

VESTA WEEKLY

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



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MMIWG

About Red Dress Day

May 5 is the Red Dress Day and National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Woman, Girls and Two-Spirited. You may notice red dresses hanging on a balcony, or near the road side and you probably wondered what it means. It's a day to raise awareness about missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, two spirited, and men. The Red Dress Project was in response to more than 1000 murdered and missing Aboriginal women in Canada by Jaime Black (Metis). We encourage you to wear red on May 5 and learn more about meaning of this date.

Why the Colour Red?

The colour red was chosen after Jamie Black had a conversation with an Indigenous friend who shared with her "Red" is really a calling back of the spirits of these women and allowing them a chance to be among us and have their voices heard through their family members and community. The dresses are empty, so that they evoke the missing women who should be wearing them.

School Visits

Please be advised that members of the Executive Committee will be reaching out to your Staff Rep to schedule our virtual spring listening and bargaining sessions in the last week of April. Due to the number of school sites and the scheduling complexities, there may not be flexibility as to time and day. We are eager to hear about priorities from members. Provincial bargaining is a key feature of this year and information about bargaining can only be communicated in committee.

Thank you to EC members who are taking time from their classrooms to prepare and deliver these workshops, and appreciate all of the generous participation from members who will be attending to make our union and membership stronger!



Health and Safety Update

The VSB is beginning to reconsider some of the practices that took place prior to the pandemic as we return to more normal routines. At a recent Health and Safety meeting, the district indicated that they intended to require Foodsafe certification prior to handling any food. At our most recent Staff Rep Assembly, teachers identified concerns connected to parent, teacher or student provided snacks, sharing of food, food sales and staff snack and goodie days as being problem. It's VESTA's position that if Foodsafe is required by employees, the training should be paid inservice. It's VESTA's position that this is also an unnecessary and ridiculous requirement.

Further discussion will be required and we will update on this matter as events progress.

Post and Fill Workshop May 4 and 5

Thank you to Staff Reps who have already registered for the early May VESTA Post and Fill workshop. This will be a full day training that reviews aspects of the Spring Transfer process including timelines, school organization process, Staff Committee Meetings and the development of postings. If you have questions about these matters, please let your Staff Rep know so they can come prepared to the training session.

Remember that collegiality is a key driver of decisions made at the school. In years of declining enrolment, it's more important than ever to ensure we prioritize fairness and equity, seniority and transparency. Most of this can be achieved by holding open conversations in VESTA Meetings prior to meeting with the Administrators.



BCTF Health and Wellness Program

The BCTF Health and Wellness Program supports and empowers members recovering from illness or injury to regain an optimum state of wellness, health, and productivity by providing rehabilitation services and promoting self-care. It is funded by the membership of the BCTF.

Members do not need to be off work or on disability benefits in order to participate in the program. A referral to the program can be made on the basis that a member is struggling with a health matter that could become worse if it is not addressed.

It is a confidential, free service where members are paired with a Rehabilitation Consultant.

The Rehabilitation Consultants are credentialed rehabilitation professionals who are contracted by the BCTF to provide services to its members. These consultants are trained in developing rehabilitation programs suited to the needs of BCTF members and are familiar with the challenges of the teaching profession.

You can learn more about the program on the [BCTF website](#)

<https://www.bctf.ca/services-guidance/wellness/detailed-guidance-wellness/advice--health-and-wellness-program-additional-information>

Any VESTA member who contributes to the Salary Indemnity Plan is entitled to request a referral to the program

Hug the Mountain

Join together Saturday, May 7 (Mother's Day weekend) to stand against the Trans Mountain Pipeline Expansion and protect the planet! We will assemble in a human chain, circling Burnaby Mountain in a hug, to convey a powerful message of shared concern for our Mother Earth. Bring your family and friends & join others in this movement inspired by other iconic human chains in history & around the world.

