



STA Connection February 24-28, 2020

Upcoming Political Action to Support Bargaining

To raise awareness with parents and the public about bargaining issues, we have various political actions planned, including two this week.

1. Burma Shaves: First one Thursday, February 27



A "Burma Shave" is a roadside rally where people hold signs that spell out a short phrase for people passing by on the street. It's a simple and visually effective way of communicating a message to lots of people!

Please feel warmly invited to participate in one of our upcoming Burma Shaves on Feb 27th (after school in front of the STA office), March 3 on 100th Avenue near 152 Street, and March 5th on 152 in front of Eagle Quest. (at 78th) This is our chance to garner public support, or at least honks, in our quest for a fair contract. All events will run approximately from 3:15 pm to 4:15 pm.

You could also organize a Burma Shave in front of your school. Please contact Julia directly at 1vp@surreyteachers.org, you can borrow the signs!

2. School Walk-Ins to Support National Day of Action, Friday, February 28

The awesome staff at Riverdale Elementary are planning a walk-in before school on Friday, and challenge other schools to do the same!

What is a Walk-In?

A Walk-In is a group of teachers meeting 20 minutes before school and walking in together, at the same time, to garner attention and signal to parents that things are not entirely as they should be. Walk-Ins are being organized for the National Day of Action to support public education on Friday, February 28th.

3 easy steps to organize a Walk-In at your school:

1. Call a union meeting before Friday to plan with your colleagues (remember you have a budget for snacks!) or send an email to all staff. Plan to wear red and encourage your colleagues to do the same - scarves, hats, shirts, shoes - all red is welcome!

Optionally, pick up materials for your Walk-In (we have signs, flags, and buttons) from the STA office, 9030 King George Blvd, any time before. Please check before coming, in case we run out.

2. On Friday, wear **red** and meet with your colleagues 20 minutes prior to the morning bell in a visible location. If you are on a busy street, that is ideal. Close to an overpass? Even better! We have some large signs for those locations. Take photos! Share on social media and tag **#RedforEd** **#RedforBCed**.
3. Walk in en masse, 15 minutes before the bell - take a short video to share on social media. Here's an example: <https://twitter.com/SurreyTeachers/status/1199473048996311041/video/1>

The Cross Border Conference is THIS WEEKEND! Saturday, February 29th



We have seen remarkable leadership from teenagers on Climate Justice in the last few months, worldwide. Teachers have a role to play in supporting these activists, and also taking steps in our own practice to support all our students who are growing up in a changing climate. Your STA International Solidarity Committee is hosting the 3rd annual Cross Border Conference, which takes place in Surrey but invites Washington and Oregon teachers, plus all other BC teachers, to come here to confer! Please consider attending, encourage your colleagues to do so, and bring your student teachers along! This is an unusual opportunity to collaborate with some American colleagues, and we have some amazing workshops lined up. It is only \$50, which could be claimed through your Pro D funds, or see below, an offer for free attendance for Surrey teachers. This year we are at **Kwantlen Park Secondary, noon to 7:30 pm, Saturday, February 29th.**

We promise you a delightful day. Register at www.crossborderconference.com.

Surrey Teachers! Come to the Cross Border Conference for Free!

Surrey Teachers have a unique opportunity to attend the Cross Border Conference, where we can discuss issues around Climate Justice and how our teaching work can contribute in important ways to that struggle, AND mingle with American teachers. Think about it, have you ever done Pro D with American colleagues? Here is your chance.

The STA International Solidarity Committee would like to sponsor fifty (50) Surrey teachers to attend. Please email Stamata at reception@surreyteachers.org to be one of these lucky 50 teachers! See you there!



- February 25 - Executive Committee
- February 26 - BCTF AGM Delegate Training 8:30 am at Eaglequest Golf
- February 26 - STA Executive & School Board Liaison

- February 26 - Queer Beer Night at Central City Brewing
- [February 27 - Labour Affairs Committee Film Night](#)
- February 27 - Burma Shave 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm at the STA office
- [February 28 - Wellness Event at the YMCA](#)
- [February 29 - Cross Border Conference 12 pm at Kwantlen Park Secondary](#)
- March 2 - Pro-D Committee
- March 3 - Young Worker Committee
- March 3 - Burma Shave 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm at 152 Street & 99-101 Avenue (near Johnston Heights)
- March 4 - Indigenous Education Committee
- March 5 - BCTF AGM Delegate Training at Eagle Quest
- March 5 - Burma Shave 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm at 100 Avenue near 152 Street
- March 6 - TTOC Advisory Committee

News from last week's Special General Meeting

We made a couple of changes to our bylaws that will be interesting to members.

