

STA CONNECTION

February 13-17, 2023

Red for BCED 2023

“

Every child deserves a champion; an adult who will never give up on them, who understands the power of connection and insists that they become the best they can possibly be.

- Rita Pierson, Educator

”

[Watch Rita Pierson's full Ted Talk: Every Kid Needs a Champion](#)



A Red For BCED Story

We are a dual track, high needs elementary school. Our students are full of energy, curiosity, and a desire to fit in and make friends. We are grateful for the hardworking staff and wonderfully diverse families who work hard to fill in the gaps through fundraising and other initiatives. We have the benefit of a breakfast and lunch program and after school clubs, many of which are funded by outside agencies. We do our best with what we have, but it would sure make a difference if we had more funding to meet the needs of our students and staff. Here is what some of our staff shared about what they love about our school and some of our challenges.

[Read more](#)



Have Your Say in the Upcoming 2023-2024 School Budget!

The Red for BCED campaign is our response to the chronic underfunding of public education in BC. Completing the District's [budget survey](#) is a way to take a Red for BCED action! Tell the Surrey School District what is important to you as a teacher who lives in Surrey and/or as a parent of children who attend Surrey schools. Submissions will be accepted until the end of day, February 28, 2023.

Action Items

1. Submit Story for *Red for BCED* Pizza Lunch Lottery
2. Book a school visit from a Table Officer

1. Submit Your School Story for Our *Red for BCED* Campaign Lunch Lottery

Take a staff picture when everyone is wearing their *Red for BCED* T-shirts and then complete the [Red for BCED Stories Form](#) to provide a sentence or two about something good about public education at your school and also a sentence or two about what your school needs so that it can continue to be a place that supports learning for all students.

Each submission will be entered into a draw (one elementary, one secondary) for a pizza lunch for the staff. Submit your picture and completed form before noon on Friday, February 24. Winners will be announced in the STAC for **March 3**.

2. We'd like to visit you at your school!

Complete the [School Visit Form](#) to let us know which date you would prefer. We are available for lunch or after school visits. Reminder that we passed a motion that in 2022-2023 Elementary schools and Learning centres have \$160, Elementary schools with over 600 students would have \$200, and Secondary schools would have \$240 to purchase snacks or prizes for union meetings.



Truth and Reconciliation

Transformative Territory Acknowledgements

This week we have three stories related to Len Pierre's [webinar](#) on learning about transformative territory acknowledgements. Thank you to Tracey from Cloverdale Learning Centre, Amanda from Douglas Elementary, and Rachel from Semiahmoo Secondary for sharing their learning experiences. [Read more](#)

Hearts and Hands Pins for Truth and Reconciliation Learning Resources

Do you have a great resource or unit/lesson idea you'd like to share related to Truth and Reconciliation?

Submit your story to communications@surreyteachers.org and we will send a gift your way created by the artist Carey Newman - Hayalthkin'geme (@blueravenart on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#)).

Be sure to include your school and courier number in your submission please.



Black History Month

The 28th Official Black History Month in Canada

The 2023 theme for Black History Month is: [Ours to Tell](#). This theme provides a focus for discourse and an opportunity for a commitment to learning more about Black communities in Canada. Read [biographies](#) of important Black Canadians who have helped create Canadian heritage and identity, and who have made and continue to make great contributions.



Black History Month Story

Thank you to Ami Kambo who shared how she is highlighting Black Excellence and engaging learners during Black History Month at Fraser Heights Secondary. A gift card is on the way to you!

"At our school my Cultural diversity and equity club has been putting up various displays around the school for Black history month I've attached pics 📷 Thanks for the opportunity to share ❤️. [Read more](#)



Teaching Black History

Remember to share the ways you teach your students about Black History, Black Excellence, and Anti-Racism for the month of February. Please send your stories and pictures if you have them to communications@surreyteachers.org and we'll treat you with a coffee gift card! Be sure to include your school and courier number in your submission.

Collective Agreement Notes

Check your Paystub!

It's always a good idea to check your paystub every month. Some items to check to ensure they're correct:

- Teacher Category
- Pay Scale – 5 (Bachelor's degree), 5+ (PB+15), or 6 (Master's degree)
- Step – maximum is 10 years.
- Days – for 1.0 contract, it should be 20 days.
 - Sick Day Balance – it should tell you how many sick days you've taken that month and how many you have left.

