

NEWSLETTER

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ABBOTSFORD DISTRICT
 TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION
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February 3, 2010

LETTER SENT TO PAC CHAIRS FROM RICK & JEFF

Dear PAC Chair:

As you are aware the ADTA recently sent home information to all parents of grades 3,4,6 and 7 students regarding the FSA tests. The information provided laid out the position of the ADTA and the BCTF on the effectiveness of FSA and the Fraser Institute's insistence on ranking our schools. Educational experts are quoted and parents are encouraged to conduct their own research as well as to speak with their teachers about the issue. Within that information, parents who wish to have their child exempted from the FSA are provided with a form to help them in that process. A number of parents asked their student's Principal to exempt their child from the test, but very few of those requests were honored. The School Act and the regulations do not state that every student has to write the test. Districts are required to administer the test, but that does not mean it is mandatory for every student to write. Since there have been no changes to the School Act or the regulations since last year principals are able to exempt students from writing the test.

Many parents throughout Abbotsford and British Columbia understand that the purpose of assessment is to support and promote learning. Along with teachers they also understand that costly, large-scale testing such as the FSA can have a negative effect on student motivation and their future success.

If you would like to discuss these issues further please call the ADTA office at (604) 854-1946 or email us at adta34@telus.net

Rick Guenther
 President, ADTA

Jeff Dunton
 Vice-President, ADTA

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@telus.net

Ministry of Education's Satisfaction Survey

Once again this year the Ministry is asking teachers to complete their satisfaction survey and once again the BCTF and the ADTA are asking teachers not to complete the satisfaction survey. The survey serves no educational purpose, it is used by the government to prove to the public that there is no crisis in public education.

FEBRUARY/10	MARCH/10	APRIL/10
February 19 - PRO D	March 1 to 5 Days-in-Lieu of a longer school day	April 2 - Good Friday
February 24 - BCTF AGM Delegate Meeting - ADTA Hall	March 6-9 BCTF AGM	April 5 - Easter Monday
	March 8 to 12 SPRING BREAK	April 12 & 13 - SD 34 Public Speaking



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LETTER SENT FEBRUARY 3/10 TO STEVE CARLTON (SD 34) FROM JEFF DUNTON
REGARDING BCeSIS

Over the past few months the ADTA has conducted a survey of its members regarding the implementation of BCeSIS in the Abbotsford School District. At a recent general meeting we presented the results to members and asked for their feedback. Though teachers have issues with the attendance function, their greatest frustration comes from the report cards. Teacher's frustration lies not with the level of support they have received, but with the program itself as illustrated by one teacher's comment, "it seems like such an archaic program – plain text, limited movement between functions, transferring data – all seem to be from several years ago." The problems with BCeSIS have been well documented throughout the province and many of the issues experienced in other districts also exist in Abbotsford. If you would like to discuss these issues further we are more than willing to meet. In an effort to improve the system the teachers currently using BCeSIS have a number of suggestions:

- Adding a spell check function, always helpful as a back up. Considering the volume of reports teachers produce the odd spelling error can slip into a report.
- Duplication function, it would increase efficiency of the program.
- A template option.
- The ability to change font size and styles.
- The ability to view the report while typing.
- Better bandwidth and hardware to avoid freezing and log in troubles.
- Maintain punctuation when pasted from a word program.
- An automatic save function.
- Middle school teachers would like the option of making comments, rather than being directed to only include PLOs, just like their elementary and secondary colleagues.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Abbotsford School District Business Company

Recently a number of Abbotsford teachers have received an email solicitation from the Abbotsford School District Business Company asking them to consider teaching overseas. The Abbotsford School District Business Company is a separate entity from the Abbotsford School District #34 and as such teachers employed by the business company are not covered by the ADTA collective agreement and do not have access to representation by the ADTA or the BCTF should there be a dispute with their new employer.

**NO SWEAT CLASSES
NO COMMITMENT IS NEEDED**

(Every Tuesday and Thursday) 3:30 - 4:30 Cost: \$2.00 per class

- * It's NOT aerobics!
- * It's NOT boby building!
- * It tones and conditions the body!
- * Raises the metabolism!
- * Helps burn fat!
- * Helps increase muscular endurance!
- * It's good for all ages and levels of fitness!

It's a fitness phenomenon that combines the body changing results of high repetition weight training and high-energy aerobics into one Fitness to Music Class. Its basic moves make it easy to follow which makes it accessible to men and women of every fitness level. NO SWEAT! uses free weights in a pre-choreographed applied program of music and movement. All the movements are simple to follow and easily adaptable to all fitness levels.

This fitness class is open to all ADTA and Teamsters members, friends and family.
***** Please bring a small towel, floor/yoga mat and light hand weights (free weights) *****

Consent/Consult meetings

If at any time during the school year the Administration wishes to add a student that will put the class over the class size limit or the IEP limit, they must have a consultation meeting with the affected teachers.

Secondary teachers please note the Consultation process must be followed for second semester as if it were the beginning of the school year. If you are asked to attend a consultation meeting it is recommended that you request your staff representative attend as well. The staff representatives have been given copies of the ADTA's consultation form, please complete this form and submit it to the ADTA office.

Given the recent rulings by Mr. Dorsey around the consultation process it is important that teachers report all violations to the ADTA and complete the consultation form as soon as possible.

Class size limits:

- 22 Kindergarten (cannot exceed) / 24 Grades 1–3 (cannot exceed) / 30 Grades 4–7 (consent required to exceed)
- 30 Grades 8–12 (consultation required to exceed) / 3 IEP Students, **all grades** (consultation required to exceed)