

# NOTEBOOK

Issue #15 June 28, 2023



## In Memoriam *Liz Carter-Boppart*

It is with sadness we report the passing of Liz Carter-Boppart, NVTA member and well-loved educator in the North Vancouver School District.

As expressed by her sister, Meg Maledy, Liz was a passionate educator who brought much light and love to her students. Teaching was her vocation, not just her profession.

In the last years of her career, she loved TTOCing in classrooms. She brought the best out of students and often reported to the classroom teacher how much they had accomplished. She had great classroom management skills and a good demeanour with the students. She set a quiet tone in the classroom, conducive to learning and cooperation.

Liz will be deeply missed by her husband, Gord, mom Elisabeth, siblings Meg, Tom, Stephen, extended family and friends, and relatives in Switzerland and New Zealand.

A memorial service for Liz will be held on Friday, June 30, at 2 pm at Christ the Redeemer Catholic Church in West Vancouver.



## YEAR-END MESSAGE TO TEACHERS

Welcome to the end of the 2022-2023 school year. I'm sure that you are all grateful that the end is near. In true fashion for this school year, I tried to get ChatGPT to write this end of year message but was dissatisfied with the result. It was just way too sappy. So, you will all have to be subjected to my mediocre writing. But at least it is my own – which is what we all hope our students will do.

I wanted to write something about how challenging teaching has become; that teachers are being asked to do more with less, and that the behaviour of students is becoming increasingly challenging. Looking back on past messages from the president, I see that this sentiment is neither original nor unique to our time. Yet if you speak to any seasoned educator in BC, they will tell you that teaching today is not what it was even five years ago. The world is changing, expectations are shifting, and the pressures of our modern world can seem overwhelming at times. This is why the BCTF and the NVTA are working to advocate for more funding for education and for improved working conditions.

Though we made some good gains in bargaining and were able to ratify a new collective agreement that provided teachers with the biggest salary increase we have had in many years (including the removal of the bottom step of the grid) we are already looking forward to our next bargaining round so we can be ready to negotiate better conditions for teachers. As teachers, we all need to work together in solidarity to progress toward our goals.

Through all the challenges, changes in curriculum, reporting orders, and rising expectations, you continue to bring your best selves to the work of teaching. We know that teachers work hard and give their all to provide ongoing learning opportunities and experiences for their students. Not only do you make a positive impact on the individuals that teach, but you help to strengthen and shape our society. Thank you for everything that you do.

Looking forward to next school year, we will have to work to manage the anticipated challenges of implementing the new reporting order. The NVTA will be advocating for supports, in-service training, and managing the expectations of administrators and parents so that teachers are not unreasonably burdened with the stress of realizing the ministry's new initiative.

Hopefully, you can put all of that out of your mind and enjoy the upcoming well-earned break. Over the summer, enjoy travelling, spending time outdoors, visiting with friends and family, reading those books you've had on your list, and generally, engaging in activities that will recharge you.

Wishing you all the best for the coming months.



North Vancouver Teachers' Association

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Fax: 604-980-8092

Website: [nvta.ca](http://nvta.ca)

## Important information AT A GLANCE

**Administration Day Reminder** - Friday, June 30, 2023 is an Administration day that ends at 12pm. This ensures that the total amount of instructional minutes of all NVTA members is correct for the year. There should be no pressure applied by administration for you to stay past noon on June 30, 2023. If you do encounter such pressure, please contact us at the NVTA office, 604.988.3224.

For the 2023-2024 school year, the following dates are also shortened work days for teachers:

- September 5 – First Day of School – 2 pm
- December 4 – Curriculum Implementation Day – 2 pm
- June 28 – Administration Day – 12 pm

**Surplus Information** – If you are not placed for the fall and are going out of town, make sure HR has your contact information. After August 15, HR can begin to assign positions to teachers who are not yet placed. If HR assigns you to a position after August 15, ask for a list of all available positions as the board only has the right to assign an employee to a position if it the only vacancy that exists that matches a surplus employees' qualifications and experience. Please call the NVTA office if you have questions.

### ATTENTION – CHIEF STAFF REPRESENTATIVES

School/Staff Rep forms will be sent via the milkrun to schools in the coming days. Current CSRs are asked to advise the NVTA office as soon as possible of the name of the Chief Staff Representative for the 2023-2024 school year.

### NVTA OFFICE SUMMER HOURS

The NVTA office will close for summer break at 3 pm on Friday, June 30, 2023. We reopen at 8 am on Monday, August 28, 2023.

The NVTA answering machine will be checked *occasionally* through the summer and the NVTA President, Katrina Russell, will check her email *periodically*.

## 2023-2024 Calendar

### AUGUST

- 28 NVTA office reopens
- 30 NVTA Executive Summer Planning Session

### SEPTEMBER

- 4 **Labour Day**
- 5 Schools reopen
- 20 NVTA Representative Assembly
- 27 NVTA General Meeting (adopt NVTA Goals/Priorities, Budget & Fee 2023-2024)
- 30 Truth & Reconciliation Day

### OCTOBER

- 2 **Observe Truth & Reconciliation Day**
- 5 World Teachers' Day
- 9 **Thanksgiving**
- 18 NVTA Representative Assembly
- 20 District-wide Pro D Day (PSA)

### NOVEMBER

- 3-4 BCTF Representative Assembly
- 11 Remembrance Day
- 13 **Observe Remembrance Day**

### DECEMBER

- 4 Curriculum Implementation Day
  - 8 NVTA Christmas Party
  - 20 NVTA Representative Assembly
- Dec. 23, 2023 – Jan. 7, 2024 – WINTER BREAK**

### JANUARY

- 8 Schools reopen
- 17 NVTA Representative Assembly
- 31 NVTA General Meeting (elect delegates to the BCTF Annual General Meeting)

### FEBRUARY

- 2-3 BCTF Winter Representative Assembly
- 16 District-wide Pro D Day
- 19 **Family Day Holiday**
- 21 NVTA Representative Assembly

### MARCH

- 13 NVTA Representative Assembly
- March 16, 2024 – March 28, 2024 – SPRING BREAK**
- 16-19 108<sup>th</sup> BCTF AGM
- March 29 – April 1, 2024 – Easter Weekend**

### APRIL

- 2 Schools Reopen

### MAY

- 3 District-wide Pro D Day
- 20 **Victoria Day**
- 24-25 BCTF Spring Representative Assembly

### JUNE

- 10 NVTA Retirement Tea
- 27 Last day of school
- 28 Administration Day



NVTA Office hours are Monday to Friday 8:00 am to 4:00 pm

Phone: 604.988.3224 Fax: 604.980.8092 Website: [www.nvta.ca](http://www.nvta.ca)

President: Katrina Russell; First Vice President: Dave Murton; Second Vice President: Robin Deleurme  
Pro D Chairperson: Tammy Daley; NVTA Office Managers: Beth Triggs and Terrie Hendrickson