



STA Connection June 22-26, 2020

**Congratulations to all for making it to the end of
June!**



It has been an absolutely unprecedented year due to the pandemic and all STA members deserve their upcoming summer holiday. Congratulations to all for all the innovations, adaptations, stick-to-it-ness, and above all your deep care for your students. We hope next school year has some degree of normalcy even as we face the likely continuation of the pandemic. This summer we wish you all some precious time

spent with family or friends, some rest, peace and enjoyment. We in the STA office will also be on holiday, and will start work again in the last week of August.

Virtual Committee Elections at the June 24 STARA

The last STARA meeting of the year will be held at 4 pm on June 24, 2020 via Zoom and we will hold elections for our standing committees during that meeting. We will be voting via Simply Voting, and we hope it will be a fast process.

All members who wish to attend will need to sign up individually as the registration keys are one use only. Please use your surreyschools email for registration. [Registration](#) will be open until **June 24 at 2 pm**.

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing your registration keys and information about joining the webinar (this process may take some time, so please register as soon as possible). If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to email sta@surreyteachers.org.

Would you like to attend the Virtual BCTF Rep Assembly?

Next week on Monday, June 29 and Tuesday, June 30, about 260 elected local representatives from across the province will be attending the BCTF representative assembly, which will be held online for the first time! This is a great opportunity for members who are interested in what happens at the Representative Assembly to attend as a guest, since no LOA or travel will be needed. To receive the links to attend, you will need to register by going to <https://members.bctf.ca/events.aspx>, click on "Spring Representative Assembly 2020", choose "other" for your role, and submit! The agenda includes the 2020-21 budget and local resolutions. If you would like to contact your 6 Surrey local representatives, feel free to email them at LR@surreyteachers.org.

STA Facebook group monitoring over the Summer

Many members engage with our Surrey Teachers and Surrey TTOC Facebook groups for teaching ideas, to discuss processes at the district, concerns about various issues, notifying about events etc. Over the summer there will be reduced monitoring of these pages, so if you have an emergency please contact us via email so we are able to respond. Sometimes important questions can get buried in a thread, and an email is a more direct way to communicate. [Table officers' direct contact information](#) is listed on our website.

TTOCs and Adult Educators – grocery gift cards for those seriously impacted by lack of pay

The COVID-19 pandemic has created enormous challenges for all educators across the province, but most teachers have been fortunate not to have lost pay. However, some of our members, namely TTOCs

and some Adult Educators, are experiencing extreme financial hardship from loss of work due to COVID-19. In an effort to support our vulnerable members, we passed the following motion at our AGM:

THAT up to \$12,000 be used to purchase grocery cards from the Convention Budget for teachers in need such as TTOC and Adult Educators who have had reduced enrolment and are dependent on funds from their role as an Adult Educator teacher.

The STA is providing 120 \$100 gift cards to Safeway or Save-On Foods for TTOCs and affected Adult Educators. If you are a TTOC or Adult Educator, and are experiencing economic hardship due to loss of work, please email reception@surreyteachers.org by **12 pm Friday June 26th** for a grocery store gift card. If we receive more than 120 requests, gift cards will be awarded based on a random draw. Gift cards will be distributed at the STA office on June 26th between 1:30-3:30pm.

Accommodations

Looking toward September, we know that the District has already started forming their plan for how to manage requests for medical accommodations. The District is planning on the assumption that student attendance will be mandatory in September and we know that an increase of students on site will directly affect operational needs at each school. Based on our discussions with HR and senior management, we are hearing that the only reason why so many members were permitted to continue working remotely in June without an approved accommodation is that there were so few students coming to school (which itself resulted in extra work for the teachers working at the school sites,) and the District does not expect that situation to continue in September. It may be that the employer will take a stricter approach to accommodations for next year, and restrict the ability to work remotely to cases where there is compelling medical evidence, particularly where the request is based on the fact that an employee has a vulnerable person in their household.

The employer is making various changes to its process for dealing with accommodation requests for next year. If you expect to be seeking an accommodation, it will be essential to monitor your District email over the summer and also check the Health Services website.

Request for Information from BCTF on Accommodations

In order to assess what is happening with accommodations across the province, the BCTF is asking for the following information. Please email sta@surreyteachers.org if this applies to your situation:

- Members who have requested accommodations, and are not being accommodated, and **have lost wages due to not being accommodated** (i.e. members who ran out of sick days or took unpaid leave because the Employer wouldn't accommodate them).