First, we added another released table officer position for next year, the "Accommodations Support Officer," which will greatly enhance the ability of the STA to support members who are accessing medical accommodations and supports. The position essentially splits the current "Health and Safety Grievance Officer" position in two, so that both will be more effective, because we also have many concerns about Health and Safety issues in the schools, and lots to pay attention to with new school construction and ongoing issues with renovations, etc. The new position will be a 2-year term, and the first officer in this position will be elected at our general meeting in May.

Second, we also voted to increase the maximum term for grievance officers to eight years. The rationale for this is to make sure the STA doesn't lose the knowledge base that a grievance officer builds up over their years of service, which is really important when we are facing the employer in grievances and arbitrations. It is still important, however, that a person eventually moves back into the classroom to give other interested members a chance to do this work and to accumulate this important knowledge and carry the STA into the future, defending our members with this valuable knowledge.

Elections for the full-time table officer positions and the rest of the STA executive committee will occur at the Annual General Meeting in May. We will have a call out later this spring for those interested in running to submit a candidate statement.

We also elected delegates to the Canadian Labour Congress convention which will be in Vancouver in May. This is usually in Toronto, Ottawa or Montreal, so it is a good chance for our local to participate in a national level meeting.

Join the Young Worker Committee!

Are you under 35 and interested and looking to connect with other Young Workers?

If so, consider joining the newly formed STA Young Worker Ad Hoc Committee. The YWC is looking for driven people to help plan social events to bring young workers together and create meaningful connections. We plan to hold a number of events and engage in opportunities both locally and with other unionized young workers to build leadership, capacity, and solidarity.

Whether you're a TTOC, a Contract Teacher, or somewhere in the middle, if you're under 35 you're more than welcome to join the table and have your voice heard. If interested contact Rick Kumar at kumar_h@surreyschools.ca. Our first meeting will be March 3rd from 4-6pm at the STA Office (9030 King George Blvd, Surrey, BC V3V 7Y3).

Queer Night Out!



The STA LGBTQ Ad Hoc committee Invites all STA members with diverse sexual orientation and gender identities, and their allies to join us and celebrate PINK SHIRT DAY 2020, for APPETIZERS and ONE DRINK ON THE HOUSE.

Date: February 26, 2020 (Wednesday)

Venue: Central City Brew Pub Surrey

(13450 102 Avenue, Surrey in Central City Shopping Centre)

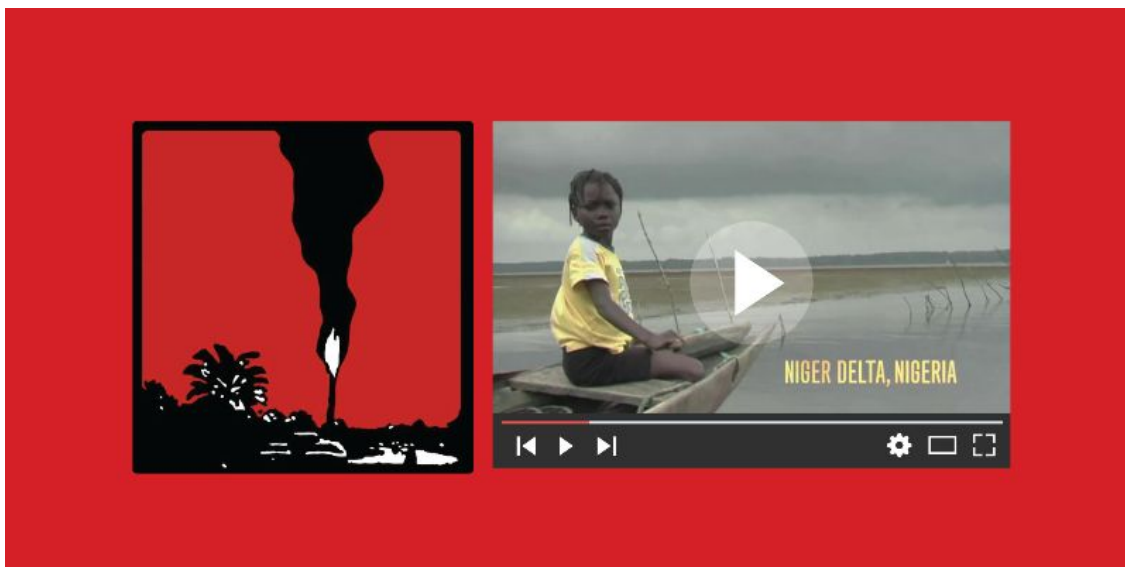
From 3:30pm onwards.

