



# School Team Bulletin

Volume 6 Issue 2

October 14, 2008

## New Staffing

By now you know about the new blocks being allocated to schools for staffing. Some key points:

- 12.5 FTE continuing added to secondary school staffing to be distributed across the district
- New blocks are to address class size and composition issues *only*
- Staff Committees/Timetable Committees should meet and provide advice to the administration as to how these blocks should be allocated within the school
- Please alert the office if blocks are being used for purposes other than relieving class size/composition issues.
- Blocks are allocated to schools based how well previous staffing was put to use (i.e. instructional blocks not going to non-instructional purposes)

Thank you for ensuring that these blocks are used appropriately in schools. Please call the office if you have questions.

## Join the Political Action Committee

Trenea Goolieff and Shelley Sullivan are looking for a few committed volunteers to take on a leadership role in developing and implementing the VSTA's election activities. The Local Election/Political Action Committee is comprised of a small group of creative and politically-minded folks who want to effect change through political action. Be part of the group who will steer the VSTA through the upcoming municipal and provincial elections. Some release time is available for those who want to become active. Contact Shelley at [shelley@vstaweb.ca](mailto:shelley@vstaweb.ca).

## School Election Contact

Does your school team have a school election contact person? The school Local Election Contact will work collaboratively with the school union team, distribute election information to teachers and work with the PAC Liaison Rep to communicate the VSTA position on educational issues and trustee-candidates. The School Election Contact will regularly communicate with the VSTA and collaborate with us to develop school-specific actions that will meet the needs of individual staffs. The School Local Election Contact may also choose to be part of our VSTA Local Election/Political Action Committee.

## 200 Teachers Tell It Like It Is

A big thank you to staff reps and school teams for generating a great turnout for our General Meeting! We appreciate your efforts in strengthening the *participatory* part of our democracy. We had approximately 200 members there and hope this can be a new precedent. Congratulations to John Oliver and Tupper schools who each won a pizza lunch for having the most members attend the meeting.

## Provincial Grievance Forms

Last call to send in your grievance forms to Shaun! The success of the grievance depends on the VSTA getting the forms submitted on time. If you need release time to complete this work, please call Shaun at the office. **Submit forms by Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup>**. Thank you for the diligent work staff reps are doing on behalf of our colleagues!

## Pub Night

Spread the word about our municipal election campaign kick-off Pub Night on October 24<sup>th</sup> (PSA Day). This is an informal, fun, and friendly pub night where you can mingle with colleagues, talk to the trustee candidates we've endorsed, and share your views. Please join us for free appies at Toby's Pub, 2733 Commercial Drive, from 3 to 6 pm. Hope to see everyone there!



## School Visits

Please check the following schedule to make sure the date of your school visit works for your school. To reschedule, or if you have not yet signed up for a visit, please contact Shelley ASAP at [shelley@vstaweb.ca](mailto:shelley@vstaweb.ca).

October 27 (M)	Schools TBA
October 28 (T)	Tupper, Van Tech
October 29 (W)	Thompson, John Oliver
October 30 (Th)	Schools TBA
November 3 (M)	Hamber, Templeton
November 4 (T)	Churchill, Gladstone
November 5 (W)	Killarney, PW
November 6 (Th)	Kitsilano, Point Grey
November 10 (M)	Magee, King George

## Strengthening School Teams

Congratulations to school teams for the collegiality and dedication demonstrated at last week's very successful School Team Training. We had full teams representing most of our schools—no small feat considering how difficult it can be to leave a busy classroom for the day. Thank you to everyone for making the day a success.