



NewsBytes

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Find Out What Other Members Think. Join the BCCPAC Listserv

The BCCPAC Listserv is a virtual community of parents who belong to BCCPAC member PACs and DPACs. By joining the listserv you can share your opinions with other parents, ask questions and seek advice, all by email. To join send an email to listservinfo@bccpac.bc.ca including your full name, email address and details of the member PAC/DPAC you belong to. See below for more information.

Student Success: Common Vision and Collaborative Action

That's the title of the BCCPAC Fall Conference, November 12-15, 2009. The Conference features, as keynote speakers, the BCCPAC Advocacy Project Coordinators (Janet and Cathy), Gary Anaka and Dr. Susan Phillips. Janet and Cathy will kick off the Conference on Thursday evening with their presentation entitled *Parent Power*. Gary Anaka is an expert on how the brain works. He will speak on *Student Success Requires a Well-built Brain* on Friday morning. At the end of the day he will tell all the delegates what they want to know in another session called *Brain Wellness: the Secret of Longevity*. Dr. Phillips has worked with many diverse groups to better education. She will talk about *The 'Win-Win' of Collaboration*.

For complete details see http://www.bccpac.bc.ca/index/event_calendar/fallconference.aspx for the complete program.

Funding Cut to PACs and DPACS

On September 9th BCCPAC received official notification that funding from gaming grants would be cut from \$20 per student to \$10 and DPACs would receive only \$1,250. On September 10 a letter from the Board of Directors was e-mailed to all BCCPAC members encouraging them to contact their MLAs to explain the importance of the funding for PACs and DPACs in their communities and districts. This letter was also posted to the web site.

<http://www.bccpac.bc.ca/resources/whatsnew/fundingcuts.aspx>

Survey of Members' Use of Grants

On September 8 a memo from the Board of Directors was sent to all members. It anticipated the possible cuts to gaming grants, although at that time the actual cut was not known. The memo asked members to complete a survey indicating how they use the gaming grant monies. That survey is posted on the members' only section of the BCCPAC website. See the homepage. If you have trouble logging in to the members' only section, or don't know the password for your PAC or DPAC, e-mail info@bccpac.bc.ca to receive help.

PACs Encouraged to Write to Their MLAs

BCCPAC is encouraging all PACs and DPACs to protest the cuts to their funding by sending a letter to their Member of the Legislature explaining how the cuts will affect them. We are asking that these be copied to info@bccpac.bc.ca.

School Boards, BC School Sports and BCCPAC hit with Budget Cuts

The provincial government has cut the facilities grant it gives to school boards. The grant, worth \$110 million, allows schools to be maintained and pays for repairs. In expectation of the grants, some schools had already invested in repairs that they now do not have the funds to pay.

BC School Sports has lost its entire operating grant that was supplied by the provincial government. BC School Sports organizes school sports throughout the province.

While PACs and DPACs suffered 50% cuts in funding, BCCPAC has seen an even more drastic cut to its operating grant.

http://www.bcsta.org:8080/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-42302/2008-09-01_e-Alert_budget.html

http://www.bcschoolsports.ca/pdfs/2009/Coreservices_Aug31_2009.pdf

President Interviewed by Media

BCCPAC President, Ann Whiteaker was interviewed repeatedly last week by both print and broadcast media. She was interviewed twice by CFX Radio and once by CBC Radio, CKNW Radio (Christy Clark Show), and Radio 1040 (Simi Sara). She was also interviewed by the *Vancouver Sun*, *Victoria Times-Colonist*, the *Globe and Mail*, and the *Surrey Leader*.

Board of Directors' Meeting

The BCCPAC Board of Directors held an emergency conference call meeting on August 23 to discuss its operating grant. Members can read the minutes of the meeting on the Members' Only site. (If you do not have a login or password for the members' site and belong to a member PAC or DPAC, e-mail info@bccpac.bc.ca to obtain access.)

H1N1 Flu Plan for Schools

The Province and the Office of the Provincial Health Officer, in consultation with the federal government and public health partners, have developed new guidelines around school closures that complement the pandemic plans of school districts. Under the school closure guidelines, the provincial health officer and the local medical health officer will make the final decision on whether it is necessary to close schools.

For details: http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2009-2013/2009EDUC0006-000250.htm

For parent information on the flu virus see <http://www.bccpac.bc.ca/resources/whatsnew/virus.aspx>

Invent the Future Contest for Energy Sustainability

BC Hydro Power Smart's Invent the Future Contest kicked off Tuesday, September 8th. This contest is about the future. It is for young people aged 13 through 24. BC Hydro wants to hear their ideas on energy sustainability. To participate they should send BC Hydro their great ideas on conserving energy, creating a sustainable product or adopting a lifestyle change. There are four \$2500 grand prizes to be won! See the Invent the Future website for more information.

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

How to Pick the Best Playgrounds for Your Children

Have you ever wanted to explore new playgrounds but didn't know where to look? What about playgrounds to avoid? Hate sand, love shade, want metal slides rather than plastic ones? Swings and Roundabouts is an exciting community resource that reviews playgrounds in BC. Started by a mum and son in Victoria in spring 2009, the site has quickly gained a following and has now expanded to Vancouver and the Mainland. Most recently Swings and Roundabouts have added monthly contests with great prizes. You can follow them on Twitter. Submit your local playground reviews to help build this resource!

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

Your elementary school could be on CBC Radio

CBC Radio will be recording a special TD Kids Book Club with Susin Nielsen, author of *Word Nerd*, at an elementary school in the Lower Mainland in October. She has been short listed for the **TD Canadian Children's Literature Award this year**. **This is** an interactive recording with host Sheryl MacKay, of CBC Radio's North by Northwest, in front of an audience. Sheryl will interview the author and invite the audience to ask questions. The Book Club will be broadcast province-wide on North by Northwest on CBC Radio One. The presentation is approximately an hour long.

If you are interested in having CBC Radio record the TD Kids Book Club with Susin Nielsen in your school, enter the cheering contest and convince CBC to bring the Book Club to your school. For complete details on the contest see <http://www.cbc.ca/books/bookclub/tdbooks/>. The contest closes midnight, Sunday October 4th.

Get Ready for the Winter Games

2010 Legacies Now has launched its Olympic and Paralympic Tickets Contest for Schools, encouraging schools to utilize the 2010 Legacies Now school resources on or before October 30, 2009 in order to be eligible for prizes. The prizes are one Olympic prize package of four tickets to the men's ice hockey bronze medal game (Vancouver), or one Paralympics prize package of four tickets to men's and women's alpine skiing downhill and four tickets to men's and women's alpine skiing super-G (Whistler). Each prize package includes costs associated with travel and accommodation for schools outside the Greater Vancouver Regional District and the Whistler area. For more information on these school resources, visit www.2010LegaciesNow.com/schools/

NewsBytes is a regular e-mail communication sent to BCCPAC members to highlight items of interest. Feel free to share this communication with others.

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