

Our Vision: *To improve public education for all students by including and supporting parents*

Early Bird Rate Extended for Spring Conference

The early bird period for the Spring Conference registration has been extended to Tuesday April 14. Please get your registration form to the BCCPAC office by this date to take advantage of the early bird discount price of \$285. See below for Conference registration form.

http://www.bccpac.bc.ca/index/event_calendar.aspx?cid=85

Mailed or Faxed Proxy Deadline is April 17

Those members who wish to pick up their voting cards at the annual general meeting, without having to wait to get their proxy form registered by the Credentials Desk, must mail or fax it to the BCCPAC office so it is received **no later than Friday, April 17, 2009**. You will still require proof of identity to pick up your voting card. Delegates with proxies not received by April 17, 2009 are required to follow the usual procedure of getting registered at the Credentials Desk before receiving a voting card to participate in the AGM. For complete details see the Q & A sheet below.

http://www.bccpac.bc.ca/index/event_calendar.aspx?cid=11

Stephanie Longstaff Withdraws from Director Race

Stephanie Longstaff has decided not to run as a Director in the upcoming BCCPAC election. She will continue to run for the positions of 1st Vice President and Treasurer. Stephanie has another year of her current term as Director, should she be unsuccessful in her other races. The Nominations Book online has been updated. See below for updated Nominations Book.

http://www.bccpac.bc.ca/index/event_calendar.aspx?cid=11

New Plenary Session Added to BCCPAC Spring Conference

A panel discussion involving representatives of various education partners will be held the morning of May 1. The topic will be the possibility of a Criminal Record Review Agency for teachers. A proposal from the BC College of Teachers (BCCT) was sent to members in March and can be accessed from the Member Communications page in the Members' Only section. Richard Walker, Chair of the BCCT Council, will host the discussion. There will be an opportunity to ask questions.

Volunteers Needed for Spring Conference and Annual General Meeting

BCCPAC needs one volunteer for the AGM minutes approval committee. The terms of reference for this Committee are below. A few volunteers are also needed to help out at the Credentials Desk, with registration and with setting up and packing. If you would be interested in volunteering email info@bccpac.bc.ca

<http://www.bccpac.bc.ca/aboutus/volunteer.aspx>

Member Mail-out

In anticipation of the Annual General Meeting, a package of material has been sent to all member PACs and DPACs. Those wishing to access the items in this package can view them all on the Member Communications page of the Members' Only section. The annual report, the nominations booklet and the revised resolutions can be downloaded from the annual general meeting page which is open to all. See below.

http://www.bccpac.bc.ca/index/event_calendar.aspx?cid=11

Accessing the Members' Only Section

The Members' Only section was developed to allow members to view those items that only those who have a true

commitment to the organization, displayed by participating in it and paying the membership fee of \$65, would be interested in. The Members' Only section allows BCCPAC to be transparent with its members. The items posted, such as minutes of Board meetings and Board reports, are not usually found in the public portion of a society's web site.

It should be easy for any person who belongs to a BCCPAC member PAC or DPAC to access the Members' Only site. The login and password are the same and are sd(school district no.)(name of school). For example: sd89rainbowelementary (there is no such school or district). Only members in good standing can access the members' only site, so please do not share your password with non-members. Some schools have long names that have had to be abbreviated. If you cannot login please send an e-mail to info@bccpac.bc.ca and the BCCPAC staff will supply your login as quickly as possible.

BCCPAC Annual Report

A lot can happen in a year as is outlined in the Annual Report for 2008. From a new web site, to a revised version of the Advocates Project booklet *Speaking Up! a parent guide to advocating for students in public schools*, to the Governance Audit – just to mention a few of the accomplishments. Read about it all at the hyperlink below.

<http://www.bccpac.bc.ca/UserFiles/file/member%20communications/Aoril%202009/Annualreport2008FINALforweb.pdf>

Gaming Grants for School Playgrounds Distributed

The Ministry of Housing and Social Development has announced that 137 BC schools will have new or upgraded playground equipment due to the allocation of \$2.5 million in community gaming grants. The maximum grant available to a school PAC is \$20,000. There is no longer any requirement for PACs to provide matching funds. The full news release is below.

http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2005-2009/2009HSD0041-000512.htm

For information on obtaining a grant see below.

<http://www.hsd.gov.bc.ca/gaming/grants/pacdpac.htm>

Schools Can Purchase Playground Equipment at a Discount

The Government of British Columbia has negotiated discounted pricing with six playground equipment suppliers and with bicycle rack supplies. For complete details see the link below.

<http://www.hsd.gov.bc.ca/gaming/news/docs/2009-04-07.htm>

ScreenSmart Launches Web Site to Help Parents

Parents who attended the BCCPAC Fall Conference may remember the presentation on ScreenSmart by Andrew Sykes, a psychologist from Revelstoke who described how that community had come together to reduce the amount of time children spend in front of television and computers by providing healthy alternatives. An article was also written about ScreenSmart in the April 2008 issue of *Our Voice*. Now the organization has founded a web site with research reports on the affects of screen time on children and suggestions on how parents can manage screen time.

<http://www.screensmart.ca/>

View Linda Kaser and Judy Halbert Video Presentation Online

Linda Kaser and Judy Halbert, from the Network of Performance Based Schools, were keynote speakers at the Directorate of Agencies for School Health (DASH) Conference in November. (Dr. Kaser was also the keynote speaker at the 2008 BCCPAC Spring Conference.) Both Linda and Judy are recognized for their contributions to learning change. A video of their presentation on *Engagement, Belonging and Connection: The Power of Learning Partnerships*, along with their PowerPoint slides, can be viewed at the following website.

http://www.dashbc.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=13&Itemid=63

Sharing the Dream Web Site Features Environmental Activist

On Thursday, April 30, Severn Cullis-Suzuki, environmental activist, speaker and author will join students and teachers in BC in an interactive discussion on environmental issues and ways that students can become community leaders in environmental protection. Find out more at the Ministry of Education's Sharing the Dream web site. See below.

www.sharingthedream.gov.bc.ca/webcasts.php.

Odyssey of the Mind Celebrates 25th Year

On Saturday, April 18, Odyssey of the Mind is celebrating its 25th year of empowering creativity in BC. It has invited all previous participants to a celebration at the Evergreen Cultural Centre in Coquitlam. For details and tickets see the web site.

<http://www.odysseybc.ca/>

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 604-687-4433, e-mail info@bccpac.bc.ca. Feel free to share this communication with others.