



COQUITLAM TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION NEWS

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The CTA office is a scent free workplace. Visit our Website at www.coquitlamteachers.com

Ken Christensen, President
Amanda Long, First Vice-President
Kara Obojski, Second Vice-President

November 24, 2017
No. 13

REMEDY

The CTA has requested remedy information from the school board, broken down by school and individual teacher. This information should come to us next week and will be necessary for us to evaluate the amount and impact of remedy situations on the system as a whole.

The district is working on the mechanism for accessing remedy, now that they have concluded the remedy collection mechanism of the form. We hope the work proceeds quickly, as we have teachers who need help now but, the district says it will be at least December before that becomes available. This is a bit disappointing to us, to be honest. We want it done right but, we also want it done fast so people can access the help that they are owed.



Boundary Reviews and Changes

Further to ongoing district best efforts under the Memorandum of Agreement, changes to Policy 19 and the construction of new schools, the district has initiated some boundary changes to address catchment additions for the new schools, newly occupied areas and to address some schools with high needs. If your school is having its catchment boundaries changed, you will be receiving information soon from the school board. The process of completing these changes will occur through this school year, for the 2018/19 school year.

Reporting

Elementary Staff Reps will receive the text of a communication with Andrea McComb regarding ongoing concerns and questions about the new reporting template. Andrea answers some of the questions we have collected in her own words. If there are further questions and concerns, please bring them to our attention and we will help you seek answers. Andrea offered her email for support and advice: amccomb@sd43.bc.ca.

November

IN SERVICE for New Provincial Numeracy Exam

The employer offered in-service Thursday this week for the upcoming Provincial numeracy exam. That's great. They offered it 3:30-6:00 pm. That's not so great. The CTA believes in-service for necessary parts of a teacher's job should be released time and within the school day. As such, the CTA communicated with the school board that we would be advising our members not to attend this in-service. Due to the small amount of lead time and the necessary discussions with the school board, we were not able to offer advice until Thursday morning. Thanks to Staff Reps for quickly communicating our advice within your sites.

Resource Fair Share

For Early Career Teachers and TTOCs

Date: Tuesday, November 28, 2017

Time: 4:00 p.m. door prizes/speakers,

Resource Fair 4:30 - 6:00 p.m.

Place: Gallery Room, Winslow Centre

Door prizes, snacks, and free resources! Please come and meet our Mentoring Support Teacher, Tamara Sengotta, District Principal, Jason Hewlett, and the CTA TTOC Committee. It's a great opportunity to make new connections, ask questions, and shop for free resources. Light snacks and beverages will be supplied.

Accepting Resource Donations!

The TTOC Committee is looking for relevant, gently used, K-12 resources such as: novels, classroom décor, craft supplies, cds, kits, DVDs, toys, centre activities, and teacher guides. Please drop donations off at:

Date: Tuesday, November 28, 2017

Time: 12:00 – 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday,

Location: Elm Room - Winslow Centre Please contact Denise at dlumagbas@sd43.bc.ca for any assistance.
Thank you for supporting our early career colleagues!

PD Power

"I am a rare species, not a stereotype" ~ Ivan Coyote

On our list of amazing speakers for our CTA February Day is award-winning author of eleven books and a renowned performer, Ivan Coyote. Ivan has been touring public schools across the continent and beyond for nearly two decades, working to ensure a safe and respectful learning environment for all students, always with the careful eye and tender heart of a fellow misfit. Ivan knows that by addressing the needs of marginalized youth, we can build a better and safer school environment for all of our kids. Coyote uses personal narrative and the well-honed timing of a gifted raconteur to bring us a powerful message of hope and resilience.

For more information go to: <http://www.ivancoyote.com/>

Did you know? There is still time to sign up to facilitate a session for colleagues at our February CTA Day! Based on feedback, we know our members love choice. In fact, they love being able to select two workshops! But we know that having more choice requires more workshops. Please consider sharing your passion for teaching and learning by presenting or co-presenting for us on February 23rd. The link to register as a presenter is: www.regonline.com/PDDay2018_speaker **The code is 9971**

Take care,
Holly



Professional Development is not just a workshop at a conference. It's ongoing, collaborative and supportive. Did you know that you can join *BCEdChat on twitter every Sunday night at 7:00 p.m. to connect, discuss and share with educators from across BC? In fact, SD43's **Kelsey Keller (Baker Drive)** will be a guest moderating a #bcedchat "Mistakes" on Sunday, November 26, 2017!

No Heat in Your School? Here's the District Protocol to Follow

This is the district protocol when the heat breaks down in schools.

1. The employee(s) advise(s) the principal of the temperature issue.
2. If the principal is unable to make appropriate temperature adjustments, he/she contacts the Manager of Maintenance for expedited assistance.
3. The principal shares information with the staff and the school site based Health and Safety Committee and will also contact Megan Duke, the District Health & Safety Officer.
4. The principal contacts the Assistant Superintendent and, if necessary, discusses alternative arrangements, including relocation within the school or to an alternate site, or student dismissal.



This protocol has been in effect since 2005: District staff and school administration are well aware of the process. In the event that several schools simultaneously experience heating difficulties, the district prioritizes its responses depending on the severity of the various situations. For example, a whole building without heat is a higher priority than a wing of a building, etc. The district also gives higher priority to a room without heat versus one with too much heat.

Here are the most important procedures summarized:

1. *If schools are to be closed before morning classes begin, an announcement will be made on local radio stations CKNW (980), CKWX (1130) and CBC (690) by 7:30 a.m. if possible. Wherever possible, the decision will be announced the previous day.*
2. *When schools are closed for extreme weather conditions, they are closed for students. If the closure is communicated prior to school opening, schools are also closed for staff. All staff will be paid for this day.*
3. *If school is in session when the closure is announced, staff members are expected to stay and assist with the dismissal of students. Unless the situation is unsafe for staff (as determined by the principal in consultation with the assistant superintendent) they would be expected to work the remainder of the school day.*

AP 132, which is accessible on the SD43 website, also describes the factors that are considered before schools are closed and the procedures for emergency communications. In the event that your school remains open but you yourself cannot report to work due to hazardous weather/road conditions, contact your principal as soon as possible.

How your EFAP can help

- ✓ Confidential services
 - ✓ Information to help with work and life
 - ✓ Immediate assistance 24/7/365
- To access EFAP services, just call
Morneau Shepell
1.844.880.9142 / TTY 1.877.338.0275

