

NORTH OKANAGAN-SHUSWAP TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 7, 2004

WELCOME BACK

As your new president, I welcome all the teachers' of the North-Okanagan Shuswap back to a new and hopefully, exciting school year. After a relaxing summer we all will face new experiences and challenges within our schools and classrooms. I would like to thank our past president Lynda Nicholson for her dedication, hard work and long hours she has spent during the past five years working on your behalf. We wish her all the best in her new position at Shuswap Junior Secondary. We also wish to congratulate Shelia Michaelis on her retirement as the office manager of our association and to thank her for all her years in the local office.

The executive and teachers of NOSTA also face some challenges over the next year. Some of these include the College of Teachers, negotiating a new collective agreement, restructuring and middle schools, Pro-D, and perhaps the most important, the election of the provincial government that values and supports public education in the province of British Columbia. There will be other challenges but, with your support, we hope this will be a productive and satisfying year for all teachers.

I would like at this time to introduce our new office manager, Madi Dunleavy. Madi has been in the office for a part of the summer familiarizing herself with her duties. We welcome her to our organization. Please feel free to stop in and say hello and introduce yourselves.

Please remember, NOSTA is your association and we work for you. Please don't hesitate to contact us. Our address is:

North Okanagan-Shuswap Teachers' Association
171 Shuswap Street
Salmon Arm, B.C. V1E 4N3

Phone: 832-1933 Fax: 832-4592

Have a good year and I'll repeat a little saying that Lynda used last year:

“Faced with often overcrowded classrooms, ever-tightening budgets and increased expectations, you nevertheless continue to work your special magic with your students. You instruct them, discipline them, guide them, coach them and inspire them to fulfill their potential.”

Chicken Soup for the Teachers' Soul
Jack Canfield, Mark Victor Hansen, 2002

NOSTA WEB-SITE

We wish to thank Jonathan Bradshaw who was instrumental in developing our NOSTA website. Due to other commitments, he is unable to continue on as our Communications Chair and the executive is looking for a member who would be willing to take on this position. Please contact any member of the executive if you are interested. The NOSTA website can be viewed at www.bctf.ca/local83.

TOC CALLOUT

The TOC callout has been up and running for a year. There have been a few problems but hopefully these have been solved and the system will perform better this year. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the NOSTA office (832-1933) or your TOC Rep, Julia Body (833-1496).

MIDDLE SCHOOLS

I have attended a few meetings regarding middle schools and some concerns have been raised over various aspects of the restructuring process. For most teachers, the major concern is staffing and how it will be implemented. Through our bargaining chair, Sharon Mitchell, we will be seeking teacher's input as to how the staffing should be implemented. We will have to hold a general meeting (probably October 18, 2004) to discuss various options and to receive permission from the members to open negotiations with our school board regarding the middle school restructuring.

SOME DATES TO REMEMBER

September 13	Executive Meeting
September 15	Local NOSTA Pro-D Committee Meeting
September 17	School Based Pro-D
September 20	LRA
September 27	Pro-D Rep. Training
May 17	Provincial Election

When are College fees due? Not Yet!

At the BCTF Fall Representative Assembly a recommendation will be made to the BCTF members about the BCTF Democratic College Fund, and the payment of the 2004-2005 BC College of Teachers fees.

The deadline for payment with no penalty is November 30, 2004