

NORTH OKANAGAN-SHUSWAP TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

December 7, 2004

Season's Greetings

It is the time of the year when greetings and best wishes go out to all. On behalf of Madi, the executive, and myself we hope you and your families enjoy the festive season full of fellowship and fun. I would like to thank all those who have helped make the first part of the school year an enjoyable one for me, including the executive who's patience and understanding is appreciated, to all the staff reps for the time and effort in your continued support of your fellow teachers, to the teachers of the district for your hard work and dedication to your students, to the school secretaries for handling all the NOSTA phone calls, faxes and letters, to the principals, vice-principals and senior staff for their patience and cooperation, to the school board staff for their help and understanding and to all the other education partners who make this job of educating children such a special calling.

I would also like to say a special thanks to those NOSTA members who have decided to retire at the end of December. Retirement is a hard decision to make, but now that it's made, from all of us in NOSTA and the other members of the educational community, we wish you well in your retirement and have a good rest. You deserve it.

Thanks to all and have a safe and Merry Christmas.

BARGAINING

NOSTA member will have received a local and provincial bargaining update outlining the progress to date. Your negotiating team will continue meeting on your behalf in order to achieve our objectives. Our next bargaining meeting is December 9, 2004.

Annual NOSTA Christmas Open House

All NOSTA members are invited to the annual Christmas Open House on December 16 to be held at the NOSTA office from 3:00 to 6:00. There will be munchies catered by 'The Other Company' along with a cash bar. Many thanks to Judy Boling, our Member Involvement chairperson, for organizing the Christmas Open House.

SOME DATES TO REMEMBER

December 13	LRA
December 15	Local NOSTA Pro-D Committee Meeting
December 16	Christmas Open House NOSTA Office
May 17	Provincial Election
Jan 4	Executive Meeting

The Fright Before Christmas

'Twas the fright before Christmas when all through B.C.
Most creatures were worried, for reasons you'll see.
Stockings were hung in the usual places,
But cupboards, when opened, had large empty spaces.
Out on my rooftop and cracking his whip,
Was a thin laughing figure arrived on a trip.
With a sled full of plunder and reindeers that drooped,
I knew in a moment it was Gorgon Soup.
He leaped from his sleigh when his reindeer had stopped,
And gave them all praise for this journey's small hop.
"Thanks Sprucy, and Raygun, and Coffin, and Planted,
And Gobble, and Coldman". and so on he panted.
With a mingling of horror as I turned right around,
Down the chimney came Gorgon - and out with a bound.
He looked at the toys lying under my tree,
And approached with his sack, as though on a spree.
He scooped up some presents - to him they were free,
And into his sack they went with great glee.
"Now hold on there you rotter," I said with some pain,
As he picked up the pieces of someone's toy train,
"Don't you worry," he quickly and smilingly said,
"I'm leasing the pieces but I'll leave the rail bed."
Then quick as wink, with moves I still picture,
He plucked from the tree all the light bulbs and fixtures.
"I'm sending these down to Bermuda, you know,
Where the group that owns Hydro can make them all glow.
You'll get them all back - I'll just fix a date,
But remember! Now rent them - at triple the rate.
My card for good health care he slipped into his pocket,
And school supplies were boxed up and locked.
He ripped up a contract he saw on my table,
And wrapping more tightly in ermine and sable,
His mouth spoke some words for which he was fabled:
"You shouldn't pay more than six bucks if you're able".
With little toy figures he covered the floor,
Then wound them all up and stood by the door,
'You're hired, you're hired,' they chanted as one,
And he clapped and he laughed and thought it great fun.
Then laying his finger in front of my nose,
He gave me a raspberry and up the chimney he rose.
He sprang on his sleigh, and he said with some mirth:
"You know that B.C. is the best place on earth."

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College fees are now due!

**NOSTA and the BCTF encourage all members to pay their BCCT fees.
The deadline for payment with no penalty
is
December 31, 2004.**