



School Team Bulletin

Volume 5 Issue 2

October 31, 2007

Bill 33 Consultations

Reps are reminded that no class can exceed 30 students or three students with special needs *at any time of the year* without prior consultation with the teacher. We recognize the enormous work these consultations represent for Staff Reps and want to let you know that the VSTA in-house officers are available, upon your request, to assist with this onerous task.

In addition, the VSTA has placed an ad in the *Vancouver Courier* (November 2), the *Georgia Straight* (November 1), and the *Province* (November 4), emphasizing that 1329 classes in Vancouver secondary schools are in violation of the British Columbia *School Act*, classes that the Vancouver School Board superintendent and trustees formally declared are appropriate for student learning. Vancouver has the highest number of class size and class composition overloads in the entire province!

Lastly, a **big THANK YOU** to all the Staff Reps who put in countless hours representing our members in class size and composition consultations. Your efforts are greatly appreciated!

VSTA Website Up and Running

As announced at Council, the VSTA website has been completely redesigned to further meet the needs of our members. Teachers can access the VTF Collective Agreement, as well as finding information about benefits, salary, and important upcoming information. Links to a variety of teacher supports have also been incorporated into the redesign of the website. The website address is www.vstaweb.ca.

Dialogue on Distributed Learning

As was reported at October's Council meeting, the VSTA is seeking 12 members to attend the VSB's a.m. session on distributed learning on Friday, November 30th. Given that the world of distributed learning is rapidly expanding, it is essential that teachers are part of the discussion. While distributed learning is appropriate for some students and teachers, the VSTA has, nonetheless, identified several significant issues that need addressing by the VSB. Please contact the VSTA office if you are interested in participating in this very important discussion.

VTF General Meeting

November 14th

4:00 pm at Tupper

There will be an important VTF General Meeting at 4:00 pm on Wednesday, November 14th, at Tupper Secondary School. This meeting is necessary to allow the VTF to continue mid-contract modifications/bargaining matters to proceed. Please promote this meeting to your members.

Newer Teachers' Reception

Please encourage all newer teachers (5 years or less experience) on your staff to attend the reception at the VSTA office on Wednesday, November 21, from 4:30-6:30 pm. Special guests include the BCTF President, Irene Lanzinger, and a variety of teacher-consultants from the VSB and the BCTF, including the new members' liaison and a representative from lesson aids services. Appetizers and refreshments will be served. Please RSVP to Kim (kim@vstaweb.ca or 873-5570) by November 14th.



Pub Night

Fri., November 30
2:30-6:00pm

All teachers are encouraged to celebrate the end of the term by attending a fun event at the Montmarre Caf  on Friday, November, 30th. Please make every effort to *pub-licize* this event. A poster was

distributed to all Staff Reps. Multiple, coloured copies have been distributed to all the schools.