Attention TOCs!

Are you looking to expand your TOC toolkit with easy, low-prep resources?

The TTOC Committee will be hosting a resource share on **March 6 at 4 pm** at the STA office. Drop by with a resource to share with your fellow TOCs, and pick up a few too! Please contact Amrit Sanghe at sanghe_a@surreyschools.ca by February 26th if you are interested in attending.

LAC Film Night February 27, 2020






Come join the STA's Labour Affairs Committee for our Film & pizza night on Thursday, February 27th! We will be screening another award-winning film which we will make you wonder, make you angry & initiate conversations. Join colleagues & friends for the film, Sweet Crude. Watch the [movie trailer](#).

Sweet Crude is a documentary film about the Niger Delta of Nigeria -- the humanitarian and environmental devastation there in the wake of 50 years of unregulated oil extraction, the history of non-violent protest by Niger Deltans demanding control of their own resources and the emergence of the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND).

This event is free for STA members. Non-member guests are welcome for \$10. Register at <https://lacfilmmight-feb27.eventbrite.ca>.

Wellness Event: It's fun to be at the Y-M-C-A!



Wellness Event

Friday, February 28, 2020

3 pm - 6 pm
(feel free to stay until facility closes at 10 pm)

Tong Louie Family YMCA
(14988 57 Avenue, Surrey, BC)

Come explore the YMCA and learn about the facilities and programs that are available. You will have the choice to freely explore and participate in a variety of activities available at the YMCA, including the pool, the fitness floor, and yoga. A massage therapist will be on-site offering demonstrations and there will be a draw for a free massage! You are welcome to stay after and continue to enjoy the facilities and/or group

fitness programs such as Bollywood dance and ballet. Delicious and healthy snacks will be provided. Register at <https://wellness-feb2020.eventbrite.ca>.

STA Convention May 1, 2020: Call for Presenters!

