

# VESTA WEEKLY

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

## IN THIS ISSUE

Welcome Back /Happy New Year - Page 1

Contact the VESTA office - Page 2 & 3

Health and Safety Updates - Page 4

Collective Bargaining 2021 - Page 4

Federal Election 2021 - Page 5

Remedy - Page 5



## Welcome Back / Happy New Year

Welcome back, colleagues. This year ahead will bring joys, challenges, and the opportunity for us as teachers to continue to advocate for a stronger, more inclusive, safer, public education system. We hope that the lens you are using as this year begins includes consideration of work-life balance, the need for continued empathy, trauma-informed care for one another and our students, and a prioritizing of our work that acknowledges it's still not business as usual.

Our health and safety, our families, and our wellness need to continue to be front of mind as we enter another COVID school year with increased density and uncertainty about the trajectory of COVID-19. Let's stick together and commit to taking care of ourselves, each other, and our students.

**náca?mat tə šx<sup>w</sup>q<sup>w</sup>eləwən ct** is a Musqueam phrase that translates to:  
"We are of one heart and mind"

## Contacting the VESTA Office



**IHTO Team:** Joanne Sutherland, President, Allison Jambor, Darren Tereposky, Marjorie Dumont, Jody Polukoshko, Vice Presidents, Rob McGowan, Adult Education President

Given the high volume of requests for support and information, if you have questions about VESTA policy or your collective agreement, please seek support from your staff rep. Your staff rep can contact the VESTA in-house team as appropriate.

This year, we will be continuing to connect in-house folks with zones of schools in order to ensure effective communication. Please see below for the in-house person attached to your school.

Joanne Sutherland [joanne@vesta.ca](mailto:joanne@vesta.ca)

Family of Schools	VESTA Worksite
Byng	Kitchener, Queen Elizabeth, Queen Elizabeth Annex, Queen Mary, Quesnel
John Oliver	Henderson, Mackenzie, Moberly, Trudeau
Kitsilano	Bayview, False Creek, Gordon, Hudson, Tennyson
Prince of Wales	Carnarvon, Shaughnessy, Trafalgar
Britannia	Grandview
District	Vancouver Learning Network, Set BC

**Allison Jambor [allison@vesta.ca](mailto:allison@vesta.ca)**

Family of Schools	VESTA Worksite
Hamber	Carr, Cavell, Fraser, Osler, Van Horne, Wolfe
Point Grey	Kerrisdale, Kerrisdale Annex, Quilchena, Southlands
Van Tech	Begbie, Maquinna, Mount pleasant, Queen Alexandra, Queen Victoria, Secord, Thunderbird
Britannia	Xpey'
District	Learning Services

**Darren Tereposky [darren@vesta.ca](mailto:darren@vesta.ca)**

Family of Schools	VESTA Worksite
David Thompson	Douglas, Douglas Annex, Fleming, Kingsford-Smith, Oppenheimer, Tecumseh, Tecumseh Annex
King George	Crosstown, Elsie Roy, Roberts, Roberts Annex
Magee	Maple Grove, McKechnie
Templeton	Franklin, Hastings, Lord, Nelson, Tillicum
Britannia	Strathcona
District	Area Counsellors

**Marjorie Dumont [marjorie@vesta.ca](mailto:marjorie@vesta.ca)**

Family of Schools	VESTA Worksite
Churchill	Jamieson, Laurier, L'Ecole Bilingue, Lloyd George, Sexsmith
Killarney	Champlain Heights, Champlain Heights Annex, Cook, MacCorkindale, Waverley, Weir
Windermere	Bruce, Carleton, Collingwood, Grenfell, Nootka, Renfrew
Britannia	Seymour
District	Speech Language Pathologists

**Jody Polukoshko [jody@vesta.ca](mailto:jody@vesta.ca)**

Family of Schools	VESTA Worksite
Adult Education	South Hill, Gathering Place
Gladstone	Beaconsfield, Cunningham, Norquay, Selkirk, Selkirk Annex, Tyee
Tupper	Brock, Dickens, Dickens Annex, Livingstone, McBride, McBride Annex, Nightingale
University Hill	Norma Rose Point, University Hill
District	Teacher Psychologists

