-5353. Your resolution could end up being debated at the BCTF Annual General Meeting!

Surrey Primary Teachers' Association



Mark your calendars for the following upcoming events with the SPTA:

Wednesday, October 3rd - **Fall Social/Membership Drive** at Big Ridge Brewery from 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. Come out and connect with colleagues, join the SPTA, and win a door prize. Appies/a drink are included. Membership fees are \$20 for the year.

Tuesday, October 16th - **"MATH - Counting Collections" workshop** @ Hazelgrove Elementary from 3:30 - 5:00 p.m. Counting collections are a highly engaging activity that promote a variety of mathematical skills. Learn how to implement them in your classroom in a variety of ways that will meet the needs of all your K-3 learners.

Wednesday, November 14th - **Dinner workshop with Adrienne Gear - "Powerful Understanding"** - location TBA 3:30 - 7:00 p.m. Check the website for registration information mid-October.

Register at www.spta36.weebly.com

Congratulations!

At our special general meeting last week, we held many important elections, and would like to extend a warm and appreciative welcoming.

Congratulations to:

- Gavin Slade-Kerr, who is elected as our new Local Representative to the BCTF
- Andy Nesdoly, who is elected to our Resolutions Committee
- Dana Neidig and Isaac Louie, who are elected to our Bargaining Committee
- Andy Nesdoly, Gavin Hainsworth, Pauline Veto, Jas Sidhu, Sonu Sangha, and Kelly MacLean Dosen, who are elected as delegates to the Bargaining Conference. We also thank our alternates Christy Van Ieperen, Melanie Miki, Dwight Siebert, Rod Needham, and Rich Stephenson for putting their names forward.
- Velma Moore, who is our Pro-D Draw Winner!



STA members voting and enjoying dinner at the Special General Meeting.

It's not too late to Join a Committee!

Since last week's STARA meeting was going very long, we passed a motion to simply appoint all members of standing committees from last year into this year's committees. We also had new interested members submit their names in advance and during the meeting. These names are recorded as nominees. We plan to officially elect our standing committees at the October 17th STARA meeting. So, committee members from last year, **do you want to be on the committees this year?** If so, consider yourself nominated, but if not please notify Stamata at reception@surreyteachers.org that you would rather not continue, so we can be ready for the meeting in a couple of weeks. Committee Chairs, feel free to get your committee going, hold a meeting, start to orient the new people!

We are thrilled that so many members are interested in our important committee work in many areas. Please feel invited to submit your name as a candidate for election to any of these committees: Aboriginal Education, Anti- Poverty, South Asian Student Advocacy by Teachers, Status of Women, Teachers Interested in Multicultural Education, Ad hoc LGBTQ+, Ad hoc Surrey Teachers Advocating for Refugee Students, Ad hoc Green, STA Convention, Economic Welfare, Education Governance, Finance, Grievance, Health and Safety, International Solidarity, Labour affairs, Mentorship Advisory, Political Action/ Public Relations, Pension, Pro D, and Social Convenor.

Email Stamata at reception@surreyteachers.org giving your name and the committee(s) you are interested in joining.

STAFF REP TRAINING

Only 1 training date left!



FEATURED WORKSHOP

Ways To Approach Conflict And Difficult Conversations At Work 101

This workshop will examine how we can all improve our communication skills by paying attention to our conversations, and in turn help us enhance our work with colleagues, students, and parents.

- We will explore how we can change the way we talk so that we can change the way we work together.
- To enhance our collaborative work.
- To develop skills such as active listening, self regulation and reflective thinking.

Register for the **October 3rd** training:
<https://staffrep-training-2018.eventbrite.ca>

STA Office
(#201, 9030 King George Blvd)
8:30 am - 3:00 pm
lunch & snacks provided



Update Contact Information

Have you moved recently? Does the BCTF have your current, up-to-date, contact information? Please double check that everything is correct to ensure you're receiving any important communications. Many PSA's and local Associations use the BCTF membership database to send out information to members. Don't miss out - [update your information](#) today!

Pro-D Opportunities



Every Teacher needs a PSA #PSAday

Provincial Specialist Associations (PSAs) are a way for members to exchange ideas on research, teaching strategies, curriculum development, and other shared interests. This year's upcoming [PSA day](#) is on Friday, October 19. Make sure you sign up early to save a spot! You can use either your Individual Professional Development Funds or Consolidated Professional Development Funds to pay for these conferences.

Individual Professional Development Funds

Each school site is allocated \$97.50 per FTE in the school. Once your Pro-D Rep has attended the training here at the STA, they will hold a vote for staff to choose how that funding will be disbursed to individual members. To access Individual Professional Development Funds, members should fill out an Individual Pro-D Funding Application and have it approved by the school's Pro-D Rep. Once the event has been attended, members should send the approved form (with original receipts attached) to the STA for reimbursement. Applications can be downloaded from the [STA website](#).

