

The Advocate

In consensus atque unitate stat potentia

"There is strength in unity"

A Monthly Newsletter

Issue No 1 - September 2017

Welcome Back!

I hope that everyone had a restful summer.

I would like to officially welcome Craig Hemmerich into the ADTA office as our Vice-President. Craig leaves his classroom behind at Howe Middle School and has taken on the new challenges that await him in the ADTA office. I will also take this time to remind everyone that Doug Smuland remains in the ADTA office but has taken on a new role; at our last ADTA AGM he was elected as our Labour Relations Officer. As a new team of three released officers, we are looking forward to another great school year working together through the many challenges that we face in our teaching profession.

This September has seen many changes in our schools. Many of our school staff rooms look a bit different as members took advantage of the numerous districts that needed to hire additional teachers to meet the requirements of the restored collective agreement language around class size and composition. Changing districts has allowed many teachers to work closer to home and shave hours off their daily commute; while we will miss those teachers, we wish them well in their new districts. At the same time, we welcome many other teachers who have taken that same opportunity to join us here in Abbotsford. I look forward to seeing

everyone during school visits and at our World Teacher Day Event on October 5th.

September has started with lots of questions and challenges as we experience both a decline in enrolment and the implementation of our restored collective agreement language. As enrolment numbers seem to settle at the end of last week sadly a few of our members received news that they would have to pack up their classrooms and relocate to another school. Meanwhile there are many questions about School Based Teams, remedy and IEP's; Doug, Craig and I are continuing to meet with the School District on a regular basis and we are slowly working through the issues that we have outstanding. We are trying to keep the ADTA website updated with current information but what would be helpful is if we had the names of each staff rep communicated to the ADTA as soon as possible so that we can get information out to each site quickly. We will be following up with each site once we have a rep for your school and more information will be coming out next week.

In Solidarity,

Jennifer Brooks

ADTA President

Dear ADTA Members,

As you are aware the ADTA added a third release position this year, and as such you now have access to a labour relations officer. As part of this new position, I will be coordinating grievances of collective agreement language that might occur and answering your questions about issues of concern that arise in our schools. Please contact me through adtalabourrelations@shaw.ca if you have questions that need answering or anger that needs abatement.

Cheers,

Doug Smuland

ADTA Labour Relations



Clarification on Professional Development Days

There have been numerous questions regarding the scheduling and use of the 7 non-instructional days in this year's calendar. In the hopes that all teachers have the same information to work from when making their plans for this year, the ADTA would like to provide the following clarifications.

1. The 7 non-instructional days for this 2017-2018 school year are Sept 22nd, Oct 20th, Nov 24th, Jan 29th, Feb 23rd, April 27th, and May 18th.
2. Sept 22nd, Oct 20th (Provincial PD Day), Jan 29th, Feb 23rd (Shared Learning), and May 18th are 5 individual teacher directed PD days.
 - A. On these days, teachers should have a plan in place about their own PD needs. This may require that you create a self-directed plan (see attached) and submit this to the ADTA. We will then be able to tell you if the opportunity would qualify for PD monies (the ADTA does not approve an individual teacher's PD choice, we only determine if it meets the requirements for the member to access their PD funds).
 - B. When asked, teachers are required to provide their Administrator with an outline of where they are going and what they are doing on these workdays. If a teacher's PD choice is not approved by an Administrator, teachers should complete and submit the appeal form to the ADTA (see our [website](#) or contact your school Pro-D Rep).
3. Nov 24th and April 27th are non-instructional days that the BC Ministry of Education has outlined be used for the purpose of providing teachers with an opportunity to participate in discussions and activities relating to the implementation of the revised curriculum documents.
 - A. There are currently no District events scheduled for these two days.

There are no other NI days scheduled in this year's school calendar. There is no day earmarked specifically for the discussion of school goals or other adminstrivia, but this doesn't mean that teachers cannot work with their administration team when planning the day. There may well be valid PD activities that are both curriculum related and specific to a school's individual staff that would be of great value. However, if teachers are told that they must participate in activities unrelated to curriculum on either of these two days, they are advised to contact the ADTA.
4. In general, there is also no requirement for a teacher to attend a District mandated PD event held outside the District. Teachers who are informed that they must participate in a school PD/Team building session away from their school site should inform their principal of their decision of whether or not to attend.

For further information or answers to questions, please contact the ADTA.

Credit/Non-Credit - DEADLINE

All complete credit/non-credit packages are due by **September 30th, 2017**. Incomplete or late applications will not be considered. If you have any questions please contact [Susan](#) at the ADTA office.

NEW OFFICE HOURS

Please note as of September 5, 2017 the ADTA office hours will now be:
Monday - Friday 8:00 am - 4:00 pm



Pacific Blue Cross to welcome CUPE 1816 employees back to work on September 18th.... Find the full article [here](#).



