

GITA OFFICE

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Dates

January 14th –
Professional
Development and
Pension Seminar

January 19th –
GITA Rep
Training, Rep
Assembly, and
General Meeting

January 21st –
Living with
Balance Program
Begins

February 21st &
22nd
Bargaining
Training and Zone
Meeting

March to June
Local Bargaining

March 19th -22nd
BCTF AGM in
Victoria

May 4th
GITA Annual
General Meeting

All The Best of The New Year To You!

I hope that you had a terrific Christmas break. I know for some it was in the sun while the rest of us experienced Christmas here at home.

The new year brings both challenges and opportunities. We are getting ready for both local and provincial bargaining. An update of where we are at as well as some decisions that will need to be made will occur at our **General Meeting on Wednesday, January 19th.**

GITA GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, January 19th
4:40 pm until 5:55 pm

GISS CAFETERIA

Main Topics:

- Bargaining

Adopting Bargaining Objectives

Endorsing the GITA Bargaining Committee

Update of where Bargaining is at including BILL 27 and 28 (Stripping of working and learning conditions language in 2002) - Legal Update
Electing AGM Delegate(s) to BCTF AGM

GITA WIKI DEMONSTRATION

For those wanting to know more about how to use this valuable communications tool there will be a short demo in the GISS Library just before the GITA General Meeting.

Time: 4:30 until 4:40 pm

PENSION SEMINAR

A special thanks to Glynis Finer for all of her organizational work. She was instrumental in making this happen.

The Pension Seminar will take place on Friday, January 14th. It will be held at GISS. The seminar will start at 12:30 pm and end at 2:30 pm. Please note that this is a Professional Development Day. You should have already communicated with your school principal regarding your professional development plans if you are attending this seminar.

Why The Push For Education Change?

Some will argue that this is just another way to save money. It will allow School Boards to replace Educators with computers. I don't believe that this is the situation in our School District.

I believe that it is a much larger issue which more closely reflects the needs of our students. The current model of education is one that is of the industrial age. We deal with batches of students, learning specific content that changes from one block to the next.



Education

Change

We are in the midst of significant Education Change. This will impact us in different ways. It is my intent that we will be able to shape the change in a way that works for students, as well as, teachers.

It is my belief that change must start from a keen group that is willing to take the risks necessary to create change that works. Teachers need to be supported no matter where they are at.

The test for change ought to be - is this good for students and is this good for teachers.

We only have to look at the successes and failures related to the Year 2000 Program to guide us in the process.

Please Let Your Staff Rep Know That You Are Planning To Attend The General Meeting on Wednesday, January 19th from 4:45 until 5:55 pm. An hour and 10 minutes of your time.

CURLING

On November 12th, Glen Meadows Golf and Curling was taken over by School District #64. We had the ice to ourselves. For many of us this was a relative new sport. Thanks to those that took to the ice and I hope you had as much fun as I did.



Jessica Is No Doubt Aiming To Take Out A Few Of The Opposition 's Rocks.

BC TEACHER SALARIES RANKED 8TH IN CANADA!

Starting Salaries

Category	Gulf Islands	Calgary
4	\$42 802	\$55 218
5	\$45 909	\$58 534
6	\$50 488	\$62 433

Maximum Salaries

Category	Gulf Islands	Calgary
4	\$65 414	\$87 997
5	\$74 353	\$91 025
6	\$81 489	\$94 821

In Calgary, the employer pays 100% of the premium for Alberta Health Care, Major Medical Benefit, Group Life Insurance, Long Term Disability, Dental Care, Vision Care, and Personal Health Spending Account (1% of salary)

A Brief Analysis on Personalized Learning

(Based on information from the BC School Superintendent's Conference)

The Good:

- smaller classes for primary through grade 8
- a focus on creativity, critical thinking, cultural and environmental understanding
- a move towards constructivist models of learning
- a move away from standard testing

The Bad:

- the tremendous influence technology companies appear to have with this movement - is it an attempt to replace teachers with computers?
- very large class sizes at the secondary level - grades 9 to 12
- potential for privatization - particularly in the suggestions for community based delivery models and situational/apprenticeship learning

LOCAL BARGAINING

The last time we bargained locally in this school district was 1992. This means that a significant amount of the language from our collective agreement has not been updated in close to 20 years. There are references to job titles that no longer exist, we have language that explains process that are no longer relevant, and we have jobs where language does not exist.