



Meqó:s (December - January) *Fallen snow season*

Holiday Message from Acting President, Jatinder Bir

As a child I remember loving Christmas for bright sparkling lights, lush green tall Christmas trees, snowflakes, and of course Hallmark Santa and Rudolph movies. Today, the festive season continues to warm my heart because it seems to have a magical way of showing people at their most friendly, gracious, and giving. I hope your holiday season is filled with many wonderful moments of peace, joy and happiness.



TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

Did you know that on [Christmas Day 1921 dozens of Kwakwaka'wakw people were arrested](#) for participating in a potlatch? 20 men and women were imprisoned in Vancouver for months. The Canadian government had banned the ceremony in 1885, only lifting the ban in 1951. [Potlatch as Pedagogy](#) is an excellent resource for teachers who want to learn more about a ceremony that has existed for tens of thousands of years. Here's a [lesson on the kwakwaka'wakw potlatch](#). You'll find [a booklet of lessons related to the potlatch ban](#).

COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT NOTES

Special Bulletin Postings for Low Incidence Assignments in Intensive Intervention and Support Program

The STA and District have entered into a [Special Bulletin Agreement for the 2021-22 school year regarding Low Incidence teacher vacancies](#). Special Bulletin positions are term assignments that expire at the end of a school year. If the successful candidates for these vacancies are presently in continuing assignments, they will be able to return to their current assignments when the Low Incidence assignments end. If you have any questions regarding this Agreement, please contact Joanna Cerazy, Grievance Officer at grieve1@surreyteachers.org. [Read more](#)

Know your Collective Agreement: Staff Committee

How can teachers have an effective voice in the operation of their school? The good news that there's a clause in the Collective Agreement that ensures that you do! [Read more about Article A.34 School Staff Committees](#)

REFLECTIONS ON THE SEASON

Lights, a Sprinkle of Magic, a Whole Lot of Love...Action!

by Kawal Varpaul

Holly Elementary has a long stand tradition of putting on elaborate winter and spring musical productions.

This year, after two long years of COVID constraints, I felt the community was starving for excitement, and wanted to lift the morale of staff and students. The performing arts cannot be caged in the classroom and the creative muses begged to be released. A little organized chaos does wonders to break the monotony of the school year! [Read more](#)



Why can't the holiday season be dedicated to anti-oppression rather than over consumption?

by Annie Ohana

As a Sephardic Jew (Arabic Jew of Moroccan descent) we typically celebrate Hanukkah, a tradition borne out of the Maccabee's courage and rededication of the Temple after a battle against King Antiochus. By returning to and reclaiming the Temple, the Maccabees recommitted themselves to a Jewish way of life. The Hanukah celebration asks folx to rededicate themselves to the values we place at the center of our faith: Tikkun Olam, repair of the world. [Read more](#)

A reflection on this season of light

by Christie Weigel

As many of us, from a wide variety of faiths and philosophies, celebrate this December, I offer my personal thoughts and beliefs, on this season of light.

When I think about Christmas, I am struck by the mystery of God taking on human form to live in the world. That the Creator would step away from His glory and humble Himself to become one of us, really moves me, especially these days. Setting aside all privilege and status, Jesus, the Light of the world, is born. [Read more](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Call out for 2022 BCTF AGM Delegates

Do you want to attend the BCTF AGM from Saturday, March 19 – Tuesday, March 22, 2022? It's expected that the AGM will be a hybrid event with final details still being worked on by BCTF. Delegates will be elected at the Special General Meeting on Wednesday, January 19th, 2022. If you are interested in becoming a delegate and can commit to the preparation meetings, please email your name and a brief statement to sta@surreyteachers.org by 4pm on Friday, December 17, 2021. [Read more](#)



Call for Nominations

There will be an election at the **January 19, 2022** General Meeting for two Table Officer positions (**Professional Support Services Officer and Grievance Officer**), and also for a **Secretary-Treasurer**. All three positions are part of the Executive Committee which meets every second Tuesday afternoon. If you are interested in being a candidate for any of these positions, please forward your statement to sta@surreyteachers.org by **Tuesday, January 4, 2022**.

[Read Election Guidelines](#) | [Read more details about each position](#)

January 31 Qualifications Deadline

In order to be shortlisted for jobs that require certain qualifications in Rounds 1 and 2, teachers need to be listed in the District Qualification Book. Teachers who are interested in changing their assignments to such positions need to apply to the Human Resources Department (courier #481) by January 31, 2022 to have their qualifications evaluated. The evaluation will be completed by March 31, in time for Rounds 1 & 2. (CA, Article E.28.1). Information regarding job descriptions and evaluation forms can be found on the [Job Description Handbook page](#).

Ethical Shopping

Thinking about gifts for the holidays and want to stop shopping at Amazon? Consider ethically shopping for a conscious gift to help improve the lives of people all over the world. The International Solidarity Committee has previously recommended purchasing [Fair Trade Kampot pepper](#) and shopping at [Café ético](#) to support social justice initiatives that help alleviate food insecurity and support human rights in Latin America. Consider buying gifts that give back!

SHOUT OUT!

There are amazing things happening around the district that we would love to hear about. 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. You and the colleague you shout out will have your names entered into our monthly draw for a \$25 Indigo Gift certificate.

Please submit your "shout outs" to Lizanne via communications@surreyteachers.org. Be sure to get your submissions in by 4pm on **Friday, January 7** for this second draw of the 2021- 2022 school year.



UPCOMING EVENTS

January 4
Bargaining Committee

January 5
Health & Safety Committee

January 7
Health & Safety Committee

January 10
Pro-D Committee
Environmental Justice Committee

January 11
Executive committee
Staff Rep Training

January 12
Status of Women Committee

January 13
Indigenous Education Committee
Pro-D Town Hall

January 14
Young Workers' Committee

January 17
Bargaining Committee
International Solidarity Committee
PA/PR Committee

January 18
Ad Hoc Podcast Committee
Executive Committee

January 19
Staff Rep Training
Special General Meeting

January 20
Staff Rep Training
Ad Hoc Indigenization Committee

January 21
Ad Hoc Young Workers Committee

We acknowledge with gratitude and respect that STA members have the privilege of working on the unceded ancestral territory of the Coast Salish peoples, the q^wa:ńł'ən (Kwantlen), qíćəy (Katzie), qiqéyt (Qayqayt) and semi'a:mu: (Semiahmoo) who have cared for this land for thousands of years, and who continue to care for this land. As educators, we are committed to actions aimed at healing the broken relationship between settlers and Indigenous peoples.