

VESTA WEEKLY

TOPICS WORTH TALKING ABOUT! PLEASE READ AND DISCUSS WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES

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HAND SANITIZER DENIALS REVERSED

After months of advocacy, the district has changed its' position and will now be making hand sanitizer available to all classes regardless of whether there are sinks in classrooms or not. This is an acknowledgment of the fact that even though teachers are committed to teaching hand hygiene and incorporating hand washing into their class routines, and that hand sanitizer does not replace hand washing, there are times when it needs to be provided for student use. The JOHS committee remains your mechanism for solving problems if hand sanitizer is not made readily available.

FSA IN JANUARY

While efforts remain underway to have the FSA cancelled for this and future years, if the FSA does go ahead, new information has been posted on the [VESTA website](#) including translated versions. Remember that you can give FSA information directly to parents, or send them home with students, provided that they are addressed to parents and in a sealed envelope or folded and stapled.



Reporting Guidelines

VESTA has worked with the VSB to clarify reporting guidelines for teachers regarding Option 4 students and for Resource Teachers whose regular programming has been interrupted by failures to fill. These provide clearer advice, but provide a great deal of space for teacher autonomy and judgment. Colleagues, this fall has been more challenging than anyone could have expected. Please do not spend your break writing report cards. This is a time when we should be considering pared back reporting that satisfies the requirements and also our mental health and workload. We urge VESTA members to seek balance and remember that reporting is just a snapshot, and only one of 5 opportunities to communicate student progress to parents. The key things to keep in mind are that:

- You cannot evaluate something you didn't teach or weren't able to assess
- Reporting needs to reflect service
- Option 4 students should have the district standard comment. There may be some aspects you can report on, such as participation in online check-ins.
- If you do not have sufficient information to use the proficiency scale sliders, then include anecdotal comments as appropriate
- Updated guidelines provide support for teachers with Option 4 students, or students who are registered for in-class but not attending, and for resource teachers.

You can find the district's advice to administrators from the district on the VESTA website [here](#). If you have additional questions, talk to your Staff Rep or email your IHTO liaison.

Colleagues,

We here at the VESTA office wish you all a safe, restful Winter Break. We hope that you and your families and friends find ways to take care of yourselves and each other that provides a real break from the challenges of the past months. This has been a year like no other and we truly wish to thank all members for your efforts, but an extra shout out to school union reps for the Herculean effort of trying to connect members to our rights and processes. We know that the pandemic impacts members differently for many different reasons and this is a time when we need to be both strong and powerful in our advocacy as well as generous and empathetic in our relationships. It's hard work balancing those values at a time when nobody is at their best. Your work and your care is so appreciated. We look forward to seeing you in the New Year, and hope that 2021 brings improvements to the global and local context.

Happy Holidays and Solidarity,

Joanne, Allison, Darren, Jody, Donna, Amy, Andrea, Lori, Olga





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January Dates to Remember



Communications Committee Meeting

Jan 7, 2021 @ 4:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/93130839642>
Meeting ID: 931 3083 9642
Passcode: 715703
Dial by your location
+1 778 907 2071 Canada

Aboriginal Education Committee Meeting

Jan 11, 2021 @ 4:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/99851003090>
Meeting ID: 998 5100 3090
Passcode: 990133
Dial by your location
+1 778 907 2071 Canada

Health & Safety Committee Meeting

January 11, 2021 @ 4 pm

Link to be distributed



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How EFAP Can Help

Information to help with work and life
Confidential · Immediate Assistance · 24/7/365
Morneau Shepell · 1-844-880-9142
workhealthlife.com