



NewsBytes

Volume 11, Issue 7 – May 17, 2011

BCCPAC 2011 Spring Conference & AGM

This year's Spring Conference & AGM was a great success, with over 100 delegates attending from around the province and over 25 [exhibitors](#) sharing their knowledge, information and innovative ideas. The conference program featured keynote speakers, Dr Paul Kershaw, Raj Dhasi and the Minister of Education, Honourable George Abbott. Further information on the presenters is available [here](#). A summary of the Annual General Meeting which includes resolution and election results is available [here](#).

BC Gaming Grants – PAC & DPAC application deadline June 30 is fast approaching. Every PAC and DPAC is eligible for gaming grants. Forms are available on the [Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General website](#). For further details [click here](#).

Night of Family Science – Free Upcoming events

Science World is presenting a “Night of Family Science” on May 19 at Smithers Secondary School- Smithers, June 2 at G M Dawson Secondary School in Haida Gwaii and June 9 at Ecole Frank Ross in Dawson Creek. Each event will be unique but here are some of the activities that are being planned:

- Spectacular live science shows from Science World's professional demonstration team.
- Make and take activity stations where visitors can create and take home a simple science project
- Science on the spot stations where visitors can experience some science phenomenon first hand (spinning like a figure skater, having their hair stand up by static electricity, etc)
- Displays from local colleges showcasing the science that takes place in their labs and classrooms
- Science Fair and/or BC Green Games project displays from local students
- " An “Iron Science” competition, where visitors create an invention using a mystery “Secret Ingredient

[Click here](#) for further information

Ministry of Education News

Consultation begins on Bill 27 & 28 ruling

"... Government has appointed Paul Straszak, President and CEO, Public Sector Employers' Council, to lead the initial phase of consultation with the BC Teachers' Federation regarding the ruling of the Supreme Court of British Columbia on the Education Services Collective Agreement Act (Bill 27) and the Public Education Flexibility and Choice Act (Bill 28). Government has decided not to pursue an appeal. Further information is available [here](#)

The Joint Consortium for School Health (JCSH), has been working to support positive mental health in schools across Canada. It is now developing materials that provide schools, and those who support them with practical approaches to improve the mental health of all students.

To make sure these tools are relevant and meet the needs of schools, the JCSH is looking for schools to review a draft positive mental health indicator framework that will be the underlying foundation of the tools. In the coming months there will be additional opportunities to provide input to other aspects of this work. [Click here](#) for further information

Are you aware that music education is available for grades 8-12 as well as any BC resident, online at no charge?

These courses are credit courses delivered online at no charge to the student. Any BC school can use the courses by contacting the [Music Educators Institute \(MEI\)](#). Any parent can access the courses in a number of ways. The MEI oversees the courses and delivers them to schools across BC who in turn deliver them to students. These courses have been used in British Columbia as a guideline for what is expected of online guitar and piano students. They have been used throughout North America for over a decade and are the world's first accredited online guitar and piano courses. [Click here](#) for further information

Provincial Capital Commission can help finance educational school trips to Victoria

All British Columbia students learn about their capital city, but let's face it – there's just so much a mere textbook can tell them. However, thanks to the [Provincial Capital Commission](#), BC students can experience first-hand Victoria's Legislature, tulip-filled parks, historic CPR Steamship Terminal and many other landmarks. Encourage your schools [to apply for supplemental funding from PCC](#); here are the [guidelines](#)

BCSTA – Legislative Monitoring

Now that BC's Legislature is back in session, BCSTA is once again bringing you *Legislative Monitoring*, the transcripts that capture all debate and discussion related to public education in our province. Housed in their DocuShare collection, you'll find continually updated [Legislative Monitoring transcripts](#). Please feel welcome to browse the collection any time.

Competition - The Langley International Festival Society (LIFS) is launching its first annual Creative Writing Competition for Youth and is delighted to have a sponsor to be able to offer great cash prizes! LIFS is an organization that celebrates the cultural diversity in our communities and focuses on families within those communities. LIFS invites youth to share their experience within a multicultural community whether it be at home, school, participating in sports and traditional events, or just a walk through their day. The competition is extended to youth in Grades 8 through 12 throughout B.C. First prize is \$1,000.00; Second prize is \$750.00; Third prize is \$500. Entries must be submitted by 12 noon on June 30th, 2011 and the winners will be announced at the Langley International Festival on Sunday, August 28th, 2011 at 1:00 p.m. [Click here](#) for competition poster, [Click here](#) for Registration form. More information can be found on the society's website at www.internationalfestival.ca or email Doris Brunsch at doris@bravointeriors.ca

May is National Multiple Sclerosis Month

Canada has declared May National Multiple Sclerosis Month – not only to raise awareness about this progressive nervous disorder, but to let everyone know what resources are available. Check out the information and activities at [the Multiple Sclerosis Society, BC/Yukon Division](#). Since 1975, the Society has supported MS research and provided services and programs to enhance quality of life for more than 8,000 British Columbians and Yukoners affected by MS.

Government Press & News Releases

Catch up on the latest K-12 Government news/press releases. Visit this new section of our website by [clicking here](#)

Share your Event

Does your PAC/DPAC have an event, workshop, seminar or meeting happening in your area which you would like to share? If so, please let us know about it and we will post the information on our NEW [Provincial/Regional/District Events page](#) of the website.

NewsBytes is a regular e-mail communication sent to BCCPAC members to highlight items of interest. Others may also subscribe to NewsBytes. Contact BCCPAC at:

*BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils
Suite 350, 5172 Kingsway, Burnaby, BC V5H 2E8
(P) 604-687-4433 Toll Free 1-866-529-4397 (F) 604-687-4488
e-mail info@bccpac.bc.ca www.bccpac.bc.ca
Feel free to share this communication with others.*