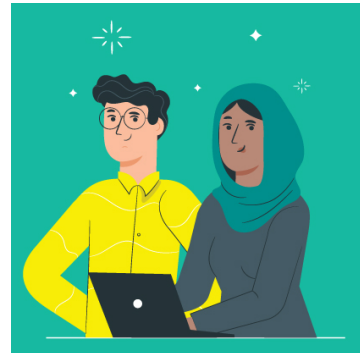
If you have any questions about your pay, please contact District Payroll at (604) 595-6115 as soon as you notice a discrepancy.

Payroll Deductions

Our [2023 Payroll Deductions](#) explains deductions on your paystub. We suggest printing/saving the document for easy access in the future.

STA New Teachers' Conference

Are you new to teaching? Do you have questions about what your union has to offer? Your pay cheque? Your contract? For answers, you can attend our New Teacher's Conference that on **Wednesday, March 1, 2023**, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. [Registration is open](#) to teachers in the first 3 (or so) years of teaching, who have not attended before. Release time is provided for you to attend. Details will be sent after you register.



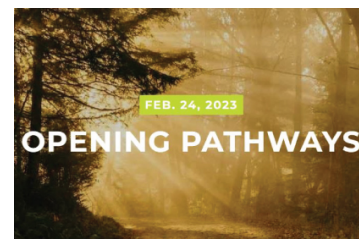
Professional Development

Call for Proposals for STA 2023 Convention

Do you have an idea worth sharing about topics or subjects you teach? There is nothing more useful for colleagues than someone sharing examples from their teaching practice. The STA Convention Committee is now accepting workshop proposals for Convention Day on Friday, May 5, 2023. Registration for Convention will open after spring break. Please submit your proposals to the 2023 STA Convention Committee via the [Workshop Proposal Page](#) by **Friday, March 10, 2023**. The Convention Committee can be reached at convention@surreyteachers.org.

Focus Day: Friday, February 24, 2023

The Theme of Focus Day 2023, which is jointly organized by the STA and SD36, is Opening Pathways. Keynote Speaker Sheila Watt-Cloutier will speak on issues related to the environment, the economy, foreign policy and global health. [Read more](#)



Social Justice

Freedom to Read Week: February 19 - 25, 2023

Freedom to Read Week is a time to reflect on the right to intellectual freedom provided by the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Hearing stories of empty bookshelves in school classrooms and libraries in parts of the United States due to the restrictive laws being enacted by politicians should serve as a reminder of how important this right is. [Read more](#)



David Suzuki's "Act Online"

Visit [David Suzuki Foundation's Act Online](#) to view the different climate-related petitions, letters and other online actions you can support through their page.

Announcements

BIPOC Event: Sharing our stories in a space created for us: Wednesday, February 22, 2023 Join us on February 22nd at the STA Office for an evening of sharing, listening, and celebrating BIPOC educators in Surrey. [Register now](#)



STA Retirement Celebration

Are you retiring this year? Please let Donna Stewart know at accounting@surreyteachers.org to help us keep an accurate list of 2022/2023 retirees for the STA retirement celebration.

Upcoming Events

STA Events

February 21

AGM Delegate Training

February 22

[BIPOC Event - Ad Hoc Members of Colour Committee](#)

February 23

AGM Delegate Training
Ad Hoc LGBTQ2S+ Committee

February 24

Non-Instructional Day – [Focus Day](#)

February 28

Executive Committee

March 1

[New Teachers' Conference](#) Health
& Safety Committee Indigenous
Education Committee

March 2

AGM Delegate All Day Training
Ad Hoc Members of Colour Committee

March 6

Ad Hoc Environmental Justice Committee
Pro D Committee

March 7

Executive Committee

March 8

Ad Hoc LGBTQ2S+ Committee

March 9

Convention Committee

Other Important Dates

February

[Black History Month](#)

February 14

[Women's Memorial March](#)

February 19-25

[Freedom to Read Week](#)

February 20

Family Day

[United Nations Social Justice Day](#)

February 22

[Pink Shirt Day](#)

February 20-26

[BC Heritage Week](#)

March 1

[Disability Day of Mourning](#)

[Zero Discrimination Day](#)

March 2-8

[International Women's Week](#)

March 8

[International Women's Day](#)

For more, visit [United Nations International awareness dates](#)

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:ḥl'əḥ (Kwantlen), qícəy (Katzie), qiqéyt (Qayqayt) and semi'ɑ: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.