

ADTA News



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(604) 854-1946
September 2010

WELCOME BACK!

In looking back upon the restful idleness of August, I cannot find any argument with Henry James' conviction that the words "summer afternoon" have always been the two most beautiful in the English language. These past weeks away from the sound and fury not only sheds tension, but also applies a well-deserved restorative balm to guild ourselves for a new year. Most likely your return was served up with a continental breakfast at a far-too-early-in-the-morning meeting on Tuesday, and by now you're having trouble even remembering what it was like to be roused by sunshine.

Alas, it cannot always be summer and now that we have returned to classrooms throughout the District we find new and more emergent issues to be dealt with. For the ADTA office that means making sure that contractual language is being respected and upheld. As the year begins to unfold, we are sure that there will be issues over class size and composition as well as post and fill language that you may have questions about. Please feel free to contact either Jeff or myself if you need some clarification about these or any other issues.

I look forward to the coming year and hope you do as well.

Respectfully yours, Doug Smuland

HEALTH ISSUES

Do you suffer from health issues that seem only to exist when you are at work? Things such as dry, burning eyes, a constant cough, a runny nose, that over the weekend or an extended break seem to get better or go away. If so please contact the ADTA office either by phone (604) 854-1946 or email adta34@shaw.ca

TOCS DID YOU KNOW? TEACHER ON CALL DUTIES

ARTICLE D.31

The teacher on call shall be required to perform only the duties of the teacher he/she is replacing.

BC COLLEGE OF TEACHERS' FEES

ARTICLE: 2:18.2

Upon written application to the School District Human Resources Department, including the original of the College fee receipt, substitute teachers who have worked for the Board for forty (40) FTE days in any one (1) school year shall be eligible for reimbursement of the annual College membership fee.

NAME OR ADDRESS CHANGE?

Please inform the ADTA if you have a name change, address change or a new telephone number. *It's your responsibility to inform the BCTF and the College of Teachers of any personal changes. The BCTF website has change forms which you can download or submit online.*

DID YOU KNOW?

The Teacher's Magazine is available on line read it today by clicking on www.bctf.ca

DID YOU KNOW?

The ADTA WEBSITE is updated weekly with new and current up-to-date information. Check it out at www.adta.bc.ca

New Teachers' Conference

The New Teachers' Conference is held annually in the Metro Vancouver area, usually in February. Information about online registration and exhibitors' booth applications will be available early in the new year. The conference is a professional development opportunity designed specifically for new teachers - those in their first five years of teaching, and for student teachers.

Class size limits are:

- Grades K-3** Cannot exceed (K = 22 / 1-3 = 24)
- Grades 4-7** Must not exceed 30, unless the teacher consents and the superintendent's and principal's opinions are that more students are appropriate.
- Grades 8-12** Must not exceed 30, unless the teacher has been consulted and the superintendent's and principal's opinions are that more students are appropriate.
- Class composition:**
- Grades K-12** Students for who IEPs are in place must not exceed 3 in each class, unless the teacher has been consulted and the superintendent's and principal's opinions are that more students are appropriate.

Each month the ADTA would like to reward a teacher who has made a contribution to maintaining the health and vitality of our union. If you are aware of a teacher who has defended our contractual language, went out of their way to help a fellow teacher, or generally ennobled the profession of teaching we would like to hear from you. Please send their name, the name of their school, and the reason for you having selected them in an email to Doug Smuland by the last day of each month.



FACTOR 88 DON'T WAIT

Teachers who have reached factor 88, age plus contributory service with the teachers or municipal pension plan, and have 120 sick days or more saved may voluntarily withdraw from the BCTF Salary Indemnity Plan: Long Term. If you have reached age 65 or factor 90, you are no longer eligible for long-term benefits and should withdraw. It is necessary for you to apply to withdraw. Send a completed form, available from Income Security, local presidents, or online at bctf.ca/pensions/salary/LT-WithdrawalForm.shtml, to the BCTF Income Security Division.

Teaching Around the World...

Some issues in education for your reading enjoyment.
Full articles can be found at the websites listed.