Consolidated Professional Development Funds

All STA members are entitled to apply for Consolidated Professional Development funds. A maximum of \$450.00 will be available to members on a first come, first serve basis, for a **single specific event** once every two years. Applications for Consolidated Funds must be pre-approved by the STA Professional Development Officer and applicants are notified by email to let them know if their request has/has not been approved (pending availability of funds at the time). Applications can be downloaded from the [STA website](#).

Educator Training: Exploring Humanitarian Law

When: Saturday, November 24, 2018 - Sunday, November 25, 2018

Where: Canadian Red Cross, 3400 Lake City Way, Burnaby, BC

Cost: Free

Register [here](#)

For more info, email: Joanne.Abshire@redcross.ca

Grievance

Is Your BASES class understaffed?

The Special Education class size and composition limits apply to the BASES programs. Last year, the Association filed a grievance as we believed that the prescribed FTE - student ratios were not always respected. In their response to our grievance, the Employer, reassured us that they were committed to restoring the language of the Collective Agreement. Please, check your ratios to ensure that you have received appropriate staffing for your classes this school year. Contact Joanna Cerazy at grieve1@surreyteachers.org with questions or concerns.

The class size and composition language for BASES Programs is as follows:

1 FTE per 12 students: MID designations and MID/MOD combination

1 FTE per 8 students: MOD designations

1 FTE per 7 students: Multicategory - MOD, MID, ASD, Severe Profound designations or a combination

1 FTE per 6 students: Multicategory - ASD, Severe Profound, Physically Dependent

Health and Safety



What Information Can Be Shared About Student History Regarding Violence:

As the new school year begins and new students transfer into schools and classrooms a question that often arises is, "What information can be shared about student history regarding violence?" Please read the [WCB Bulletin \(WS 2013-05\) "Communicate student information: Prevent violence-related injuries to workers in the education sector"](#). This bulletin discusses the worker's right to know and the employer's obligation for keeping workers safe. The bulletin also talks about how the right to know fits in with the Freedom of Information Act, Teacher Regulation Branch, and codes of conduct.

If you have any questions regarding this document feel free to contact Sue Heuman, Health and Safety Officer at the STA hs@surreyteachers.org or (604) 594-5353.



**MOOSE HIDE
CAMPAIGN**

**CAMPAGNE
MOOSE HIDE**

The [Moose Hide Campaign](#) is a grassroots movement of Indigenous and non-Indigenous men and boys who are standing up against violence towards women and children. Wearing the moose hide signifies your commitment to honour, respect, and protect the women and children in your life and to work together to end violence against women and children. If you would like to support and show solidarity for the Moose Hide Campaign, please send your name and school to sta@surreyteachers.org and we will send out a pin via the courier.

Social Development Programs (Elementary Schools)

With the restoration of the Collective Language, class size limits for Social Development classes are back. The teacher - student ratio for these programs is one FTE per 8 students. It is our understanding that these numbers are being followed, but if you believe that your Social Development Program does not have appropriate staffing, please contact Joanna Cerazy at grieve1@surreyteachers.org.

BASES Teacher Professional Autonomy

We are hearing about situations where higher than allowed by class size and composition language numbers of B.A.S.E.S. students are enrolled in other teachers' classes and B.A.S.E.S. teachers are assigned to these classes as support teachers. It is within the BASES teachers' professional autonomy to decide how and where they are going to deliver their instruction based on what is educationally sound for their students, as outlined in their IEPs. B.A.S.E.S. teachers should not be forced into teaching situations that they have not requested or created in collaboration with their colleagues, such as for example team teaching. Please, contact Joanna Cerazy, Grievance Officer at grieve1@surreyteachers.org with questions or concerns.

REACH OUT!

Reach us by phone at 604-594-5353 or via email at sta@surreyteachers.org.

Please do not hesitate to contact 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.

Shout Out!

We are so proud to be Surrey Teachers and we know there are amazing things happening around the district that we would love to hear about. In the spirit of acts of kindness, we would love for our members to send us a "shout out" about a colleague who inspires you and who you think deserves recognition, whether it is for their kindness, a great resource they shared recently, or an awesome lesson they teach.

This week's shout out comes from Kyle McKillop (LA Matheson) in recognition of Kasha Duff (Elgin Park)'s blog post



Kyle Canada McKillop shared a link.

September 23 at 9:37 PM



Want to try something cool and curricular with your students? Check out Surrey teacher **Kasha Kikkert Duff's** article about combining walking and deep discussions with grade 10s!



SURREYENGLISHTA.WORDPRESS.COM

Walking Wednesdays

Surrey English teacher Kasha Duff takes her Spoken Language class on...

Thank you Kyle, you and Kasha are now entered into our monthly draw for a \$25 Indigo! gift certificate. Please submit your "shout outs" to Angela via communications@surreyteachers.org to spread the kindness around our local and for your chance to win a gift card too!