

NOTEBOOK

Issue #4 November 4, 2016



NEW CURRICULUM DAY NOVEMBER 14, 2016

As you likely know, the BCTF was able to secure an additional non-instructional day during the 2016/17 school year for teachers to work on implementing the new curriculum.

This year, teachers may choose to stay at their own school and work on new curriculum alone or with colleagues.

Additionally, there are several workshops being offered by the District and the NVTA on topics related to the new curriculum. Teachers can register for these workshops on Booking Central.

You can find a workshop by choosing *Search Sessions* along the top menu.

The workshops being offered for teachers are:

- ORFF – The Art of Play
- Cracking the Curriculum Code
- Infusing Aboriginal Content (K to 7)
- Legacy of Residential Schools
- Applied Skills and Technology for Elementary Teachers
- BC Blanket Exercise

Spaces are limited so please register early. If you have any questions, please contact the NVTA office at 604.988.3224.

NEW CURRICULUM AND REPORTING

With the provincial government's new curriculum and new reporting orders, November is shaping up to be a month filled with challenges.

The NVTA Representative Assembly passed two motions at the October RA regarding report cards. Teachers at the RA expressed the concern of all teachers that there is tremendous anxiety throughout the District about the MyEd reporting system. The District responded quickly to the RA motions and, as a result, the MyEd presentation should have been done at this week's staff meeting. In addition, school principals and vice-principals have been trained to assist teachers. The District has also agreed that principals will not receive report cards until December 2.

As for report card changes, for the most part it is status quo. For K-5, the one comment for each of Applied Design, Skills and Technologies and Career Education, as well as the student self-assessment of the core competencies, is only for the June report card. For Grades 6-9, the comments for Applied Design, Skills and Technologies and Career Education are for each term. However, a comment in November that says, "a formal evaluation will occur in either Term 2 or Term 3," will suffice.

We applaud Superintendent Mark Pearmain's response to the NVTA motions in which he writes, "I recognize that we are in the midst of a great deal of change and that it is important to provide as much stability as possible to school staff."

If this message is not filtering down to school-based administrators, please let us know.

Please do not hesitate to contact us at the NVTA office if you have any questions or concerns.

COMMITTEE CALL-OUT

The following committees still require NVTA representation. Please consider volunteering for one of these important committees: Education Week Planning Committee, Emergency Preparedness Committee, Organic Waste Writing Committee, Safe & Caring Schools Committee, Occupational Health & Safety, and the Teacher Wellness Committee.

PRO D CONFERENCE 2017 WORKSHOP CALL-OUT

If you are interested in presenting a workshop at the NVTA District-wide Professional Development Conference 2017 on February 24, please contact Pro D Chairperson, Carolyn Pena, at the NVTA office (604.988.3224) or by email at carolyn@nvta.ca.

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KNOW YOUR CONTRACT

A.21 NVTA School Staff Committees

1. *The Board and the Association recognize the right of a school staff to form an NVTA Staff Committee.*
2. *The NVTA Staff Committee may study and make recommendations to the school administration on any matters of concern to the staff.*
3. *The NVTA Staff Committee shall have access to the school block budget information and other school district policies and regulations.*
4. *The school administration shall consider all recommendations made by the NVTA Staff Committee and will provide a response with reasons in an appropriate manner. Such responses shall be provided in a timely manner. Normally the school administration shall respond within seven (7) working days. In the case of a longer time frame being required, the administration shall provide the response no later than fifteen (15) working days after the recommendations are received.*

The NVTA Staff Committee at your school is a vital way to communicate, discuss, and debate issues with your colleagues. The NVTA Staff Committee meeting is only for teachers to attend and is a great way to develop recommendations to your school's administration.

In terms of school issues, your school's NVTA Staff Committee can address and make recommendations to the principal in Article A.21.2.

Article A.21.3. gives the Staff Committee the right to request your school's block budget information and other school district policies that may affect your school. Usually, such requests are made by the CSR and/or Staff Committee Chair, and the information is given to staff for study and later discussions. Occasionally, there can be a timely or contentious issue that you may have but don't feel comfortable raising on your own. Through the NVTA Staff Committee, staff can come together and make recommendations that the CSR and/or the Staff Committee Chair can take to your principal for discussion and response.

In terms of implementing the Collective Agreement, the NVTA Staff Committee is the best way to work collectively because your principal has to formally respond to recommendations made by Staff Committee under Article A.21.4. Your principal has seven (7) working days to respond outlining his/her reasons. If the issue is more complex, and more time is needed, your principal can make his/her response within fifteen (15) working days.

NVTA Meetings and Events Calendar 2016-2017

NOVEMBER 2016

- 11 Remembrance Day
- 14 Curriculum Day
- 16 NVTA Rep Assembly (Sutherland Library)

DECEMBER 2016

- 9 NVTA Christmas Party (Two Lions Pub)
- 14 NVTA Rep Assembly (Sutherland Library)

December 17 – January 2 CHRISTMAS BREAK

JANUARY 2017

- 3 Schools reopen
- 18 NVTA Rep Assembly (Sutherland Library)
- 20 Curriculum Implementation Day
- 25 NVTA General Meeting (St. Martin's Anglican Church) - elect delegates to the BCTF AGM

FEBRUARY 2017

- 13 Family Day
- 15 NVTA Rep Assembly (Sutherland Library)
- 24 District-wide Professional Development Conference
- 24-25 BCTF Conference for New Teachers

MARCH 2017

- 8 NVTA Rep Assembly – dinner meeting (Sutherland)
- 11-26 SPRING BREAK**
- 18-21 101st BCTF AGM
- 27 Schools reopen

APRIL 2017

- 14-17 Easter Long Weekend
- 19 NVTA Rep Assembly (Sutherland Library)
- 26 NVTA AGM & Social (St. Martin's Anglican Church) - elect NVTA Executive & Chairs for 2017-2018

MAY 2017

- 8 Professional Development Day
- 17 NVTA Rep Assembly (Sutherland Library)
- 22 Victoria Day

JUNE 2017

- 12 Retirement Tea (Seymour Golf & Country Club)
- 21 NVTA Rep Assembly (Sutherland Library)
- 29 Last day of school
- 30 Administration Day

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Thank you to H. Myhre, S. Maki, and P. Hollingsworth who were appointed by the NVTA Executive on October 26, 2016 to the Aboriginal Advisory Committee. At the October 19, 2016 meeting the following members were appointed: K. Roumeliotis to the Band & Strings Advisory Committee and V. Vinaric to the Mentorship Committee. At the October 5, 2016 Executive meeting the following appointments were made: J. Johnson, Aboriginal Advisory Committee; B. Hughes, P. Willemse, and C. Fraenkel, ICT Advisory Committee; M. Stoker, R. Tevendale, T. Summers, and C. Kinnon to the Inclusion Committee; W. Lee and M. Boljuncic to Mentorship; B. Hughes (Secondary) to JEPIC; K. Gill, A. Bulsara, and R. Vosahlo (Elementary) to JEPIC; L. Stewart, M. Appelbe and J. Bertrand to French Immersion Review Committee; S. Megahy and C. Pena to School Cleanliness Committee. P. Willemse was appointed to (Secondary) JEPIC on September 14, 2016.