**Rob McGowan [rob@vesta.ca](mailto:rob@vesta.ca)**

Family of Schools	VESTA Worksite
Adult Education	South Hill, Gathering Place

## **Health and Safety Updates**

In the coming weeks, VESTA will be providing further information to schools about the Health and Safety protocols and the direction of the Provincial Health Office and Coastal Health Officers. It's clearer than before that Regional Health Offices may require additional health and safety measures beyond those contained in the Public Health Order. Ongoing advocacy will be essential to ensure our schools are responsive to the local conditions.

Your school-based Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committees continue to be the centre of your response to concerns about health and safety working conditions. Committees must discuss and implement the new Communicable Disease Plan, which replaces the COVID-19 Safety Plan from last year. It is the responsibility of the school based JOHS committee to ensure the plan is implemented, and is supported by the District Health and Safety Committee where necessary.

You can find the BCCDC Communicable Disease checklist to support the implementation of this plan in Appendix B of the [Guidance for K-12 Schools here](#).

Masks are mandatory for all K-12 staff and visitors, and all students in grades 4-12. Masks are strongly encouraged and recommended for all students in grades K-3. There are curricular exemptions (i.e. some music programs and sports) and for those with medical exemptions. Cohorts are no longer required, but all efforts should be made to limit contact between individuals, and virtual or reduced-duration / density group activities are an option, although group gatherings and events can occur as per the Health Orders. Occupancy limits must continue to be followed. Decisions on school-wide events should be made by Staff Committee. Schools remain closed to the general public.

Staff and students who are sick must stay home. Anyone who becomes ill during the school day should follow the process from previous years – to report to the school office and wait in the health room while awaiting pick-up or departure.

Frequently touched items will be cleaned and disinfected at least once a day, and general cleaning will also happen at least once a day.

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## **Collective Bargaining 2021**

Our new collective agreement, which took effect retroactively in 2019, was a three year contract. This means we are set to begin negotiations again this fall. Thank you to all who participated in the VESTA Bargaining Survey in the spring. We have developed a flow chart that you can find on the VESTA website, to help explain some of the changes that will occur on a trial basis in this round of local bargaining.

Stay tuned for updates and information about this important aspect of our work, and please plan to attend the VESTA Staff Rep Assembly on Tuesday, September 21, to be held virtually.



## **Federal Election 2021**

Early this fall, we will be heading into a new Federal Election. Many issues important to teachers continue to require addressing in this forum, and while education is primarily a provincial and municipal issue, it's important that teachers participate in the dialogue on pharmacare, implementation of the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Action on climate change, a Just COVID recovery, and childcare.

The Canadian Labour Congress and BC Federation of Labour are supporting a strategy asking workers to ensure we vote, and vote early, where possible. You can vote:

- On election day, Monday, September 20, 2021 at your polling station
- At advance polls, September 10, 11, 12, 13 at your assigned polling station
- By mail, if you apply prior to September 14 and using a special ballot process
- At any Elections Canada office before September 14 at 6pm

Elections provide a great opportunity to talk with your students about current events, social issues and democracy. A curriculum developed and supported by teachers is available at <https://studentvote.ca/> CIVIX is a non-partisan, non-profit organization focused on engaging youth in the democratic process.

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## **Remedy**

Remedy comes into effect after September 30, for classes that exceed the provisions in our collective agreement. VESTA and the Vancouver School Board are working to solidify the same agreement as last year, as directed by VESTA General Meeting.

- Day to day accrual of remedy for 2021-22 will be allocated on a go-forward basis
- Staff Committee will determine posting of position, if sufficient unused remedy accrued from 2020-21
- If the unused remedy accrual is not sufficient for a posting, callout will be on a day to day basis for co-teaching, additional resource support or additional prep time
- TTOCs assigned for Remedy provision should NOT be reassigned to cover other failures-to-fill.

\*\* This fall VESTA and the Vancouver School Board are mediating "the very exceptional circumstances" for when a 3rd student with special needs is added to a class. We will provide updates as we have more information.

