

# STA CONNECTION

February 21-24, 2023



Temtl'i:q'es (February 20 - March 21)  
*Time when ice forms*

## Elementary Prep Time 2023-2024

We were shocked and dismayed to hear from the district that they will require Elementary Teacher-Librarians to deliver the additional 10 minutes of prep to all K - 3/4 divisions, **with no corresponding increase** to Library Entitlements.

We are requesting that teacher-librarians take a few minutes to [fill out this form](#), so that we will have the stats on how much library collaboration time will be lost district-wide. We will collate this information to **present to the Board of Trustees on Wednesday, March 1, 2023**, so we appreciate you filling out this form as soon as possible. Responses will be kept confidential. [Read more](#)

## Action Items

1. Book a school visit from a Table Officer
2. Complete the Upcoming 2023-2024 School Budget Survey

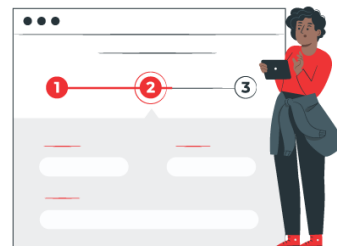
### 1. We'd like to visit you at your school!

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.



### 2. Surrey Schools Budget Survey

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**.



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## Truth and Reconciliation

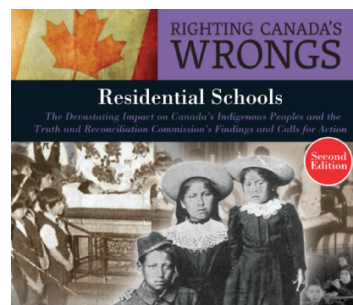
### Sharing our Reconciliation Journey

With gratitude, we are pleased to share this learning story from Jacqueline at William Watson Elementary. A beautiful Hearts & Hands pin is on its way to Jacqueline who wrote:

In Term 1 our focus for subject integration (Social Studies, Math 6, ADST and reading and writing) was Truth and Reconciliation. We studied books written about Residential Schools, including but not limited to I am Not a Number, Lucy & Lola, When I Was Eight and others. [Read more](#)

### Righting Canada's Wrongs: Residential Schools – 2nd Edition

This [resource](#) is listed as appropriate for grades 8 to 12 and is available through LRS (Stock ID 185775). The updated edition includes the findings of unmarked graves at residential schools and examines the work still to be done to implement the Calls to Action of the TRC Report.



### 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](mailto: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.



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## Black History Month

### Launch of a Black Studies 12 Course in Surrey Schools

A [Black Studies 12 course](#), created by Surrey teachers, will launch during this year's Black History month observance. Developed by Earl Marriott Secondary teacher Michael Musherure, L.A. Matheson Secondary teacher Manvir Mander, and Frank Hurt Secondary teacher Melanie Scheuer, with guidance from Social Studies helping teacher Cori Penner, the course guides students through a historical perspective on Black culture in Canada and a deeper understanding of ongoing social issues faced by racialized groups. The course is being introduced at Earl Marriott, Frank Hurt, Guildford Park, and L.A. Matheson, secondary schools.

## Black History Sharing and Learning Experiences

Thank you, Nicola and Neva, for sharing your stories about the importance of amplifying Black Excellence and historical figures from Black history as well as sharing your class experiences with your school community. A coffee gift card is on the way to you both!

### Making Learning Visible: A Black History Month Story from Nicola

Students at North Surrey made beautiful posters to celebrate Black Excellence Day/Black History Month. Here are two of them! These are displayed outside our cafeteria. At North Surrey, we believe that displays are for learning. Here is one of our displays that is up for the month of February. As soon as you walk into the building, this is what you see!



### Shared Experiences: A Black History Month Story from Neva

Our class at Maddaugh Elementary learned about Black History month by reading books from our school library, listening to stories, and writing to reflect our learning. We also invited parents with Uganda and Kenya heritage to drum with our class outside.



## 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](mailto: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.

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## 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.



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## Health & Safety

### Indoor Air Quality Problems

If you are finding problems with the air quality in your workspace (too hot, too cold, no air flow, bad smells), learn more about the [indoor protocol](#) the district follows to get the matter addressed.

Please contact Gavin Slade-Kerr at [hs@surreyteachers.org](mailto:hs@surreyteachers.org) for support in pursuing the matter.

### Snow Day Information

Whenever it snows, the STA office receives inquiries from teachers about what processes should be put in place at schools and what to do if it is difficult to travel to work. [Read important information about inclement weather](#)



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## 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](mailto:convention@surreyteachers.org).

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## Social Justice

### Judy Heumann on Disability Rights, Youth Activism & Storytelling as a Tool for Change

Join the free online event on Wednesday, March 1, 2023 that is part of the [2022–2023 All Community Read](#) series. This event is open to students, educators, and anybody fighting for social justice and belonging. The world-renowned advocate for disability rights Judy Heumann will provide a live online YouTube lecture that is appropriate for classrooms. [Learn more about this event and register](#)

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## Announcements

### International Women's Day: Breaking Bread Dinner

On **Monday, March 6, 2023**, the STA Status of Women Committee will be commemorating the upcoming International Women's Day (March 8) by hosting a Breaking Bread dinner. The invited speaker is Dr. Lauryn Oates, the Executive Director of Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan. [Register now](#)



### STA Retirement Celebration

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

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## Upcoming Events

### STA Events

#### 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 9

Convention Committee

#### March 13 - 24

Spring Break

#### March 18-21

BCTF AGM

#### March 27

School Reopens

**March 6**

Ad Hoc Environmental Justice Committee  
Pro D Committee

**March 7**

Executive Committee

**March 8**

Ad Hoc LGBTQ2S+ Committee

**March 29**

Post AGM Delegate Meeting

**March 30**

Ad Hoc Indigenization Committee

**March 31**

Last Day to Apply for Long Term Leave with a  
September Start Date

**Other Important Dates****February**

[Black History Month](#)

**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](#)

**March 21**

[International Day for the Elimination of Racial  
Discrimination](#)

**March 21-27**

[Week of Solidarity with People Struggling  
Against Racism and Racial Discrimination](#)

**March 22**

[World Water Day](#)

**March 22 – April 21**

Ramadan

**March 25**

[International Day of Remembrance of the  
Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave  
Trade](#)

**March 31**

[Transgender Day of Visibility](#)

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'wá:n̓l'ən̓ (Kwantlen), q̓ícəy̓ (Katzie), q̓ícéy̓t (Qayqayt) and semi'á: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.