



## NewsBytes

Volume 12, Issue 1 –September 29, 2011

### **BCCPAC Regional Conferences**

BCCPAC will be hosting three regional conferences this fall. Parent conferences provide the opportunity for parents to network, collaborate, build relationships and learn from the other local PAC representatives! Registration information and further details will be sent to members and posted to our website. Mark your calendar with the following regional events: Click on the links for further details.

[October 15, 2011: Kelowna \(Interior Region\)](#)

[October 22, 2011: Terrace: \(Northern Region\)](#)

[November 26, 2011, Surrey Location \(Lower mainland and Vancouver island region\)](#)

### **Member Views**

BCCPAC has a new email address specifically for our members. To help BCCPAC better understand experiences and concerns that parents have please you share your stories with us by e-mailing your input to [memberviews@bccpac.bc.ca](mailto:memberviews@bccpac.bc.ca). Please indicate the topic in the subject line and provide us with your school district number.

### **Message from BCCPAC President on the BC College of Teachers**

We are all aware of the teacher job action in our schools, but there is much more happening in education than just the labour dispute. Of the most significant to parents are the proposed changes to the BC College of Teachers (BCCT). BCCPAC and parents have been very concerned about the BC College of Teachers for many years, passing, over twenty resolutions on the topic since 1997. Click [here](#) for further information.

### **Playground FAQ's**

A number of questions have come in to the Ministry of Education regarding the playground announcement that Premier Christy Clark made on September 2, 2011. We hope the FAQ's will provide you with some answers. Click [here](#) for the FAQ's. If you have any other questions, please contact: John Woycheshin at email [John.Woycheshin@gov.bc.ca](mailto:John.Woycheshin@gov.bc.ca) or 250 356-2360

### **Personalized Learning**

The Ministry of Education has updated their website <http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/personalizedlearning/>. The [Interactive Guide to Personalized Learning in BC](#) and our [Parents' Guide](#) are now featured. In addition the website also features some personalized learning examples taking place in British Columbia: [Vision 2020: Transformation in Delta Schools](#) and [Student Engagement in Dawson Creek](#)

### **Government Programs to Help Save for Post Secondary Education**

**The Canadian Education Savings Grant** is a program which can help parents achieve an additional \$7200 towards their child's post secondary education. If you would like more information immediately about this particular grant it can be found at: [http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/learning/education\\_savings/public/cesg.shtml](http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/learning/education_savings/public/cesg.shtml)

**The Canadian Learning Bond** was also developed to help families save for their child's post secondary education. It can provide up to \$2000 towards a post secondary education. For more information on the CLB you can visit: <http://www.canlearn.ca/eng/saving/clb/index.shtml>

### **International Walk to School month is October 2011**

International Walk to School Month gives children, parents, school teachers and community leaders an opportunity to be part of a global event as they celebrate the many benefits of walking. Click [here](#) for more information.

## Register Your School for iWalk: October 3-7, 2011

iWalk - also known as International Walk to School Week - is an annual, week-long, world-wide event held every year in October that encourages students, parents, staff and community members to celebrate the many benefits of walking to school together. [Register Now](#)

**Metrolinx** in Ontario has created [a great web video](#) about the benefits of walking to school, as explained by students. Watch and learn about how elementary school students feel about their walk to school and why they are encouraging their peers to try it.

## Young Drivers

Whether you have students living at home or not, the September back-to-school rush seems to affect us all. We can help you [send young drivers back-to-school](#) safely with a BCAA Student Membership. Find out what you can do to [avoid back-to-school commuter back-up](#). And for soon-to-be drivers, this month's e-letter points the way to a cool [new ICBC app that helps learner's prepare for their knowledge test](#). And if your son or daughter is leaving home in pursuit of a higher education, discover how to [protect their personal belongings while they're away from home](#).

## BCAS Dry Grad Challenge

The \$4000 BCAA Dry Grad Challenge is helping steer graduating high school students toward safe and responsible celebrations that don't include alcohol or drugs. Encourage the Grade 12 students you know to participate in the BCAA Dry Grad Challenge and they could win up to \$4000 for their school's dry grad celebration. All they have to do is create a video that speaks to their peers about the dangers of driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs. **Deadline is 5 p.m. on November 14th.** [Learn more about the \\$4000 BCAA Dry Grad Challenge](#)

## Prime Ministers Volunteer Awards

The best solutions to the challenges facing Canada's communities are often found locally. The Prime Minister's Volunteer Awards recognize the exceptional contributions of volunteers, local businesses and innovative not-for-profit organizations in improving the well-being of families and their communities. The Prime Minister's Volunteer Awards program consists of 17 awards in total, 2 at the national level and 15 at the regional level. If you know a volunteer, innovative not-for-profit organization or a local business that makes a positive impact on your community, you can nominate them today! Nominations are open until October 14, 2011. To find out more click here (insert link)

## New Neighbourhood Learning Centre Website Available

The [Neighbourhood Learning Centre website](#) reflects the sector engagement work, including identifying capacity building opportunities and supports for NLCs, that have been undertaken over the past year. New website features include new navigation tabs to better organize information into sections for building partnerships and agreements, using NLC planning guides, and identifying NLC models and stages of development. They have also added a new highlights box to continue to promote NLC success stories and activity that's happening in the province. The Ministry would like to thank you for your input, suggestions and the work you contributed to help develop these new NLC tools and resources and ask that you share this NLC website with your respective partner groups and members. You are also encouraged to provide feedback and suggestions to their NLC email address ([NeighbourhoodLearningCentres@gov.bc.ca](mailto:NeighbourhoodLearningCentres@gov.bc.ca))

## Government Press & News Releases

Catch up on the latest K-12 Government news/press releases. Visit the 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 200, 4170 Sill Creek Drive, Burnaby, BC V5C 6C6  
(P) 604-687-4433 Toll Free 1-866-529-4397 (F) 604-687-4488  
e-mail [info@bccpac.bc.ca](mailto:info@bccpac.bc.ca) [www.bccpac.bc.ca](http://www.bccpac.bc.ca)*

*Feel free to share this communication with others.*