BC Ministry of Education

SCHOOL CALENDAR REGULATION

Prescribed minimum hours of instruction

(2) Subject to subsection (4), the following are the prescribed minimum hours of instruction that a board must offer to students enrolled in the schools in its district in the 2016/2017 school year and the 2017/2018 school year:

- (a) 848 hours of instruction for students in kindergarten;
(b) 873 hours of instruction for students in grades 1 to 7;
(c) 947 hours of instruction for students in grades 8 to 12.

Designation of purpose for non-instructional days and periods

Governance and Legislation Branch D-54 August 4, 2016

(2) A board must schedule the following in each of the 2016/2017 and 2017/2018 school years for the purpose of providing teachers with an opportunity to participate in discussions and activities relating to the implementation of the curriculum documents listed in section 2 and Appendix 1 of the Educational Program Guide Order, M333/99:

- (a) one non-instructional day;
(b) one or more non-instructional periods totalling 5 hours.

(3) For certainty, the non-instructional periods referred to in subsection (2) (b) may be scheduled on different days.

ADTA TUTOR LIST

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE ON THE ADTA TUTOR LIST?

IF YOU ARE A MEMBER OF THE ADTA THAT WISHES TO TUTOR PLEASE CONTACT NICOLE AT NICOLEADTA34@SHAW.CA

AND WE WILL BE SURE TO INCLUDE YOU ON OUR ONLINE TUTOR LIST

HTTP://WWW.ADTA.BC.CA/TUTORS.HTML

Lets meet the Executive Committee!

- Jennifer Brooks (ADTA) -President
Craig Hemmerich (ADTA) - Vice-President
Doug Smuland (ADTA) - Labour Relations Officer
Charlotte Tommy (Upper Sumas) - 2nd Vice-President
Casey Lindquist (Jackson) - Secretary Treasurer
Angeline Mushumanski (T.A. Swift) - Ab. Ed. Rep
Pat Smith (TTOC) - Health & Safety Rep
Ken Ambrose (John Maclure) - Pro-D Chair
Deb Varnes (ASSS) - Social Justice Rep
Sylvia Rempel (TTOC) - TTOC Rep
Sharon Kehoe (ATSS) - Secondary School Rep
Teresa Hootz (W.A. Fraser) - Middle School Rep
Liane Loepky (Jackson) - Elementary School Rep
Jef Baerg (Roberta Bondar) - Local Rep
Dyanne Schreiner (Ten Broeck) - Member at Large
Leslie Kemp (ASSS) - Member at Large
Grant Gasser (ATSS) - Member at Large



STAFF REPRESENTATIVES

Each school needs a representative for the following roles:

- Staff Rep
Pro-D Rep
Health and Safety Rep
School Based Team Rep

If you have questions about any of these roles please call the ADTA at 604-854-1946 to speak with Doug, Craig or Jennifer. Once those decisions have been made please communicate who those people are to Susan Steinhilbert (susanadta34@shaw.ca).

JOIN US ON WORLD TEACHERS' DAY

Thursday, October 5th is World Teachers' Day. Each year the ADTA hosts a World Teachers' Day celebration. Come join us for wonderful food, beverage and fabulous conversation at the Phoenix Lounge. More details to come. Look for more ADTA sponsored events as the year unfolds, and if you have suggestions for activities that we can support we'd be happy to hear from you.



Professional Development Days & Curriculum Days

As you start planning for the 2017-2018 school year please keep in mind the following dates:

**5 Professional Development Days - Sept 22, Oct 20, Jan 29,
Feb 23 & May 18**

2 Curriculum Days - Nov 24 & Apr 27

Watch for great workshops, conferences or make plans with colleagues to further your pedagogy as lifelong learners. The ADTA is working on planning another great professional development opportunity in February and details will be sent out as soon as arrangements are finalized.

Mark Your Calendars:

Tuesday, Sept 19 - School Board Meeting

Friday, Sept 22 - Professional Development Day

Tuesday, Sept 26 - Staff Rep Training (Middle & High School Teachers) @ ADTA Hall

Wednesday, Sept 27 - Staff Rep Training (Elementary) @ ADTA Hall

Tuesday, Oct 3 - School Board Meeting

Wednesday, Oct 4 - ADTA Executive Meeting @ the ADTA Board Room

Thursday, Oct 5 - World Teacher Appreciation Day Event @ The Phoenix Lounge

Monday, Oct 9 - Thanksgiving

Tuesday, Oct 10 - Pro-D Rep Training @ ADTA Hall

Wednesday, Oct 11 - Pro-D Rep Training @ ADTA Hall

Friday, Oct 20 - Professional Development Day

Contact Us

Jennifer Brooks, President - jenniferadta34@shaw.ca

Craig Hemmerich, Vice President - craigadta34@shaw.ca

Doug Smuland, Labour Relations Officer - labourrelationsofficer@shaw.ca

Susan Steinhilbert, Office Staff - susanadta34@shaw.ca

Nicole Smith, Office Staff - nicoleadta34@shaw.ca

