

Newsletter of the Delta Teachers' Association



TODAY

President's Column ~ Susan Yao

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Issue : #7



Barely a week to go and teachers will be moving on to summer plans. Many of us don't have firm plans as we consider recent changes to travel restrictions and our own vaccinations. I look forward to seeing family and friends without so many limits. No matter what's in store, likely you will welcome time to rejuvenate or recreate. As the saying goes, a change is as good as a rest.

This year change came often. Congratulations on making it through with your humour intact. It hasn't been easy. On the positive side, some of the new ways of operating may be worth keeping. The DTA EC will discuss at our EC planning session in September how we want to meet next year—in person, virtually or a combination. Are other things done differently during the pandemic worth keeping?

The DTA was pleased to hear that BC's Recovery Investment Plan announcement includes additional funds for health and safety, First Nations and Métis students, mental health services, and to address learning impacts to students. How the additional funds "trickle down" to Delta (considering the 60 or so school districts province-wide) remains to be seen. The pandemic has taught us much about the relationship between cleaning and health. Additional one-time funding for cleaning is welcome. The District reported fewer absences for Delta teachers this year. Is this in part due to extra funds available for cleaning as part of the pandemic response? The district hired more custodial staff and schools were cleaned more often than recent years.

Better funding for BC's education system, arguably among the lowest in Canada, is needed. Spending less is a false economy—when districts spend less on cleaning in schools as an example, more people will be unwell and will access sick leave. If true during COVID, how is it less true any other time? While the DTA supports the extra one-time funding, it should be more than a one-time thing.

Speaking of wellness, can I ask how you're doing? Lately I preface *How are you doing?* with *Can I ask you how you're doing?* This gives space for people to let me know if it's *not* okay. My helper role comes with reality-checks: sometimes people aren't well AND *not okay* to talk about it. If you're struggling, the DTA and BCTF have supports. We want to help but recognize it can be hard to ask or talk

about it. It's been a tough year. For you, for your students, for your colleagues. If you're struggling or a colleague is struggling, let us know.



Saying goodbye! We want to wish our colleagues who are retiring this year all the best in the new chapter in their lives. My mom, a retired teacher from Langley, loves those "Hell to the Bell" breakfasts which sadly couldn't happen during COVID. Delta's retired teachers can access Delta's chapter of the BC Retired Teachers Association (BCRTA); their mission is the maintenance and enhancement of the quality of life for its members and for seniors generally. This time of the year is bittersweet—I look forward to the sweetness of summer but find the changes hard, especially saying goodbye.

This year the DTA says goodbye to long-time Administrative Assistant Marilyn Kelly who has served DTA members the last 15 years. We wish her much happiness in retirement. We welcome Brianna Redwood (since May) as new Admin Assistant, along with Jane Randazzo (since the Fall) who is learning the role of DTA Office Manager. And yes, Debbie is still here for the upcoming year!

On communication: we notice DTA members often send concerns via the DTA office staff. I encourage you to send questions/concerns directly to the released table officers using our deltateachers.org addresses. Our office staff *can and do* forward concerns, but this added layer means that there may be avoidable delays responding to emails. Email Susan (syao@deltateachers.org) and Alison (aroche@deltateachers.org).

Next year is a bargaining year making communication even more critical! **The Union's practice is to NOT use the district's communication platform so use our deltateachers.org addresses** and refresh non-District email lists so bargaining updates can go to staff reps as needed. Bargaining begins earlier than previous years—members of the Bargaining/Working Learning Conditions Committee meet this Friday to identify objectives for our next contract.

I will check emails until July 14. If unable to contact DTA, contact the BCTF Field Service Division. I wish you a wonderful summer break. Thank you for all you do — remember to take care of yourself!

Congratulations!

The Delta Teachers' Association extends its congratulations to all the retirees. Every year in June the Delta Teachers' Association holds a celebratory retirement event with a social open to all Delta staff and a dinner for all retirees and their invited guests. Due to the limitations necessitated by the current COVID-19 pandemic, we were unable to celebrate in the usual way.

The Delta Teachers' Association wishes the following colleagues a happy, healthy retirement:

Dannielle Albrecht
Sandra Ballantyne
Lynn Crema
Sharon Cruz
Janice Dudzic
Andrea Eaton
Margaret Gorham

Nicole Grazier
Karen Hughes
Monique Kabel
Susan Lim
Laurie Lum
Andrea Mahara
Ellen Martin

Shirley Merry
Steve Mitton
Alison Monk
Jane Moor
Michelle Nielsen
Axel Rechlin
Mary Ann Scarr

Brigitte Sebulsky
Edda Stevens
Alan Sudeyko
Michelle Tarves
Kathy Veperts
Patrick Whiteley

"Tad" Boyes Scholarship



Class of
2021

Applicants must be the son or daughter of a Delta teacher and graduating from a public school in BC. The scholarship is \$1,000.00 and the criteria is based on academic excellence.

Application forms for the "Tad" Boyes Scholarship are available from the DTA office or can be printed from the DTA website at www.deltateachers.org, under Forms. **Deadline is June 30, 2021**

Time is Running out for PD Reimbursement!

To receive reimbursement for an **approved** event that you have attended, your receipt must be received at the DTA office no later than June 30, 2021. Any receipts received after that date **will not be reimbursed**. The sooner you send the receipt in, the sooner you'll receive your money!

In Memoriam

Sharon Doyle, teacher librarian at South Delta Secondary, passed away on June 21, 2021.

REMINDER

The DTA office closes on June 30 for the summer. The office will reopen on August 30.

Remedy or ProD Funding: Which Should I Use?

Remedy provision was meant to address complex teaching and learning environments via additional staffing to ameliorate needs—not to pay out teachers but to support students. Using funds for resources or ProD can support the learning environment. Not everyone gets remedy: if you have funds, consider leaving the limited ProD funding for people who don't get remedy. The ProD fund cannot cover every DTA member, so use your Remedy funding first!

Dear Teachers,
Enjoy your summer break!



From the staff at the DTA office we hope you have a restful and enjoyable Summer vacation!

Susan *Alison* *Kathy* *Leanne*
Debbie *Marilyn* *Brianne* *Jane*