Personal Protective Equipment

We know many members would like PPE, such as masks, to be provided to them for their work, and we want you to know we have advocated strongly for this. We continue to address PPE with the District, in addition to having recurring discussions on this issue with the BCTF Health and Safety Advisory Committee. To date, the BC Provincial Health Officer has not given a recommendation regarding

mandatory use of masks, but members may continue to use their own PPE at work if they choose to do so.

TTOC Experience Transfer: Make Sure You Get Paid For Your Experience!

Did you know that your TTOC experience is not automatically factored into your pay level when you get a contract? You need to apply to have it transferred.

The deadline to apply to have your TTOC Experience transferred to your Contract Teaching Experience is June 30! Sign and send the [form](#) to the District (Attn: HR/Payroll). It might make you eligible for an incremental increase in September!

Your pay increment (step level) is based on your teaching experience. Contract teachers move up one step on the pay scale after 10 months of full-time experience. Incremental increases take place automatically on September 1 and January 1 each year.

TTOCs are also eligible to move up the pay scale based on their experience: 17 days of TTOC experience equals one month of contract experience. If you have received a contract this year, and have previously accumulated TTOC experience, you can complete a form asking Payroll to convert TTOC experience to contract experience, because the combination of the two might make you eligible for an incremental increase. Payroll will not do this unless you request that your TTOC days and contract months are merged.

If you are a part-time contract teacher AND you work occasionally as a TTOC, you are also eligible to convert your accumulated TTOC experience to Contract experience.

For example: Taylor Smith teaches three days per week at an elementary school in a contract assignment. On Thursdays and Fridays, they TTOC. Taylor has 70 days of TTOC experience accrued in their TTOC experience bank. They also have 7 months of contract teacher experience accrued. In June 2020, Taylor applied to have their TTOC experience transferred to their contract teacher bank. The 70 days Taylor has accrued will be converted to months by dividing by 17. 70 divided by 17 is 4 whole months with 2 days remaining. The four months will be transferred to Taylor's contract teacher bank and the 2 days will remain in their TTOC bank. Taylor will now have 11 months in their contract teacher experience bank. This means that on September 1, 2020, Taylor moved from Step 0 on the salary grid to Step 1. Taylor will be able to transfer their TTOC experience twice per year.

If there's any confusion, or you have questions, please contact Grievance Officer, Mark Keelan via grieve2@surreyteachers.org.

Mentor36



Mentor36 is our Surrey Teachers' Association – School District 36 joint mentorship program. We are committed to supporting professional growth and a sense of belonging for Surrey teachers through an opportunity for collaborative mentorship at every site in Surrey. Are you interested in engaging first-year teachers through mentoring? You can now apply to be a mentor at your school or within your family of schools on the Mentor36 website at www.mentor36.com. Please call Christie Weigel, Professional Support Services officer, at 604-594-5353 for more information.

Reminder: Submit Your Receipts!

Attention teachers! Do you have any outstanding, unclaimed expenses from this school year?

Have you filed your claim to be reimbursed for Pro-D, red t-shirts, or other related expenses?

STA Committee members and staff reps, do you have any receipts that need to be sent in?

This is a friendly reminder to complete your expense vouchers and submit your paperwork (including receipts!) by **June 30, 2020**. Donna is trying hard to get everyone paid. Please help her out by not waiting until the bitter end to get your paperwork in! Can't find your sheet?

Download the [expense voucher](#). For the voucher specific to Red for Ed shirts, you can find it [here](#).

Forms can be sent to Donna Stewart at accounting@surreyteachers.org.

BCTF COVID-19 Survey

Now is your chance to share your thoughts and concerns with the BCTF!

They will ask you questions around the following themes:

1. How are you doing?
2. What do you think about the return to teaching in schools?

3. What shifts have you seen in your workload and use of technology?

This is an opportunity to ensure your voice is heard and that the BCTF can advocate for us all.

The survey takes about 15 minutes to complete and will be open until **Friday, June 26**.

Complete the survey here: <http://questionnaire.simplesurvey.com/f//teachingduringcovid>

The BCTF also sent the Ministry of Education a proposal (see attachment) for a multi-stakeholder COVID-19 Pandemic Planning Committee for September start up. The committee would identify and address the many issues and concerns that have arisen during emergency remote learning and the return to voluntary in-school instruction for students.

“The BCTF believes we need a consistent plan for the full 2020–21 year that considers all eventualities (schools fully in, a blended model, or schools fully out). There needs to be a much more thoughtful and planned approach that allows teachers to plan their year without the goal posts moving every few weeks. The planning needs to take into consideration the health and safety of teachers, the impacts of any changes to teachers’ workload, and the mental health and wellness of everyone involved in the school system.”