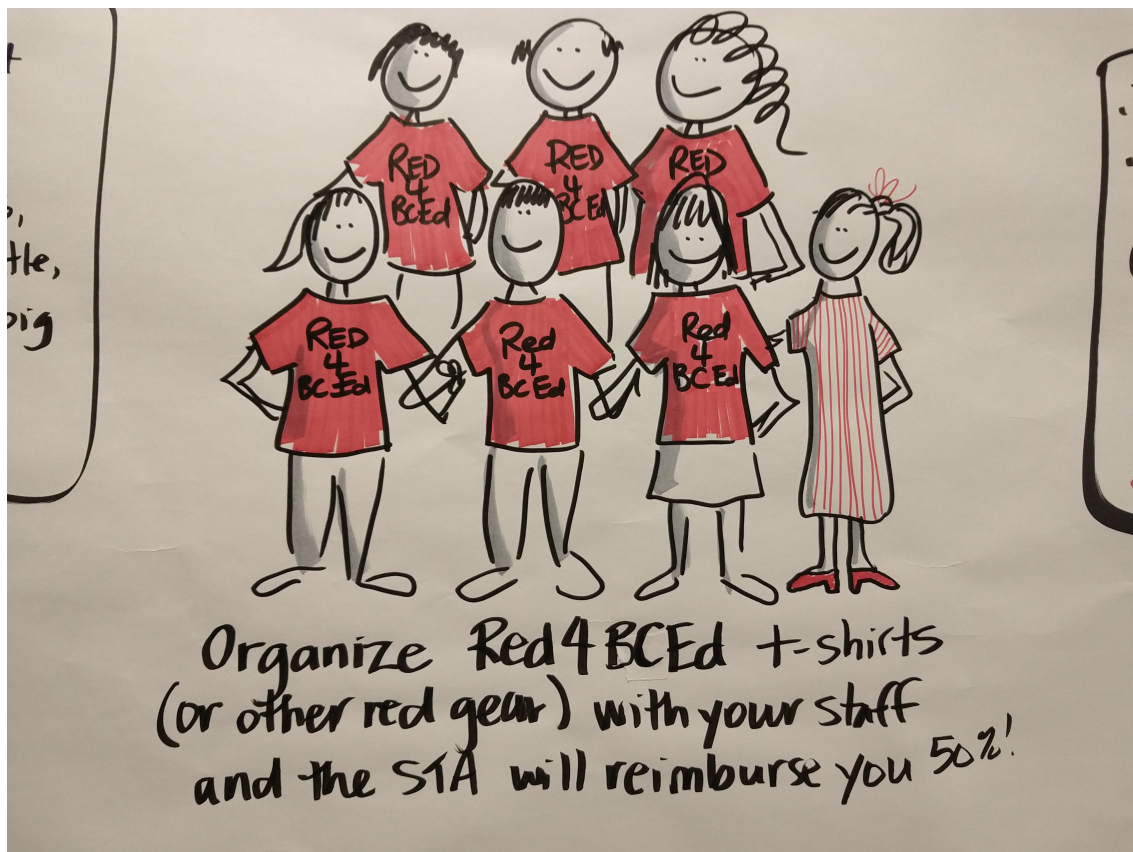
We are still in need of close to 100 workshops to host another successful STA Convention. Do you have a great idea you would like to share with your colleagues? Or if you know of a colleague that does something in their practice that more people need to hear about, please encourage them to submit a proposal on our website at www.staconvention.ca. A half-day of release is provided to presenters to help prepare their workshops. We will be accepting proposals until the end of February.

#RedforBCED - On Wednesdays, We Wear Red!



Pictured are teachers from L.A. Matheson Secondary wearing their #RedforBCED!

We have been very impressed by the staff who have taken the initiative to order their own #RedforBCED apparel. Recently, the STA Executive passed a motion that would subsidize staff 50% of the cost of #RedforBCED apparel (up to \$15 per item) to help encourage Surrey teachers to wear red on Wednesdays. This motion is retroactive to the 2019-2020 school year. Please send your original receipts to sta@surreyteachers.org or through the courier to #000.



Surrey teachers, please send us photos and videos of your staff wearing their red, holding walk-ins, burma shaves, and any other acts of solidarity. Let us know if we can help support you in any way. We need a fair deal that includes better working and learning conditions, and fair salaries!

Please post your pictures on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram using the hashtag #RedforBCED



Surrey Primary Teachers' Association

Ecological Understanding With Primary Students

Presenter: Gillian Judson

(Author of "The Walking Curriculum")

Tuesday, April 21st, 2020

3:45 – 5:30 p.m.

**Hazelgrove Elementary
7057 191st Street, Surrey**

Engaging students with their natural and cultural contexts is a central aim of Imaginative Ecological Education, or IEE. Through cross-curricular practices like The Walking Curriculum (Judson, 2018), IEE can help develop students' sense of place and leave them feeling connected in different ways with the contexts in which they live and learn. This interactive session will introduce K-3 teachers to learning principles and practical strategies that can help students engage with the mystery and wonder of the world around them as they meet curricular objectives.

Surrey Primary Teachers' Association

This session will take place in a classroom setting and outdoors (regardless of the weather). Please dress appropriately.

Snacks, refreshments, and door prizes are included in this session.

Just a reminder that SPTA workshops are scent-free events.

SURREY PRIMARY TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

Register at:

www.spta36.weebly.com

When registering, go under the "workshop" menu and select the Ecological Understanding session.

**SPTA Members: Free
Non-members: \$10**



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 is from Jas Sidhu to Peter Erceg:

"My shout-out is to Peter Erceg at Creekside. Peter has the most amazing rapport, connection, and relationship with his students and the entire staff. He's the people's person... always willing to listen, lend a hand, and learn. He's honest to a fault and cares deeply about everyone, especially his students, and in turn his students admire him. It's always a pleasure working alongside you Peter!"

Thank you Jas, you and Peter 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!