

20 things you didn't know about PSAs...

1 The Math PSA is the largest of the 33 PSAs and has more BCTF active members than do 60 locals. **2** The Home Ec PSA is one of the few home ec teacher associations left in Canada but it wields considerable influence. Their flood of letters and e-mail messages convinced UBC to retain the home ec teacher preparation program. **3** The Music PSA has inspired music education industries to form an advocacy society to lobby for education funding. PSA members participate annually in a national advocacy and media campaign called Music Monday when 150,000 students across Canada perform the same piece of music. **4** The Science and Social Studies PSAs have both surveyed their members about the Grade 10 and 11 provincial exams; see their websites for the results. **5** The PE PSA is currently writing a history of PE in BC over the last 100 years, and the Business Ed PSA is still teaching about taxes 5,000 years after the Egyptians introduced them. **6** The Tech Ed PSA is writing a *Best Practices Guide* that deals with the thorny issues of safety in industrial settings and class-size/composition issues. **7** The Math PSA is set to release a book on assessment practices in mathematics. **8** The ESL PSA has produced brochures explaining ESL services to parents in 14 languages; locals can download these from the ESL PSA website. **9** The Drama PSA, whose members are responsible for over 1,000 performances each year in BC schools, hosts a student playwriting contest each year, and publishes an anthology of student-written plays every second year. **10** Executive members of the English Language Arts PSA, half of whom are knitters, annually publish *Voices Visible*, a student writing journal. **11** Collectively, the members of the Modern Languages PSA executive are fluent in seven languages. **12** The Aboriginal Education PSA encourages us to question our assumptions about learning. They also work with districts to develop learning resources that encourage students to explore alternate world views. **13** In the late 1970s, the Teacher-Librarians' PSA coined the term "teacher-librarians" that is now used worldwide. **14** The Art PSA organizes the displays of student art in the BCTF building. **15** The Rural and Small Schools PSA takes inspiration from a teacher named Lottie Bowron who 60 years ago travelled long distances in all seasons and conditions to meet and support young rural teachers, and annually offers two bursaries in her name to teacher candidates doing their final practicum in rural schools. **16** In addition to annual provincial conferences, many PSAs offer regional conferences, or regional meetings and workshops. The Math PSA holds a New Math Teachers' Conference, and 15 PSAs offer workshops for schools and districts, often at cost. **17** Tired of keynotes and workshops? The Culinary Arts PSA, an advocate of local food initiatives, held a provincial conference in the Okanagan last fall that consisted entirely of field trips—to an agricultural research centre, vinegar works, an apiary, and the orchard with the "mother tree" of all Ambrosia apples. **18** The Computer-Using Educators PSA was formed when computers were rare but now all PSAs make use of electronic means of communication—all but one have websites, many have very active listservs, several publish their journals and newsletters online only, some conduct executive meetings by Skype, and the Teacher-Librarians' PSA operates seven blogs, two Google groups and is on Facebook and Twitter. **19** PSA Council holds paperless meetings with all 37 participants using an online interactive agenda. In over three meetings, this has saved 6,294 sheets of paper, assuming overleaf printing. That's 12.6 reams of paper. Or if you prefer, a paper trail 1.8 km long. **20** PSA Council will celebrate its 40th anniversary this fall. Send champagne!

Visit PSA websites at: www.bctf.ca/PSAwebsites.aspx