South Africa: Teachers' Voices Heard in Public Sector Strike

<http://www.globalissues.org/news/2010/08/26/6740>

South African teachers - along with other public service employees - have embarked on an indefinite strike over wages. The unions are demanding an 8.6 percent wage increase. Government says it cannot afford to offer 1.3 million striking public servants any more than seven percent.

With the school year already disrupted by an extended holiday imposed by the World Cup, and less than two months left before matric examinations - the final exams for high school students in South Africa - the strike could have a major impact on education in the country.

Teachers tire of fire-rehire routine

http://www.beloitdailynews.com/articles/2010/08/07/news/local_news/news0703.txt

Published: Saturday, August 7, 2010 12:13 AM CDT

MIAMI (AP) — Gretchen Marfisi was enjoying her summer, reading a book when the call came: The high school where she taught art would not be hiring her back in the fall. Shocked, the art teacher with **27 years experience** spent anxious weeks job searching, only to be rehired by the Broward County School District.

That was last year. This year, Marfisi went through the same routine — she was laid off earlier this summer, then called back Thursday. “Why are they firing all of us?” Marfisi said, her voice ringing with frustration. “Besides giving us all more gray hair and wrinkles, there doesn’t seem to be a lot of logic involved.”

Canadian Alliance for Development Initiatives and Projects (CADIP)

<http://www.cadip.org/mission.htm>

A non-profit Canadian organization based in Vancouver, British Columbia. It has no religious or political affiliation. Through various charity, volunteer and youth initiatives, Cadip promotes peace, cooperation, tolerance and understanding in multi-cultural, multi-ethnic and international surroundings. The organization also promotes patterns and examples of civil activities focused on serving others, on building social ties and strengthening communities, on supporting civil society development.

Teacher Unions in NY Times Magazine

<http://millermps.wordpress.com/2010/05/24/steve-brill-article-on-teacher-unions-in-nytimes-magazine/>

May 24, 2010

Over breakfast in March, we talked about a movement spreading across the country to hold public-school teachers accountable by compensating, promoting or even removing them according to the results they produce in class, as measured in part by student test scores.

But most — especially those who have taught and appreciate how hard it is — understand that standardized tests are far from perfect, and that some subjects, like the arts, don't lend themselves to standardized testing. They know that most teachers want to be effective and that data-based performance assessments should be combined with classroom observation and other subjective measures not only to hold teachers accountable but also to help them improve their performance.

| SEPTEMBER | OCTOBER | NOVEMBER | DECEMBER |
|---|---|--|--|
| Tuesday, September 14 @ 4:00 Credit/Non Credit Information Session Open to all ADTA members | Monday, October 4 @ 4:00 Executive Meeting | Monday, November 1 @ 4:00 Executive Meeting | Wednesday, December 1 @ 4:30 ADTA Rep Appreciation Dinner |
| Wednesday, September 15 @ 4:00 Class size & Comp Meeting | Tuesday, October 5 @ 3:30 World Teachers' Day Celebration | Thursday, November 11 Remembrance Day | Monday, December 6 @ 4:00 Executive Meeting |
| Monday, September 20 @ 4:00 Executive Meeting | October 11 - Thanksgiving Day | Monday, November 15 @ 4:00 Executive Meeting | Friday, December 17 Last Day of School |
| Wednesday, September 22 @ 4:00 Committee Sign up Open to all ADTA members | Monday, October 18 @ 4:00 Executive Meeting | Wednesday, November 17 @ 4:00 Staff Rep Meeting | Monday, December 20 First day of Winter Break |
| Friday, September 24 Non-Instructional Day # 1 | Wednesday, October 20 @ 4:00 Staff Rep Meeting & Induction | November 24 & 25 Early Dismissal Days | JANUARY |
| Wednesday, September 29 @ 4:00 ADTA General Meeting | Friday, October 22 Non-Instructional Day # 2 | Friday, November 26 Non-Instructional Day # 3 | Tuesday, January 4th School Reopens |
| Thursday, September 30 @ 4:00 Deadline for Application to the Credit/Non Credit Fund | | | Friday, January 14 Non-Instructional Day # 4 |