To learn more and sign up for The Hug visit: www.hugthemountain.ca



Earth Day (April 22, 2022) Activities and Resources

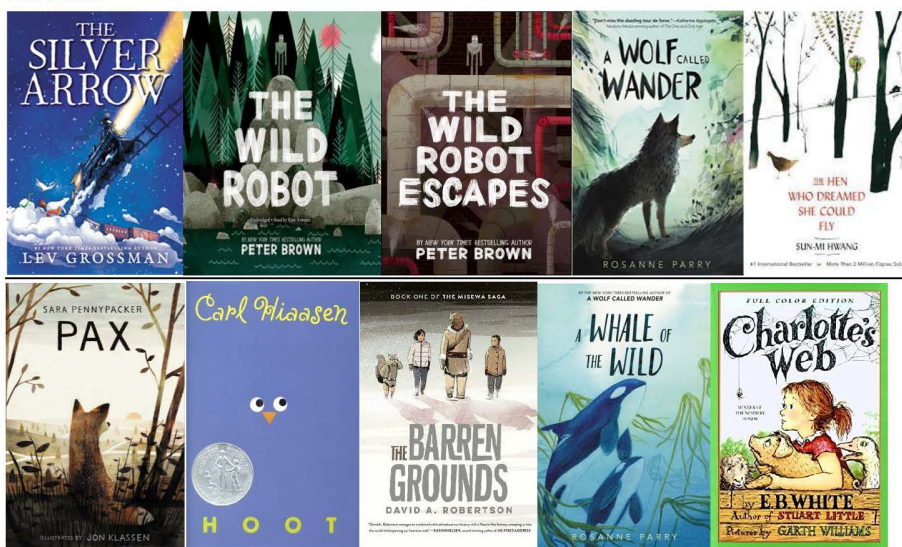
As you know, the climate crisis already has had the biggest impact on our students' present, immediate and long-term future. The school system has a critical role in helping students understand what climate change is and understanding how serious it is. As part of this Earth Day, we hope to have meaningful and in depth conversations with our students about the environment (K-4) and climate change (grades 5-12).

The *BCTF Environmental Justice Action Group* has put together some resources to use throughout the whole year, like the [Green Books List](#) and the updated and in-depth [Climate Action Resource List](#).

Just for this Earth Day (April 22, 2022), you can find two ready-to-go, engaging Earth Day activities: the [Less is More Clothing Conservation Challenge](#) & [Postcard to Parliament](#). Take your choice or do them both!

Environmental Education Books (inspiring students to have a passionate connection to nature)

Novels:



- Silver Arrow**- endangered species catching rides on a magic steam engine to protected habitats
- Wild Robot**- a lost robot learns from forest animals how to survive
- Wild Robot Escapes**- part two, as good as part one
- Wolf Called Wander**- true story, American wolf repopulates an area that has not had wolves since 1922
- The Hen Who Dreamed She Could Fly**- award winning Korean novel, full of plot twists & endearing characters
- Pax**- story of a boy & his beloved fox, there is a sequel
- Hoot**- kids save a barred owl's habitat from destruction
- The Barren Grounds**- Cdn Indigenous writer, captivating story weaves many social justice issues
- A Whale of the Wild**- true story of an orca in Juan de Fuca Strait
- Charlotte's Web**- a pig, a spider, a girl, a classic that is still valuable today

High Level Graphic Novels:

- The Way of the Hive**- style of the Bee Movie, science infused throughout
- Animal Farm**- Orwell's literary masterpiece in graphic form
- Darwin an Exceptional Voyage**- biography Darwin's 1st voyage to Galapagos
- Sapiens**- graphic history of humanity





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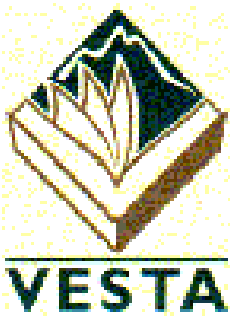
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Dates to Remember

Executive

Committee Meeting

April 26, 2022 @ 4:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81600481450>

Meeting ID: 816 0048 1450

Passcode: 291135

Dial by your location

+1 778 907 2071 Canada

Professional Issues

Committee Meeting

April 27, 2022 @ 4:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85937851254>

Meeting ID: 859 3785 1254

Passcode: 776787

Dial by your location

+1 778 907 2071 Canada



VESTA

The Vancouver Elementary School Teachers' Association is the union representing elementary teachers and adult educators working in public schools in Vancouver.