



GITA News

November 2008

Gulf Islands Teachers' Association

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Dates

November 5 –
GITA General Meeting

November 11 –
Remembrance Day

November 15 –
Election Day

November 22 –
Pension Seminar,
Victoria

December 4–
GITA Executive
Committee Meeting

December 9 & 10 –
Provincial FSA vote

December 18 –
Last day of school

January 5 –
First day of school

January 16 –
Pro D Day

*"Education is learning what you didn't even know you didn't know."
Daniel J. Boorstin*

GITA General Meeting

The fall General Meeting of the Gulf Islands Teachers' Association will be held on Wednesday, November 5, from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm in the cafeteria of Gulf Islands Secondary School.

Topics to be discussed include the status of our Collective Agreement and FSA testing.

Pizza will be available. Please plan to attend. After all, since you are the GITA, your dues are paying for the pizza anyhow. You might as well have some.

Communication

Even in our little district with rural schools on scattered islands, it is the 21st Century.

Much of today's communication is by email, but email only works if people read theirs.

Please keep track of your local sd64 email account since that is how the School District and the GITA contacts you. Also, if you are a member of the GITA Executive Committee or a School Staff Representative, please regularly check the email address you supplied the GITA since that is the method by which we correspond.

Down and Dirty: The Ten Most Germy Jobs

From meatpacking to teaching, some professions come with more cold and flu microbes. With that in mind, we give you 10 jobs where germs can be a daily concern.

#1 Teacher / Day Care Aide

When Charles Gerba, a microbiologist at the University of Arizona, and other University of Arizona researchers studied the desks, computers and phones from various professions, teachers wrecked the curve.

Teachers had six times more germs in their workspace than accountants, the second-place finisher, with slightly cleaner desks but five-and-a-half times more germs on their phones, nearly twice as many germs on their computer mice and nearly 27 times more germs on their computer keyboards than the other professions studied.

The reason for all the germs is, of course, the reason why the teachers are there in the first place.

"Kids' desktops are really bad, too," Gerba said. "Probably the dirtiest object in a classroom is a kid's desktop."

Children hand in tests and homework papers to their teachers, and during flu season, they often hand in cold and flu germs, as well.

Of course, the germ risk teachers face may be greater because they don't walk into their classrooms wearing hazard suits.

"In all those other jobs, I think there is more of an understanding that this is a germy job, so, hopefully, people take good precautions to keep themselves safe."

Joseph Brownstein
ABC News Medical Unit

Category 5 +

Q. How do I apply for TQS category five plus (5+)?

A. Please submit a signed TQS application form, a copy of your most recent British Columbia College of Teachers certificate, proof of your public school employment and official transcript(s) for all of the course work completed for your five plus category.

Q. I have already sent my transcripts, do I need to send them again?

A. No, If we have transcripts on file you need not send them again.

Q. How do I qualify for the five plus category?

A. You must have completed at least thirty (30) semester credits or equivalent of acceptable course work beyond your category five (5) in order to qualify for the five plus category. The course work must meet the requirements of an Integrated Program (see TQS regulation 4.05 & Policy 4.1).

Q. I have a BA/B Ed, B Sc/B Ed, BGS/B Ed... Do I qualify for the five plus category?

A. If your initial category five (5) was based on a four year undergraduate degree and a two year bachelor of education degree you remain in category five (5). Only course work completed beyond your initial category five (5) can be considered for the five plus category. In accordance with the BCTF/BCPSEA agreement nothing used to place you in category five (5) can be counted toward the five plus category.

Q. I'm in category five (5) and half way through my Masters degree. Do I qualify?

A. If you have completed at least thirty (30) semester credits or equivalent of course work in an acceptable masters degree beyond your category five (5) you are eligible to apply.

Q. I'm in category five (5) with a Masters degree. Do I qualify for the five plus category?

A. Masters degrees count as one step, the new five plus category does not change that.

Q. I have a post graduate diploma in education beyond my category five (5). Do I qualify?

A. Provided that your diploma is a minimum of thirty semester credits and meets the requirements of an Integrated Program you are eligible to apply.

Q. I have completed a college diploma/certificate/courses. Can this be used for the five

Category 5 + (continued)

plus category?

A. Course work for TQS purposes must be third year university level or higher and appear on an official university transcript with course credit attached or be transferred into an acceptable university program at the third year level or higher.

Q. I completed the requirements for my category six (6) recently. How do I apply for a five plus category retro statement?

A. Simply complete an application form and send it in with proof of employment in the public school system. Indicate FIVE PLUS RETRO in section 8 of the application form.

Q. How do I check to see if a program that I am interested in is eligible for the five plus category?

A. Complete the course approval form and fax it into our office. If you are considering a diploma program simply list the name of the diploma and a website where we can get information.

Q. Which application form do I use to apply for the five plus category?

A. Use this application form.

Q. Where can I find detailed information about the five plus category?

A. The following TQS regulation spells out how the requirements of the five plus category may be fulfilled; Regulation 2.01 - Category Five Plus (5+).

Q. I have a district assigned category "five plus," how do I have this reflected on my TQS category card?

A. Please submit a signed TQS application form, and have your school district mail to the TQS an original letter (faxes are not acceptable) indicating that you have satisfied the districts requirements for the "five plus" category, and the date you qualified for their "five plus" category. This letter must be signed by one of: the superintendent, assistant superintendent, the payroll manager or human resources manager.

Q. What is the difference between units, semester credits, and quarter credits?

A. Each of the following values represent one full year of study:

Units	Semester Credits	Quarter Credits
15	30	45