

GITA OFFICE

Box 537
Saltspring, B.C.
V8K 2W2

Phone or Fax
537-4990
538-7034(cell)

E-Mail:

lp64@bctf.ca

Dates

- November 18th
and 19th

BC School
Superintendents'
Association
Conference
(significant
number from our
school district are
in attendance)

November 24th -
27th – Provincial
Bargaining
Training (John
Nicolson and
myself attending)
November 29th to
December 3rd – BC
Federation of
Labour Conference

(Deb Nostdal is
Representing us)

Wednesday,
January 19th
GITA Training ,
Representative
Assembly, and
General Meeting
Wednesday, May
4th - Staff Rep
Training, Rep.
Assembly
Meeting, and
Annual General
Meeting.

Congratulations To The Following Teachers

A number of teachers were successful applicants to teaching positions that were filled after the start of the school year. Congratulations to:

- Heidi Serra (SSE)
- Janisse Browning (Fernwood)
- Shari Hambrook (GISS)
- Amber Harvey (Mayne)
- Andrew McPhee (SIMS)
- Gail Bryn- Jones (Phoenix)
- Ariane Kelleris (Galiano)
- Leanne Sutherland (Mayne)
- Maria Soto de Podritske (SIMS)
- Joy Tanong (SIMS)

General Meeting Door Prize Winners – Congratulations!

Richard Lee, Cathy
Walker, Rose Kiilmer,
Susan Lee, Michael
Berendt, and ???.

Why Join The GITA Link? (Go to gitalink.pbworks.com)

1. Instant Updates at your Fingertips

The Wiki is designed to provide members with up to date information from each GITA committee, upcoming events, issues arising in the district, and points of interest as published by yourself or other members.

2. Communication Between Members

The GITA link is a platform for members to ask questions, engage in discussion, and find out more information on issues/topics that are important to us. It is a tool that should be useful to all members, regardless of your level of activism in the Association. Who knows, it might even spark your interest in an issue you weren't even aware of!

(See instructions for the Wiki Site on the next page)

PENSION SEMINAR

A Pension Seminar is scheduled for January 14th. We have 21 teachers signed up. This will be a two hour seminar. Details related to time and location to those that have signed up were recently emailed to participants.

Please note that this is a Professional Development Day. You need to communicate with your school principal regarding professional development if you are attending this seminar.

BARGAINING

Our Collective Agreement ends on July 1, 2011.

71 GITA members completed the Bargaining Survey. The responses helped John Nicolson and myself represent you at the Provincial Bargaining Conference on October 29th and 30th.

We will have local bargaining objectives ready for discussion and approval at our January General Meeting. We will also approve our Bargaining Committee at this meeting.

We plan to begin local negotiation this Spring. The last time we bargained a set of local contract issues was in 1992.



Living With Balance

This program will be offered on the following Fridays:

- January 14th
 - January 28th
 - February 4th
- and February 11th

Time will be from 10:30am until 1:30 pm.

The first session will be held at the School Board Office Portable.

To register you need to:

go to the BCTF website "Teacher" section; in the "Search" put "Living with Balance"; you will find a grid showing which school districts are participating; and below this grid is the program registration form.

The first 15 teachers to sign up are the participants.

Posters should also be present in each staff room.

This program focuses on:

Improve personal well-being;

Understand your problems and learn to restructure your thinking;

Define work-life balance and boundaries;

Attain goals towards wellness; and Understand the importance of social Connections.

TTOC Report by Rose Kilmer

After attending two zone meetings with fellow TTOCS in our surrounding area, we can be assured that SD64 has one of the best systems for Teachers on Call at present. I have to say that the level of communication, support and openness that I experienced this fall from those at the Board Office including Linda at Human Resources., Wendy with Central Dispatch and Jack, our LP, have been instrumental at getting us going smoothly. I particularly appreciate their patience as I learned the ropes and the particular "language" nuances.

We have an excellent roster of teachers available this year, some new to the Gulf Islands, many returning to offer their ongoing expertise. My priority for the fall has been to make sure the news folks are comfortably oriented to all the protocols and routines and that they are connected to the PSA and ProD options that can enrich their experience. Assistance in resolving day to day issues has been ongoing, with a conscious effort at collegiality and support.

Across the province, the issues are essentially the same-callout procedures and the building up of seniority. Although many of us are professionals with many years experience, many TTOCS still feel like 'second class teachers' and issues of respect, having a real voice in the workings of the school system and having access to a good benefits package are all real concerns. With it being a bargaining year, we hope to see some movement to improving the situation for all TTOCs.

Thanks to all the teachers who have made us feel welcome and supported in the schools this fall. As Nancy MacDonald (previous principal at GISS) told me on the first day that I worked there, back in 2002, "TTOCs are the barometer of the whole school". She makes an excellent point!

Please feel free to contact me at rkilmer@sd64.bc.ca

GITA WIKI SITE INSTRUCTIONS

Here is how it works!

Step 1: Go to gitalink.pbworks.com

Step 2: On the right top of the page, you will see a box that says "To join this workspace, request access." Click on 'request access'.

Step 3: You will be asked to enter your e-mail. Once you have done this and sent to the administrator (myself), I will receive your request via e-mail. When I approve you, you will receive an e-mail saying you have been accepted.

Step 4: Follow the links provided in this e-mail. You will be taken to a window where you can create your user name and password. Once you have done this, you can log in and be happy you successfully completed the most difficult part of Wiki.

Once you log on, you can create comments on any of the GITA Link pages. If you are still struggling to sign on, there are instructional videos provided at the bottom of the home page.

The effectiveness of a Wiki is fully dependent on member participation, so please don't be shy!

If you have any further questions, please contact either Jack Braak or Michelle Spencer.

Enjoy!