Pro-D Opportunity: Talking about Racism in the Classroom

The Global Centre for Pluralism, in partnership with UNESCO, is offering 2 free online professional development sessions on how to have conversations about race in the classroom. Facilitated by inclusion and antiracism consultant, Destine Lord, this will provide educators with the key definitions and racial concepts necessary to get these conversations started. More information can be found here: <https://www.pluralism.ca/talking-racism/>. They will take place at the beginning of July and at the end of August.

Surrey #GreenAndJustRecovery Town Hall

Our guests for this **Online Town Hall** will be...



Ken Hardie
MP for Fleetwood-Port Kells



Jinny Sims
MLA for Surrey-Panorama



Steven Pettigrew
Surrey City Councillor

Submit your questions Live or in advance for our guests via Email to SurreyForFuture@gmail.com

SURREY
#GreenAndJustRecovery
ONLINE TOWN HALL

Register at...
fourkids.ca/surrey_greenandjustrecovery_town_hall
and Save The Date!

June 25th, 2020
6:00 - 7:30

    

On Thursday, June 25, from 6:00-7:30 pm, Surrey youth will be hosting and moderating an online

conversation with three of Surrey's elected officials about Canada's Green & Just Recovery. The town hall will be an opportunity to ask your representatives questions about what a #GreenandJustRecovery might look like, particularly in this region. What do you want a #GreenandJustRecovery to include? Teachers! Let's have a presence there, and support youth climate activists!

Sign up here: https://www.fourkids.ca/surrey_greenandjustrecovery_town_hall

Opportunity for Students: Global Peace Alliance Art & Literacy Contest

Every year Global Peace Alliance BC runs an art and literary contest for children and adults and this year in particular they encourage artists and writers to relate their works to COVID-19. Two of our Surrey teachers are on the board of this organization and they are inviting you to get involved by joining or sharing the information and poster details with your students and other colleagues. The mandate of GPA is to educate citizens in peace education and strategies both in our communities and elsewhere and to celebrate diversity through the arts which includes a yearly multicultural festival and contest. More info can be found at www.peacealways.org.



One World - One People



ART 4 PEACE: A RESPONSE TO COVID19

Global Peace Alliance(GPA)
Email: info@peacealways.org
www.peacealways.org



Artwork by :
Golfo Tsakumis
Title:
COVID19

LITERARY & VISUAL ARTS CONTEST 2020

***Every participant receives a Certificate of Appreciation**
5-12 yrs | 13-17 yrs | 18-64 yrs | 65+ yrs

***Winners(3 in each age group)also receive cash Prizes & Trophies**
CONTEST RULES

*Essay: "How Will This Pandemic Affect Peace in the World and at Home?" What have we learned from COVID19, what needs to change in society going forward.

*Every literary/visual art work submission to the contests must have a theme of peace (loving-kindness, caring & sharing, forgiving & forgetting, friendship, multiculturalism, nuclear disarmament, social justice, conflict transformation, and the like). This year we encourage you to capture the impact of COVID19 on family, work, society and the world

*Minimum size for photographs is 5"x7".

*Unlimited entry submissions per person.

Please note that your literary/visual artwork will be archived & displayed at ART4PEACE Exhibitions and on the GPA website and other social media platforms.

Upon request original artwork may be picked up after GPA use.

*Maximum number of words for literary works (prose or poetry); 400 for 5-12 yrs & 2000 for others.

*The size of drawings and paintings (hand-drawn, sketched or painted) should be 8"x11" or smaller.

*Every entry submission must accompany a cover letter giving:

(a) Your name, birthday, physical address, phone number and email address; and

(b) A description of the peace message behind your work.

*Your literary/visual art work(s) can be emailed, mail to GPA office 17416 32nd Ave., Surrey, V3Z1C7 or hand-delivered by appointment call GPA office 604-329-0850 by August 25th, 2020



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 goes to Michelle Cornfield from Roxanne Pope:

“My shout out is as both a colleague and parent. I would like to give a shout out to our son’s teacher Michelle Cornfield at Cedar Hills Elementary. As we transitioned to remote teaching, she worked tirelessly to ensure that all the kids in her classroom were online and supported. This included advocating for and securing iPads for several students. She has made our son feel connected and valued, including one-on-one help sessions. She has been available throughout this journey, not only in supporting our son, but also as a colleague. We have not only shared resources, but also words of encouragement. This transition has not been easy as both a teacher and parent. I am grateful for the opportunity to have worked with Michelle these past few months!”

Thank you Roxanne, you and Michelle 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!
